

## Budget Request: California Cancer Registry



### Summary:

The Governor's 2022 Budget proposes to cut \$1.8 million from the California Cancer Registry (CCR). We are asking that the Legislature reject those cuts and provide \$6.6 million to make the registry whole.

### Background:

Established in 1985, the CCR is the largest registry in the nation and is recognized as one of the leading cancer registries in the world. The CCR is a vast repository of cancer data that provides vital information to public health officers and researchers. With this data, it is possible to determine cancer risk factors and study groupings of cancers in communities. However, the means for collecting data has fallen woefully behind the times and has resulted in data not being reported to the department for an average of one-and-a-half to two years.

The CCR is funded through the General Fund, Proposition 99, and federal dollars for which it must provide matching dollars. Upon creation, the Legislature promised to provide ongoing funding of the CCR through each Budget Act<sup>1</sup>. The CCR funding has been on a steady decline due to the declining Proposition 99 funding and lean Budget years, leaving the CCR without sustainable funding. By cutting their budget further, we put them at risk of losing millions of federal matching funds and the ability to continue their critical work.

The CCR also works directly with our three regional registries which provide critical support on local instances of disease. They are the first line in collecting the data that is used for research and clinical trials. This has been largely a manual process that has taken many years to upload. In 2016, the Legislature passed, and Governor signed AB 2325 to update the cancer registry to ensure real time reporting. Since then, the CCR has worked diligently to implement this unfunded mandate and update the CCR to bring their reporting into the modern era. Provided the appropriate funding, they will be able to achieve that goal in the next two years. What this means is that the registry will have data in real time, allowing researchers to utilize current data, as opposed to relying on old data. Additionally, the implication for clinical trials is immense. Currently only 3% of adults diagnosed with cancer participate in clinical trials, those numbers are much lower for those of racial and ethnic minorities. With real time reporting, we will be able to connect cancer patients to clinical trials and researchers while they are still able to make a difference.

### What will funding the CCR do?

The CCR is critically important to cancer research and eliminating gaps in health equity. With the appropriate, ongoing funding, the registry has the opportunity to implement changes that would provide real time data for researchers and clinical trials. We ask the State of California to make an ongoing commitment to our registry and our future of cancer care by fully funding the program at the required \$6.6 million.

*ACS CAN Position: Support. For more information regarding this position, please contact ACS CAN California's Director of State Legislation at Ogden at 916.504.2475 or [Autumn.Ogden@cancer.org](mailto:Autumn.Ogden@cancer.org).*

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<sup>1</sup> California Health and Safety (HSC) code, [sections 103875 – 103885](#)

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