CDC’s National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) is the only nationally organized breast and cervical cancer screening program in the United States. Programs funded through the NBCCEDP serve approximately 10.6% of NBCCEDP-eligible women aged 40–64 years for breast cancer, and 6.5% of eligible women aged 21–64 years for cervical cancer. With the suggested increase, funding would be used to identify and screen more difficult to reach, uninsured, or underinsured women. Funds also would be used to expand activities to eliminate barriers and increase screening for all women, including those who may be insured. These activities include evidence-based interventions such as: patient/provider reminders systems in clinics that serve low-income populations; strategies such as patient navigation and care coordination proven to increase screening rates; and linking women to clinical services where they live and work.

**Basic Facts about Breast and Cervical Cancer**

In 2019, 250,520 women in the U.S. were diagnosed with breast cancer, and 42,000 women died from the disease. Also, 12,831 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer and 4,207 women died. Screening increases the likelihood of finding breast and cervical cancers at earlier stages when they are more treatable. Early detection and follow-up can prevent virtually all cervical cancer deaths and reduce breast cancer deaths by 16% in women over age 40. It is estimated that more than $8 billion per year is spent in the U.S. for the treatment of breast cancer, and more than $3 billion per year is spent on the treatment of cervical cancer. Mammography screening every two years extends life for women aged 65 or older at a cost of about $36,924 per year of life saved. Cervical screening every three years extends life at a cost of about $5,392 per year of life saved.

In 2019, the NBCCEDP:

- Provided breast cancer screening and diagnostic services to 266,592 women for breast cancer with mammography and diagnosed 2,508 breast cancers and 724 premalignant breast lesions.
- Provided cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to 130,386 women for cervical cancer with the Pap test and diagnosed 134 cervical cancers and 6,891 premalignant cervical lesions, of which 35% were high-grade.

**CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP)**

NBCCEDP provides access to breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to low-income, uninsured and underserved women in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, six U.S. territories, and 13 tribes or tribal organizations. Since the beginning of the program in 1991, the program has provided more than 15 million breast and cervical cancer screening examinations, and diagnosed more than 71,000 invasive breast cancers, 4,800 invasive cervical cancers, and 222,000 premalignant cervical lesions, of which 39% were high-grade. In addition to providing direct screening, programs also include evaluation, public and provider education, outreach, patient navigation/case management, follow-up, and quality assurance.

While the Affordable Care Act increased insurance coverage for millions of women, estimates show that more than 5.7 million women aged 21–64 years will remain uninsured and therefore are eligible for breast or cervical cancer screenings through the NBCCEDP. The NBCCEDP, with a network of more than 11,000 primary care clinics, is uniquely positioned to work with health systems to implement clinic-level evidence-based interventions that increase screening among both the insured and the uninsured and the underinsured.

Contact: Amy Souders, Cornerstone Government Affairs. (202) 488-9500 or asouders@cgagroup.com