



FUNDING PRIORITIES TO PROTECT AMERICA FROM MOSQUITO AND TICK-BORNE DISEASES

ISSUE: In 2024, *The National Public Health Strategy to Prevent and Control Vector-Borne Diseases in People* was completed, fulfilling a key requirement of the Kay Hagan TICK Act.

To achieve the objectives laid out in the strategy, such as reducing the number of cases of Lyme disease, West Nile virus neuroinvasive disease and other vector-borne diseases, the nation's vector management professionals need the resources and infrastructure to understand what diseases are circulating and to be able to respond accordingly.

The challenge posed by vector-borne diseases (VBDs) only continues to grow with time, with Lyme disease continuing to spread into places it has not previously been detected such as Mississippi and Alabama, a growing burden from alpha-gal syndrome which is thought to be far more common than is currently being reported, other diseases like Eastern Equine Encephalitis being detected in the New England region in addition to Malaria in the South and West, and ongoing outbreaks of Dengue and Oropouche virus in the Caribbean. Fortunately, the CDC runs critical programs to help address these challenges at the regional, state, and local levels.

CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Grants: ELC funding is critical for efforts related to the surveillance, detection, response, and prevention of infectious diseases, including VBD. In 2025, CDC's DVBD received requests for more than \$30 million from the state departments of health for VBD through the ELC program. However, the Division was only able to support \$17 million, a little more than half of the amount needed.

In 2019, the *Kay Hagan TICK Act* authorized an additional \$20 million over the FY 2019 level, \$10.0 million at that time, and thus would be **\$30.0 million** total for FY 2027. So far, only about \$7 million of that \$20 million authorized increase has been appropriated with the FY 2026 level.

Another program that is helping bring together surveillance and prevention through data modernization efforts, breaking down the silos between healthcare providers and public health, is an internet-based program and database called VectorSurv. This program enhances capacity for mosquito control activities and expands nationwide surveillance of vector-borne disease. VectorSurv currently supports 16 states and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands for coordinated surveillance, control, and abatement activities which fit within the \$100 million authorized increase through the *Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH)* provisions in the *All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019* (P.L. 116-22). *The AMCA requests an additional \$10 million through ELC funding to continue and grow support and engagement with VectorSurv.*



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Regional Centers of Excellence and Training & Evaluation Centers in Vector-Borne Diseases: In 2022, four Centers of Excellence (COEs) on VBDs were authorized following a competition. These centers, covering *New England, the Southeast, the Midwest, and the Pacific Southwest*, play a unique and critical role in the coordination between academic institutions and state and local health departments to accelerate dissemination of research findings and information into the communities, support surveillance efforts, and promote outreach, education, and workforce development.

Building on the success of the COE model, the CDC created an expansion of this program called Training & Evaluation Centers (TECs) in 2023. The TEC program is continuing to grow those relationships focused on translating and disseminating research findings to the public health community. The TECs model hub and spokes in *the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic, Southern Delta, Rockies, and Caribbean/Pacific islands*. AMCA is highly appreciative of the continued support for the COEs and TECS, which help connect and bridge previously more siloed partners to increase the research, training, and coordination capacity across all partners to manage the growing public health threat of VBDs across these regions.

Malaria Reorganization: The CDC's origin revolved around eradicating malaria from the U.S., which it succeeded in doing. But the mosquitoes that spread malaria are still here. The 10 cases of locally transmitted malaria in 2023, the first in 20 years in the U.S., and local cases in 2025 in Washington State, demonstrate that support to remain prepared for future domestic cases is critical. This need becomes even more essential as we are seeing new invasive malaria mosquitoes in other countries that are insecticide resistant and thrive in urban areas, on top of the more than 2,000 cases of travel-associated malaria cases in the U.S. each year.

The Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria (DPDM) was under the CDC's Global Health Center, but internal reorganization has broken the DPDM up. Furthermore, due to the elimination of USAID last year, which funded half of the malaria work done in the US and abroad, half of the funding disappeared, but the need for expertise, capacity, and lab facilities to do research and testing did not go away. Additionally, these labs protect Americans from other vector-borne disease parasites like those which spread babesia, Chagas disease, and leishmaniasis through monitoring, studying insecticide resistance to develop better tools, and research and evaluation for other strategies to prevent bites from these insects and arthropods. AMCA requests **\$39 million** for malaria and other global and domestic related diseases now also being housed the DVBD.



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In Summary: AMCA request for FY 2027 **at least \$153.603 million** for the CDC's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD). Included within this is a request for

- \$13 million more for VBD ELC support to fulfill the vision of the *Kay Hagan Tick Act*
- \$10.0 million in funding for VectorSurv
- \$10 million more for malaria and other global VBDs

for a total of **\$126.603 million for the VBD line**, and **at least \$27.0 million for Lyme disease**. This would help support the collaborative efforts of more than a dozen federal agencies efforts to fulfill the vision laid out in the National Strategy on VBD and help meet the needs of states and protect people across the U.S.

NEEDED ACTIONS:

AMCA asks that you provide, within the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Disease (NCEZID), at least \$153.603 million in funding for the Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD). Included within this ask is sustained funding for Lyme disease, a requested increase in support (\$10 million) for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) program to support states' work on vector-borne diseases (VBD), and sustained funding to continue to support the CDC Regional Centers of Excellence on Vector-Borne Diseases (COEs) as well as the Training & Evaluation Centers (TECs). Also included in this is at least \$39 million for malaria which is proposed for reorganization into the DVBD.
