

THE SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM: WHAT POLICYMAKERS NEED TO KNOW



The Special Diabetes Program (SDP) is a federal program comprised of two components—the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI). Congress created these programs in 1997 to advance research for type 1 diabetes at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disorders (NIDDK) and to provide treatment and education programs for type 2 diabetes among American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN).

The Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes has used this funding to advance research to:

- Delay the onset of type 1 diabetes
- Better understand the underlying causes of the disease
- Prevent, treat, and reverse complications associated with the disease



SDP SAVES LIVES

Research funded by SDP led to the discovery of a drug that delays the onset of type 1 diabetes, accelerated progress on an artificial pancreas, and discovered nearly 50 genes that influence the risk of developing type 1 diabetes. Additional research is needed to identify ways to prevent and cure type 1 diabetes.

Through SDPI, more than 300 treatment and education programs on type 2 diabetes have been implemented in AI/AN communities. The SDPI has helped decrease diabetes prevalence among AI/AN adults from 15.4% in 2013 to 14.6% in 2017, decreased hospitalizations 84% between 2000 and 2015 in AI/AN adults, and decreased diabetes-related deaths 37% from 1999 to 2017.



TAKE ACTION: PASS LEGISLATION TO REAUTHORIZE AND FUND SDP

Despite the SDP's success and bipartisan support, the program is in jeopardy. Funding for SDP will expire on March 8, 2024 unless Congress passes legislation to reauthorize the program. **The Endocrine Society urges Congress to pass legislation funding the SDP at \$170 million per program per year, a 13% increase, for two years.**

Short-term extensions of SDP, like those that have funded the program since October 1, are harmful to the program because consistent and predictable funding is needed to support research that will take multiple years to carry out. The lives of more than 114 million Americans living with or at-risk for developing diabetes are being changed through these critical programs. It is important that we continue to invest in the research needed to cure diabetes and support programs that will help prevent and treat the disease.