On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This law includes dozens of provisions that are set to roll out over the next 4 years and beyond. One of the changes that has already begun emphasizes prevention of diseases and illnesses through the **Prevention and Public Health Fund**. In the long term, this focus on prevention will not only improve quality of health care but also reduce health care costs.

**What is the Affordable Care Act’s Prevention and Public Health Fund?**
- This fund provides grants to expand prevention initiatives and public health services.

**How much will the Fund provide?**
- $15 billion over 10 years. In Fiscal Year 2010, $500 million of the Fund was distributed to states and communities and $750 million will be spent this year. Each year, it will grow by $250 million until it reaches $2 billion. Thereafter, $2 billion each year will be spent towards this effort.
- There is a [chart](#) that compares FY2010 and FY2011 Prevention and Public Health Fund investments.
- Read about what the Prevention and Public Health Fund is doing for your [state](#).

**How does this affect viral hepatitis?**
- The Fund provides a great opportunity to secure some of this money for viral hepatitis prevention services such as testing and screening. Currently, these programs are severely underfunded and the current political/economic environment will make it difficult to obtain more funding through the regular appropriations process.

**As a viral hepatitis advocate, what is the next step?**
- The Fund is currently under attack by Members of Congress who oppose health care reform. The House has voted to repeal it but the Senate will unlikely take a similar vote. The next step is to fight to protect this fund from repeal and other attacks and advocate for some of the funding to go to Hepatitis B and C prevention services. Please call your Members of Congress and ask them to support the Prevention and Public Health Fund!

**Get involved with Hepatitis Health Action!**
- Sign up for the Hepatitis Health Action email list by visiting [http://groups.google.com/group/HepHealth](http://groups.google.com/group/HepHealth) or, email [Christina](mailto:christina@hepatitishealthaction.org) and we will make sure you are added.
- Join Hepatitis Health Action’s [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/hepatitishealthaction/) group where you can participate in discussions with other advocates and share your ideas and strategies.
- Follow Hepatitis Health Action’s [blog](http://hepatitishealthaction.org/blog) for news and commentary.

Hepatitis Health Action is a new campaign led by viral hepatitis advocates working to make sure that health care reform addresses hepatitis B and C.