CSG Awarded 3-Year CDC Public Health Grant

Lexington, Ky. (Aug. 27, 2008)--The Council of State Governments has received a three-year grant from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to educate state officials about effective policies to prevent and control sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

CSG, with national headquarters in Lexington, Ky., will collaborate with key national organizations to strengthen state public health and education efforts to prevent and treat these diseases, particularly among youth, and to reduce health disparities among those who are infected with the diseases. CSG will also continue to maintain its Healthy States Web site (www.healthystates.csg.org) targeted at state legislators, executive branch officials, as well as the general public and monitor state legislative activity on STD and HIV/AIDS prevention issues. The award for the first year, beginning Sept. 1, is $250,000.

“This grant will allow CSG to educate state level policymakers and encourage action on issues that are often swept under the table in health care discussions,” said Debra Miller, CSG Director of Health Policy. “Prevention of these diseases is very possible and can reduce the heartbreaking impacts of STDs, which can include infertility and HIV/AIDS.”

According to the CDC, one in four girls in the U.S. between ages 14 and 19 is infected with at least one of the common sexually transmitted diseases. Human papillomavirus, or HPV, is the most common STD and the primary cause of cervical cancer, according to the CDC. Cervical cancer is highly preventable if precancers are found using Pap test screenings and curable if detected at an early stage, the CDC reports. Many states are deciding what policies to enact regarding new vaccinations available to prevent cervical cancer.

Chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis, other common STDs, are easily treated and cured with antibiotics, but untreated STDs can lead to serious health problems. Public education campaigns and appropriate funding of screening programs can reduce the incidence of these diseases.

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CSG provides policy analysis and tracks national conditions and trends in state governments. CSG publications provide statistics and commentary on policy issues and trends, reaching state legislators and executive branch officials in all states and territories. At national and regional meetings, CSG convenes state leaders, private sector partners and staff from every region to hear guest speakers, network with colleagues and share solutions.