



# WISCONSIN

The **Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant** provides funding for health problems in Wisconsin that range from oral health to environmental hazards. PHHS Block Grant dollars fund nine different health programs in Wisconsin.

PHHS Block Grant funds allow Wisconsin to use dollars where we need them, when we need them to protect the public's health. Block Grant funds support capacity building and core service development in various domains including chronic disease prevention, health promotion, communicable disease prevention, environmental health, and emergency medical services. Programs that serve our state's unique health needs through the PHHS Block Grant include the following:



### **Dental Caries Experience—Oral Health Initiative**

One community collaborated with United Way to screen more than 2,500 school children for dental disease. Block Grant funds supported follow-up services for the 8 percent of screened children (203 children) who required dental care. A tribal agency used their 2004 Block Grant funds to provide oral health screenings, fluoride varnishes, and referral to a dentist, if necessary, for 98 percent of tribal children ages 9 through 36 months. These oral health services, including guidance to parents, are integrated into primary healthcare visits.



### **Emergency Medical Services**

A community needs assessment highlighted the need for expanded emergency medical services for remote areas of Wisconsin. The health department used its Block Grant funds to lead the effort, with community partners, to improve emergency service coverage. Partners included local elected officials, the 911 coordinators, emergency government, emergency service providers, and others. Their efforts resulted in identification of the best location for a new service, and establishment of a new service provider.



### **Unintentional Injury Deaths—Seed Money to Support Local Health Departments and Tribes**

Several local health departments use Block Grant funds to promote programs that train parents on how to properly install infant and child car seats. While car seats are extremely effective in saving children's lives, they are complicated to install and use correctly. Studies have found that as many as four out of five car seats are installed or used incorrectly. At health department-sponsored car seat safety events, 85% of children's seats were being used incorrectly. At least 500 parents were trained on how to correctly install seats for their young children. A permanent car seat fitting station was established at a local fire station, and at least 132 car seats were provided to low-income parents.



### **Environmental Health Consortia—Monitoring of Environmental Disease**

Block Grant funds a consortium of health departments to develop local environmental health services. Consortium funding is available for a maximum of three years, during which time the consortia agencies develop identical local environmental ordinances and codes, establish inspection criteria, and hire qualified staff. A newly formed consortium of three communities conducted 746 human health hazard inspections in 2004, resulting in 742 orders to remove waste, and 62 citations.

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services  
**Contact Information:** Larry Gilbertson, PHHS Block Grant Coordinator  
Phone: 608-266-8154  
E-mail: [bruec@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:bruec@dhfs.state.wi.us)

## Wisconsin Daycare Providers Change Their Ways: PHHS Block Grant Funding Improves Caregiver Health and Safety Practices

### Issue:

More than 200,000 Wisconsin children attended a licensed daycare facility in 2005, and this number is growing. To help parents select the safest and healthiest environment for their children, the Wisconsin Bureau of Regulation and Licensing certifies facilities where the caretakers have received basic health and safety training. However, as public health nurses have visited centers to treat outbreaks of communicable diseases, it has become clear that more training is necessary.

Disease prevention is important to parents since these working parents average 2–29 days a year away from work caring for their sick children, which ends up costing state employers between \$400,000–\$2 million annually. When about 10 percent of all daycare center complaints made to the state were found to be about health and safety concerns, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department decided it was time to take a proactive approach to improving daycare providers' health education.

### Intervention:

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department worked with licensed daycare agencies to develop a curriculum and a health and safety manual.

A successful learning tool was created initially in 2001; however, funds were not available to sustain the effort. Without this funding, daycare workers could not afford to take the education sessions, and the team that created the tool could not keep the tool up-to-date. Fortunately, Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant funds enabled the local health department to support this project, update the manual, and provide classes in August 2005.



### Impact:

In 2005, 68 child care providers attended the training sessions and 26 licensed daycare facilities reported ways they planned to improve their child care as a result of this project, including the following:

- Teaching conflict resolution with children,
- Making an overall emergency plan,
- Creating a rule chart with pictures based on positive behaviors,
- Changing how to relate to behavior problems,
- Using puppets to encourage good behavior,
- Teaching children about nutritious foods,
- Using the asthma worksheet,
- Instituting new methods for discipline in different age groups,
- Encouraging and increasing hand washing,
- Paying more attention to snacks, and
- Being more responsive to show love and support to children and parents.

In addition, this effort has strengthened ties between the health department and local child care providers who now collaborate on a variety of other public health programs, ranging from immunization to public health preparedness.

### Contact Information:

Tim Ringhand, RN, MPH  
Public Health Nurse Consultant  
715-836-3944  
[ringhth@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:ringhth@dhfs.state.wi.us)