

# COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

[www.publichealthfunding.org](http://www.publichealthfunding.org)



**2016 Year in Review**

## At a Glance...

**For more than 45 years, the Coalition for Health Funding has been the leading voice in strengthening public health and health research through advocacy and education. Our dues-paying, nonprofit member organizations represent the interests of more than 100 million patients and consumers, health providers, professionals, and researchers.**

### ***Among the 2016 achievements and offerings to member organizations, the Coalition for Health Funding:***

- Met face-to-face with nearly 60 policymakers, including several Members of Congress, as well as high-ranking officials in the Obama administration.
- Issued seven letters and statements to protect and promote health funding;
- Launched a new signature event – The Coalition for Health Funding Public Health Fair;
- Organized a high-profile, “just in time” briefing on the Zika response in collaboration with the Congressional Public Health Caucus that promoted health funding and the Coalition’s brand visibility on Capitol Hill;
- Led a delegation of members to Atlanta for the Coalition’s first-ever tour of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Continued leadership of NDD United, which will be increasingly important as sequestration returns;
- Kept our members informed about federal funding developments through the intelligence and expert analysis provided in our daily e-newsletter.

## The Unified Voice for Health Investments

For more than 45 years, the Coalition for Health Funding has been the leading voice in strengthening public health and health research through advocacy and education. Our dues-paying, nonprofit member organizations represent the interests of more than 100 million patients and consumers, health providers, professionals, and researchers.

With the collective appreciation that “a rising tide lifts all boats,” Coalition members work collaboratively to increase discretionary funding for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), its principle agencies—Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Indian Health Service, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)—operating divisions, and offices and programs that support and protect America’s health. Together, these investments spur innovation through scientific discovery, prevent disease, disability, and injury, assure food and drug safety, protect and respond in times of crisis, educate the next generation of scientists, health care providers and public health professionals, and provide our nation’s most vulnerable access to care.

The Coalition works to influence all aspects of the federal budget process—from the preparation of the president’s budget to the development of appropriations bills—as well as all macro fiscal policies that stand to impact public health and health research.

## Advocacy and Outreach Activities

The Coalition for Health Funding had several achievements this year that helped to promote the health community’s funding priorities. Each year, the Coalition tracks its advocacy activities and provides a report to its members. The following report outlines the Coalition’s activities and accomplishments in greater detail.

Snapshot of Advocacy and Outreach Activities, 2016	No.
Congressional Meetings*	57
Administration Meetings**	1
Events***	6
Letters, Statements****	12
Media Appearances	3
Twitter Followers	2,025

\*Includes Executive Director and Board meetings with committee and leadership staff, as well as Hill Day meetings and conference calls with lawmakers.

\*\*Includes Executive Director and Board meetings with administration staff, as well as meetings open to all members.

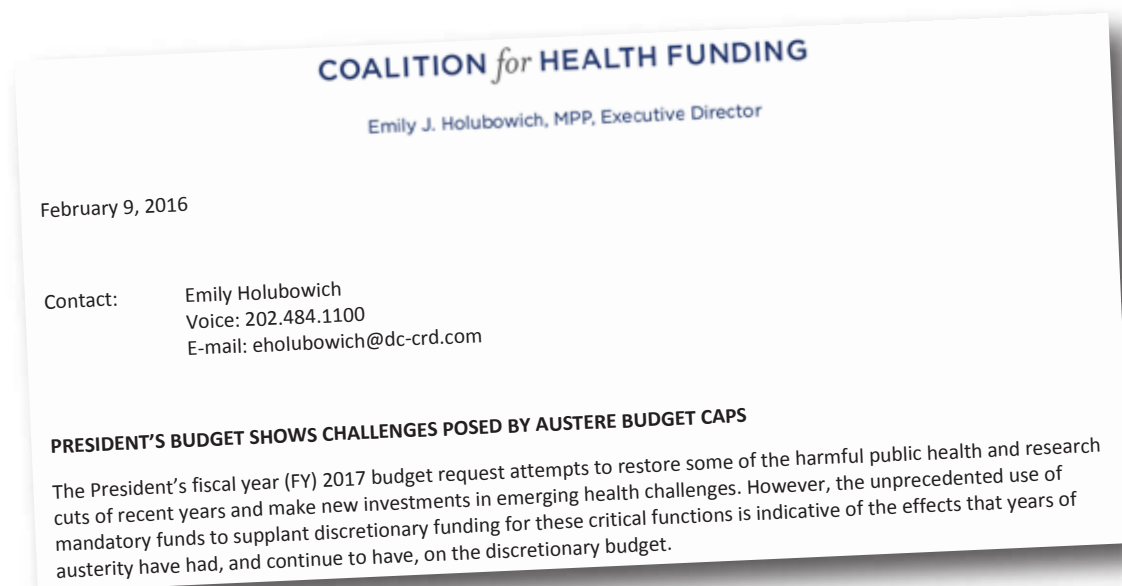
\*\*\*Includes Public Health 101 Briefing, NDD Town Halls, Tours, and the Public Health Fair

\*\*\*\*Includes Coalition for Health Funding letters and statements (7), as well as those of our campaign, NDD United (5).

## **Letters and Statements**

The Coalition for Health Funding undertook several advocacy activities to advance our health funding priorities on Capitol Hill and within the administration. We drafted seven letters and statements in response to the President's budget request, the House and Senate 302(b) allocations, and the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) bills, supplemental fund to combat the Zika crisis, and in support of year end omnibus appropriations.

Copies of the Coalition's letters and statements are available at:  
<http://www.publichealthfunding.org/action/correspondence1>



## **Earned and Social Media**

The Coalition for Health Funding's media presence continued this year. Executive Director Emily Holubowich was a featured speaker in House and Senate press conferences on the Zika response, and appeared on a podcast for Coalition member, the National Association of County and City Health Officials. She was quoted in an article on NIH funding for *The Lancet*, and was sought out as a background source for many other articles about public health and fiscal policy.

The Coalition's social media presence was enhanced in 2016, as well. In just our fifth year on Twitter, @healthfunding now has 2,025 followers, a 45 percent increase from 2015.



## ***Public Health Fair***

Together with the Congressional Public Health Caucus, the Coalition for Health Funding held a Public Health Fair on Capitol Hill where Coalition members, event sponsors, and federal Public Health Service agencies hosted booths to educate members of Congress and their staff about public health. This first of its kind event drew more than 250 attendees. Altogether, there were more 40 educational booths, representing the breadth of federal public health programs, where attendees could gather information and participate in interactive activities, such as conquering their fears by touching a tarantula or holding a human brain. Due to the success of the event, the Coalition will make the Public Health Fair an annual signature event.

## ***CDC Tour***

The Coalition for Health Funding led a delegation of nearly 20 members to tour the CDC's headquarters in Atlanta. Coalition members had the opportunity to meet with senior leadership across the agency, including CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden, and visit areas typically closed to the public, including the Emergency Operations Center, the insectary, and the pathology and environmental health laboratories. Participants came away with a greater appreciation of the agency and its broad mission to protect and promote public health.



# NDD UNITED



*Working Together to Strengthen America*

## ***NDD United***

For the fifth consecutive year, the Coalition for Health Funding continued its efforts to influence macro fiscal policy and prevent further cuts to public health, health research, and other nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs by co-chairing NDD United—the first such effort of its kind.

Our work founding and leading NDD United has afforded the Coalition greater visibility throughout the community, Capitol Hill, the White House, and the media as a leading voice in the deficit reduction debate. With the Bipartisan Budget Act providing sequestration relief for fiscal year 2017, 2016 was an organizing and building year for the NDD United Campaign. Meanwhile, Coalition staff continued to participate in discussions with the Steering Committee, lawmakers, and economic advisors to ensure the best possible outcomes for nondefense discretionary funding in fiscal year 2018 when sequestration levels return.

### **Activities included:**

- NDD United #RaisetheCaps Reception – February 25th
- NDD United Town Hall – February 27th
- NDD United Town Hall – December 6th

In addition to these events the Coalition planned for the return of sequestration in 2018 but initiating a fundraising campaign and implementing governance changes to the NDD United Steering Committee.

In support of NDD United's operations, NDD United's fundraising staff continued to build relationships in the community bringing the total number of subscribers on the distribution list to over 800. In addition, Coalition staff spearheaded the Coalition's fundraising, organized events, managed the campaign's Twitter account @NDDUnited (with followers now nearly 600), and drafted and/or edited five letters and statements in response to fiscal policy.

Copies of NDD United's statements are available at:  
<http://www.nddunited.org/action/>.

## **Member Services**

### ***Meetings of Members***

As a service to its members, the Coalition for Health Funding organizes educational meetings and briefings with policymakers and experts. Meetings this year included:

- Budget Basics (January)
- Open House with Representative Scott Rigell, R-VA (February)
- DIY: Building Your Own Effective Grassroots Advocacy (March)
- Annual Meeting with Office of Management and Budget Public Health Team (March)
- Coalition for Health Funding Annual Hill Day (April)
- Bruce Evans and Chuck Kieffer, Senate Appropriations Committee Majority & Minority Staff (May)
- Laura Friedel and Alex Keenan, Labor-HHS Subcommittee Majority and Minority (June)
- Public Health Fair (July)
- Call with Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, D-CT (July)
- Annual “Public Health 101” Hill Briefing (September)
- David Pomerantz, House Appropriations Committee (October)
- Election Post-Mortem with David Hawkings, CQ Roll Call Editor (November)

### **Intelligence Sharing**

Throughout the year, Coalition members received via the “Member Update” emails important intelligence and analysis on issues related to federal budget and appropriations, including reminders about key dates, bill text and reports, and related white papers and policy briefs, as well as “breaking news” alerts. Coalition members in 2016 received a total of 192 of such emails.

### **Guest Speaker Appearances**

As a service to members, Coalition for Health Funding staff frequently speak at members’ conferences, webinars, and other events at their request. This year, Coalition staff spoke at seven such events on topics related to fiscal policy and best practices in advocacy and communications.

### **Administration**

In 2016, the Coalition for Health Funding Board of Directors met monthly and oversaw the Coalition’s activities and operations. Most notably, the Coalition Board oversaw planning for the first ever Public Health Fair.

Due to the implementation of changes in the dues structure in late 2015, the Coalition lost members in 2016, beginning the year with just 90 members. However, through recruitment efforts by our members and staff and bundling of membership for the Public Health Fair sponsorships, the Coalition ended the year with 99 members, unchanged from 2015. While the Coalition has not yet met its goal of 100 members, it is well positioned to exceed that target next year as threats to public health funding continue.

