

DELAWARE ASTHMA PROGRAM

PROTECTING HEALTH, SAVING COSTS: WHY DELAWARE NEEDS THE NATIONAL ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM

The **Delaware Health and Social Services Division of Public Health** is a new CDC National Asthma Control Program (NACP) grantee. They work alongside partners to improve the quality of asthma care, improve asthma management in schools, and foster policies to help reduce exposure to asthma triggers in outdoor, indoor, and workplace environments.

DELAWARE'S ASTHMA BURDEN:

- Over 77,000 adults in Delaware have asthma or about 9.8%, above the national adult prevalence average of 8%.
- As of 2021, annual medical costs associated with Delaware adults who have asthma have an estimated total of more than \$350 million.

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE DELAWARE ASTHMA PROGRAM:

With its first-ever funding from the CDC's National Asthma Control Program (NACP), Delaware has already achieved several major milestones:

School-Based Asthma Support:

- Partnered with a school nurse project facilitator to promote asthma-related professional learning for school nurses statewide.
- Updated the Delaware School Nurse Manual to reflect current evidence-based asthma practices.
- Enhanced technical assistance and education for schools on asthma triggers and indoor air quality improvements.

Community-Based Services:

- Trained and deployed Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Delaware's most rural communities.
- Expanded home visiting services to support families and children impacted by asthma.
- Included environmental health specialists in school, home, and community settings.

Health Education and Equity:

- Updated educational materials on secondhand smoke and indoor air quality, tailored for priority populations.



- Working with a marketing firm to launch a campaign focused on multi-unit housing and secondhand smoke risks.
- Identified and adapted five American Lung Association (ALA) asthma education resources for Spanish and Haitian Creole speakers to ensure inclusive and culturally appropriate messaging.

Strategic Partnerships:

- Partnered with the ALA to deliver technical expertise, project facilitation, and access to national asthma education tools.

WHY FEDERAL FUNDING MATTERS:

The CDC's NACP is the **only source of funding** for Delaware's asthma program. Without it, the state will lose the infrastructure it has just begun to build:

- School nurse training and asthma policy support.
- Expanded home visiting services and CHW deployment in high-need communities.
- Environmental health services across home, school, and community settings.
- Partnerships with the American Lung Association.
- Multilingual, culturally tailored asthma education resources.
- A targeted public education campaign focused on secondhand smoke and asthma risk.

Losing this program would mean losing Delaware's only coordinated public health response to asthma—at a time when preventable health costs and disparities remain high.

THE RISKS OF DEFUNDING:

- Increases in hospitalizations and emergency visits.
- More missed school days, higher healthcare costs, and poorer asthma control.
- Worsened health outcomes, especially as Delaware faces climate-related challenges like rising temperatures and air pollution.

THE NATIONAL ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM is essential to Delaware's ability to manage asthma, improve quality of life, and save healthcare costs. Restoring and protecting NACP funding ensures people with asthma in Delaware—especially the most vulnerable—continue to receive the education, support, and services they need to breathe easier.