



# CALIFORNIA

The **Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG)** supports 13 programs that address the major killers and disablers of Californians for whom no other federal, categorical or state funding exists. The programs address heart disease, stroke, obesity, physical inactivity, intentional and unintentional injuries, rape prevention, emergency medical services, skin cancer, access to quality health care, water fluoridation, public health workforce training and development, and a variety of community based programs. Additionally, 30 percent of PHHSBG funds support the seven programs of California's Emergency Medical Services Authority. These programs have collectively, through public-private partnerships, leveraged an additional \$65 million to augment program efforts over the past five years—a return of \$10.00 for every PHHSBG dollar invested.

PHHS Block Grant funds allow California to use dollars **where** we need them, **when** we need them to protect the public's health. Programs that serve our state's unique health needs through the PHHS Block Grant include the following:



## Community Water Fluoridation

The **California Fluoridation Project** and its partners, by leveraging an additional \$15 million from a single foundation (The California Endowment), will have raised the percentage of Californians with access to fluoridated water from 17 percent to between 70 and 75 percent by early 2007. This increase should reduce the dental caries in California by 20–45 percent in children and adults.

[www.dhs.ca.gov/oralhealth](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/oralhealth)\*



## Nutrition and Overweight

**California Project LEAN** (Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition) and its partnerships were instrumental in the establishment of landmark legislation creating the strongest nutritional standards in the country to limit the sale of soft drinks and junk food at schools.

[www.CaliforniaProjectLEAN.org](http://www.CaliforniaProjectLEAN.org)\*



## Public Health Infrastructure Development

The **Continuing Professional Education Program** has trained over 10,000 individuals and awarded over 6,000 hours of CME in the past five years. Approximately 70 percent of the graduates of the California Epidemiologic Investigation Service (Cal-EIS) and the Preventive Medicine Residency Program are now working in state, local or federal public health agencies. Approximately 53 percent of these are located in California state or local health departments.

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/cdic/cdcb/pds/CPE/index.htm>\*

## California Department of Health Services

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## PHHS Block Grant Dollars Provide Resources Needed to Protect California Communities

### Issue:

California epidemiologists were at the heart of handling health problems related to the 1991 derailment of a Southern Pacific tanker that caused 19,500 gallons of liquid herbicide to spill into the Sacramento River. Epidemiologists keep outbreaks of diseases, such as those caused by contaminated food and water, under control and study the impact that diseases, such as diabetes and asthma, have on the states' population.

The California Department of Health Services is tasked with ensuring that experienced epidemiologists are on board to protect the health of communities. The challenges of recruiting, training, and retaining individuals for this important job are significant.

### Intervention:

Developed in 1989, California Epidemiologic Investigation Service (Cal-EIS) is the first program of its kind offered by state health departments. Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant dollars are critical to meeting this need in that there is no other existing source of state or federal funds for this program. The program has stringent criteria for acceptance and clear guidelines for staying in the program.

- Cal EIS provides one to two years of applied training in epidemiology for master's-level epidemiologists. The Cal-EIS is patterned from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Epidemic Intelligence Service.
- Experienced epidemiologists in either a local or state health department serve as mentors for the Cal-EIS Fellows over the 2-year training program.
- Local and state health departments partner with Cal-EIS and provide a stipend to Cal-EIS fellows employed at their agencies.
- Cal-EIS offers an excellent example of state and local partnerships in that fellows are placed with Department of Health Services' programs or with local health departments.



Former Cal EIS fellow and veterinarian Michele Jay investigating a Q-fever outbreak in Calaveras County.

### Impact:

Cal-EIS has succeeded in protecting our community's health through the placement of qualified epidemiologists.

- Of the 80 Cal-EIS graduates, 57, or 71%, are employed in public health.
- The Cal-EIS program has become a model for the nation and is being replicated in other states, including North Carolina and Florida. This replication creates costs savings for all and strengthens public health across the United States.
- Funds leveraged over the last 6 years: Current Cal-EIS fellows are paid a stipend salary of \$37,000 during the training year, and 100% of these funds have come from county and state public health programs.
- It is estimated that PHHS Block Grant dollars have leveraged well over \$1,740,000 in state and county funds over the past 6 years for salary and travel support for Cal-EIS fellows, while at the same time providing public health guidance and support for our communities.

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