



# Affordable Care Act: National Prevention Strategy

Every day, 1,500 people in America die from cancer. Approximately 60 percent of all cancer deaths could be prevented by applying proven prevention and early detection strategies.

Despite enormous advances in the prevention of disease, the health care system has focused on treating people after they become sick or injured, instead of keeping them well in the first place. Prior to passage of the Affordable Care Act, only 4 percent of all federal health care spending went toward prevention and early detection. Adequate and sustained investments and improvements in prevention and early detection are essential to meaningful health care reform. Strategic investments in research and evidence-based approaches, such as tobacco quitlines, obesity counseling, cancer screening programs, and nutrition programs, can lower disease rates, reduce socioeconomic and racial/ethnic disparities, and increase productivity.

## **Increasing our investment in prevention and early detection will improve health and save lives.**

### **National Prevention Strategy in the Affordable Care Act**

- Establishes an interagency National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council to
  - Develop a National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy to be reviewed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services no less than every five years (*Beginning March 2011*)
  - Provide coordination and leadership on prevention, wellness, health promotion practices, the public health system, and integrative health care
  - Establish a 25-member, nongovernmental Advisory Group to the Council to develop policy and program recommendations
  - Report annually to the President and Congress on priorities in health promotion and disease prevention (*Beginning July 2010 through January 2015*)
- Establishes a Prevention and Public Health Fund
  - The Fund will be authorized to receive \$500 million starting in fiscal year 2010, and \$2 billion by fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter
  - Activities funded include prevention research, health screenings, community transformation grants, education and outreach campaigns, and immunization programs

### **Implications for the American Cancer Society and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)**

- The Society and ACS CAN will help to shape the National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy through public comments and other avenues.
- The Society will be eligible to issue a nomination to the Advisory Group to the National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council.
- The Society and ACS CAN will engage in opportunities to ensure the Prevention and Public Health Fund dollars are adequately distributed, increased when needed, and sustained over time.
- The Society may be eligible as a grant recipient to develop, implement or evaluate community prevention programs and health professional education and training programs.