As part of the final FY16 budget package, supporters of the HEAL Act are calling for creating an Illinois Wellness Fund with revenue from a penny-per-ounce excise tax on sugary drinks.

In FY16, the tax is estimated to raise more than $600 million. The HEAL Act provides detail on how the excise tax is defined and collected by the Illinois Department of Revenue, and deposited in the Illinois Wellness Fund. The tax is applied to full sugar drinks like soda, sports drinks, energy drinks, juice drinks, teas and coffees. Low- and no-sugar soft drinks, water, milk, alcoholic and medical drinks are exempted.

**THE ILLINOIS WELLNESS FUND HAS TWO PARTS:**
1. Grants for community prevention and wellness initiatives to be administered and overseen by the Illinois Department of Public Health (proposed funding $100 million)
2. Funds for Medicaid expenditures to be administered through the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (proposed funding $500 million)

**PART I - COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND WELLNESS GRANTS:**
Entities eligible to receive grants from Illinois Wellness Fund include:
- Units of local government: public health departments, planning/transportation departments, school districts, park districts
- Statewide, regional, and community-based nonprofit organizations
- Universities and colleges
- Schools and early childhood education centers
- Faith-based organizations
- Federally qualified health centers, community health centers, nonprofit hospitals and health centers
- Illinois farms producing plant-based food for state residents

**COMMUNITY WELLNESS GRANT FUNDING BREAKDOWN:**
- 3% to Illinois Department of Public Health for administration of the program
- 2% to provide technical assistance, program assistance, strategic planning and coordination of grantee activity,
- 95% for community Initiatives, with at least 50% of this allocation directed to high-need communities.
  - 20% for local health departments for a variety of obesity and chronic disease prevention efforts to eliminate health disparities, building collaborations, and promoting healthy eating and physical activity.
  - 75% for prevention of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer, as well as improvement of oral health, including funds for:
    1. School and early childhood health and wellness programs, such as healthy foods, increased physical activity, improved physical and nutrition education programs
    2. Community nutrition and access to healthy foods such as nutrition education, healthy vending initiatives, healthy food procurement, and breastfeeding promotion programs
    3. Physical activity in communities such as active transportation, community walkability and bike-ability, physical activity in after school programs, creation of safe and accessible areas for kids to play outdoors
    4. Worksite wellness such as promotion of nutrition, physical activity and workplace wellness initiatives
    5. Local food systems initiatives such as promoting access and consumption of local foods, farm-to-school/institution programs, community gardens, urban agriculture projects, farmers markets, double value dollars for SNAP recipients at farmers markets
    6. Oral health improvement programs such as oral health education, dental sealants for children, community prevention strategies

**PART II - MEDICAID FUNDING FOR EXPANDED PREVENTION AND OBESITY TREATMENT SERVICES FOR RESTORING CUTS TO SERVICES AND PROVIDERS:**
- Coverage for all services recommended for pediatric prevention, assessment and treatment of overweight and obesity
- Coverage for medical nutrition therapy, care coordination, weight management programs, diabetes education and multi-disciplinary obesity treatment programs
- Coverage for community-based, evidence-based physical activity and nutrition programs, diabetes and other health-behavior focused chronic disease self-management and chronic disease prevention programs for children and adults
- Restoring Medicaid services and provider payments currently proposed for cuts including restoring adult dental coverage

03/21/16
Organizations that support the HEAL Act include:

A Just Harvest
Abundant Living Christian Center, Dolton
Active Transportation Alliance
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
ALAS - Wings
American Cancer Society - Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association, Midwest Affiliate
American Lung Association
American Nurses Association - Illinois Chapter
Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
Champaign County Health Care Consumers
Champaign-Urbana Public Health District - Division of Wellness and Health Promotion
Chicago Department of Public Health - Policy, Planning and Legislative Affairs
Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition
Coalition of African, Arab, Asian, European and Latino Immigrants of IL
Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children
DeKalb Community Gardens
Esperanza Health Centers
Evanston Health Advisory Council
EverThrive Illinois
Experimental Station / LinkUP Illinois
Faith in Place
Howard Brown Community Center
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention
Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators
Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Coalition Against Hangun Violence
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Illinois Farm to School [Seven Generations Ahead endorsed]

[List in formation]