



2020 New York City Legislative & Budget Priorities

Between 2011-2015, an average of **40,126 new cancer cases** and **12,453 cancer deaths** occurred in New York City. An individual's risk for certain cancers may depend on their ZIP code and socioeconomic status. Significant differences in cancer incidence and mortality rates exist between neighborhoods. To address the health inequities that exist across New York City we need bold new public policies that promote cancer prevention, early detection of cancer, and expand access to quality, affordable health care. ACS CAN looks forward to working with the Mayor, the City Council and all city leaders on the following priorities:

Healthy Eating and Active Living

- **Healthy Food Funding**—To improve access to healthy foods in underserved communities across New York City ACS CAN requests that New York City invest in programs that will increase the availability and affordability of healthy foods. The City should provide money to help New Yorkers afford fresh fruits and vegetables by expanding the total amount of funding available for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) incentives such as Health Bucks. The City should also invest in healthy corner store initiatives so that existing corner stores can offer healthier food options to their customers and create a Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) to help food establishments open, expand, and improve in neighborhoods that need food and jobs the most.
- **Healthy Food Zoning**—New York City should use its zoning powers to address the health and welfare of residents who do not have access to healthy food. This includes adopting zoning policies that encourage healthy food options and limit commercial food retail, such as fast food businesses, that are contributing to negative health outcomes and increasing health disparities.
- **Nutrition**—New York City should expand and strengthen its nutritional guidelines for government buildings and city owned venues, including beaches, parks, and other places where youth congregate. New York City should also update its school nutrition standards to strengthen them in the face of rollbacks of school nutritional standards by the federal government. In addition, New York City should allocate funding for the Food-Ed Hub at the Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy.
- **Sugary Drink Consumption**—New York City should take steps to reduce the consumption of sugary drinks. This should include establishing a tax of at least two cents per ounce on all sugary drinks and dedicate the revenue to public health programs that will help New Yorkers live at a healthy weight, and restrict the sale of sugary drinks at public parks, beaches and in schools, including school events before and after the school day.
- **Physical Education**—Support policies to promote physical education in schools including compliance with current regulations. This includes continuing to provide funding for physical education teachers and programs and expanding capital spending to renovate and build more physical education space.

Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

- **Colon Cancer Screening**—New York City should renew its commitment to reducing colon cancer death rates by dedicating funding in 2020-2021 to the NYC Community Care Project operated by the NYC DOHMH.
- **Reducing Barriers to Care**—New York City should ensure that reliable transportation to medical appointments is not a barrier to care by providing financial support to patients in need in order to cover their transportation costs.
- **HPV vaccine promotion**—New York City should back up its commitment to cancer prevention by establishing a comprehensive school requirement for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine as part of a multi-year fully funded campaign focused on educating health care providers and parents on the importance of the HPV vaccine.
- **Sun safety**—New York City should provide city funding to the New York City Parks Department for a citywide program to provide free sunscreen at all New York City parks, pools and beaches.

Reducing the Toll of Tobacco

- **Smoking Cessation**—New York City should earmark a substantial portion of the revenue generated by the City's 10 percent tax on non-cigarette tobacco products to a smoking cessation program at the New York City Housing Authority. Additionally, New York City should allocate substantial funding to the NYC DOHMH for a comprehensive smoking cessation campaign.
- **Menthol Cigarette Restriction**—New York City should close the loophole in its 2009 flavored tobacco ban and restrict the sale of menthol cigarettes.

Promote Cancer Research

- New York City should invest in cancer research by establishing a New York City Commission on Cancer Research (NYCCCR) to promote significant and original research in New York City into the causes, prevention, treatment and palliation of cancer and serve as a resource to providers and consumers of cancer services. Additionally, New York City should make a substantial annual contribution to the New York Fund for Innovation in Research and Scientific Talent (NYFIRST) to bring top scientific talent to New York City's leading medical schools, teaching hospitals and cancer research centers

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