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SOCIETY

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL
SCHOOL PEDIATRIC
DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

SOCIETY FOR
PEDIATRIC
RESEARCH

PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL

SUPPORT THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STUDY

ACTION NEEDED FROM PEDIATRICIANS

Urge your senators and representative to support ongoing and new funding for the National Children's Study (NCS). The NCS must continue to receive sustained and robust federal support. Therefore, to support the next phase of the National Children's Study, we recommend that the NCS be adequately funded in FY 2010, by at least \$194 million.

The National Children's Study (NCS) is "a national longitudinal study of environmental effects (including physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial) on child health and development" that will provide critical research and information on major causes of childhood illnesses such as premature birth, asthma, obesity, preventable injury, autism, development delay, and mental illness, by studying the health and development of more than 100,000 children across the United States, following them from before birth until age 21. The study is being carried out by a consortium of federal agency partners, including: the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute of Environmental Health and Sciences (NIEHS) at the NIH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Further information and updates are available at <http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov>.

Authorized by the bipartisan *Children's Health Act of 2000* (P.L. 106-310), the NCS has the potential to yield enormous benefits. Six of the chronic diseases that the study plans to examine – obesity, injury, asthma, diabetes, schizophrenia, and autism – cost the nation over \$600 billion per year. If the NCS were to produce a reduction of only 1% in incidence of these diseases, the study would pay for itself several times over.

To date, extensive planning has occurred over several years. In the fall of 2007, 22 new Study Centers were awarded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). These Study locations are added in addition to the original seven "Vanguard Centers" that were announced in the fall of 2005 that were tasked to pilot and complete the first phases of the Study. The Vanguard Centers have been building and training staff, setting up advisory committees, establishing systems to support enrollment and data collection, and continuing refinement of sampling and study protocols.

For more information, please contact Becky Fowler (bfowler@aap.org) at 202/347-8600.

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National Children's Study Projected Timeline (as of April 2009)

2000-Present	Pilot studies/ methods development
2004	Developed Study design and Study plan
2005	Awarded initial contracts (Vanguard Centers and Coordinating Centers)
2007	Congress appropriated \$69 million
2007	Completion of the first phase of pilot Study protocol development
2007	Awarded Wave 1 Study Centers
2008	Congress appropriated \$110.9 million
2008	Reviews and approvals (OMP, peer review, IRB's)
2008	Awarded Wave 2 Study Centers
2009	Pilot begins at Vanguard Centers
2009	Repository and Laboratory procurements
TBD	Award Wave 3 Study Centers
2010 *+	Begin full Study for Vanguard locations
2011 *+	Begin full Study for Wave 1 locations
2011 *+	First Study results become available (methods, pilots, preliminary findings)
2012 *+	Begin full Study for Wave 2 locations
2017	Full data set for outcomes of pregnancy

* Pending funding

† Pending OMB

National Children's Study Vanguard Centers

- University of California, Irvine, for the Study location of Orange County, California
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, for the Study location of Duplin County, North Carolina
- Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, for the Study location of Queens County, New York
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Drexel University School of Public Health, Philadelphia, for the Study location of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.
- University of Utah, Salt Lake City, for the Study location of Salt Lake County, Utah.
- University of Wisconsin (UW), Madison, and the Medical College of Wisconsin, for the Study location of Waukesha County, Wisconsin.
- South Dakota State University with Children's Medical Center of Cincinnati and the University of Cincinnati for the Study location of Brookings County, South Dakota, and Lincoln, Pipestone, and Yellow Medicine Counties, Minnesota.

<http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov>.