



CONTACT TRACING NEEDS FOR CONTROLLING COVID-19

The COVID-19 Funding Request:

Contact tracing is a fundamental strategy for interrupting the spread of any infectious disease outbreak and will be vital to COVID-19 control and mitigation. Effective COVID-19 contact tracing requires a significant increase in the contact tracing workforce:

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| 1. 100,000 Contact Tracers: | \$4.8 billion |
| 2. 10,000 Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) Supervisors | \$1.3 billion |
| 3. 1,600 Epidemiologists | \$240 million |
| 4. Technology and training: | \$700 million |

COVID-19 contact tracing workforce (113,000 individuals and technology): **\$7.04 billion total**

Funding Needs for a Three-tiered Workforce:

1. **CONTACT TRACERS (TIER 1):** At least **\$4.8 billion** in emergency supplemental funding to local, state, territorial, tribal, and federal public health agencies to support a force of at least 100,000 DIS and other contact tracers.
2. **SUPERVISORS AND TRAINERS (TIER 2):** At least **\$1.3 billion** to support 10,000 Disease Intervention Specialists and other public health managers to train and supervise the new contact tracing workforce.
3. **ADVANCED COVID-19 RESPONSE PROFESSIONALS (TIER 3):** At least **\$240 million** to support 1,600 epidemiology/surveillance professionals, clinical/medical specialists, and Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officers to perform advanced analysis of epidemiological and surveillance data and forecast trends.
4. **TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY:** At least **\$700 million** to meet the significant technology and training needs of the contact tracing workforce to ensure that new hires can be quickly trained and that contact tracers have the most effective tools to respond to COVID-19 in their individual jurisdictions.

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Background

Test, contact trace, isolate, and monitor are the pillars of controlling an infectious disease outbreak. Robust, widespread, and rapid testing is the foundation on which effective contact tracing is built, and the health care system must be provided with all necessary supplies to roll out vigorous and accurate testing now.

Once robust testing is available, a dramatically expanded contact tracing workforce will be key to controlling and containing this virus. Identifying people who have come into contact with individuals who have tested positive is an integral tenet to any epidemic—or pandemic—response and is vital to COVID-19 control and mitigation. Every state needs resources to expand its contact tracing workforce made up of DIS and other contact tracers, experienced DIS and other public health

supervisors, and epidemiology/surveillance professionals.

In every state, a small but mighty workforce already exists to help meet the United States' contact tracing needs; they are called disease intervention specialists or DIS. Every day since World War II, DIS have been on the front lines fighting diseases like STDs, HIV and TB and have been deployed to trace people exposed to less common infectious diseases such as Ebola and Zika. The STD contact tracers currently working in state and local health departments are providing effective, culturally competent contact tracing and will be essential components of the vastly expanded contact tracing teams needed to fight COVID-19.

About NCSDD

National Coalition of STD Directors is a national organization representing health department STD directors, their support staff, and community-based organizations across 50 states, seven large cities, and eight US territories. NCSDD advances effective STD prevention programs and services in every community across the country.

Contact

For more information, contact the NCSDD policy team: Stephanie Arnold Pang at sarnold@ncsddc.org (612-220-2446) or Taryn Couture at tcouture@ncsddc.org (802-922-1090)