



ILLINOIS

The **Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant** provides funding for health problems in Illinois that range from services for the youngest of our citizens—early hearing and perinatal centers, to physical activity in children and adolescents, to oral cancer detection. PHHS Block Grant dollars fund six different Illinois health programs.

PHHS Block Grant funds allow Illinois to use dollars **where** we need them, **when** we need them to protect the public's health. Illinois focuses the majority of its PHHS Block Grant funds on improving newborn hearing screening, unintentional injuries, violent and abusive behavior and assessment, assurance and policy development, and for physical activity programs in our schools. Programs that serve our state's unique health needs through the PHHS Block Grant include the following:



Child Restraints—Illinois Unintentional Injury Program

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to support the SAFE KIDS in Illinois and to increase the number of coalitions and/or chapters participating in the program. SAFE KIDS promotes child automobile safety by distributing car safety seats and sponsoring awareness-building events throughout the state. At the end of 2006, there were 29 coalitions and/or chapters participating in the program. These chapters facilitate the delivery of approximately 1,000 child restraint seats throughout the state.



Hearing—Newborn Hearing Screening

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to facilitate the referral process for Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS). They are further used to monitor hospital compliance with state regulations by providing Illinois birthing facilities with HI TRACK Newborn Hearing Screening Data Management and Tracking System software. The program has worked to implement the HI TRACK computer program into each of the birthing hospitals in Illinois. Currently, 50% of the birthing hospitals are providing reports electronically on a weekly basis, totalling approximately 95,000 births each year.



Physical Activity in Children and Adolescents—The Illinois CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) Program

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to promote healthy eating and physical activity behaviors among children in grades three through five and their families through support of the CATCH program in Illinois. Funds are used to train school staff and personnel. From inception in 2003 through the end of 2006, staff provided technical assistance, public promotion and helped to introduce the program into 22 schools across the state.



Rape or Attempted Rape—Annual Sex Offense

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to support the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA). The ICASA manages 29 sexual assault crisis centers in communities around the state. Each ICASA grantee provides a 24-hour hotline for callers in need of sexual assault crisis counseling, medical advocacy, criminal justice advocacy, and ongoing counseling. ICASA centers served over 28,000 victims and reached 342,000 citizens with its public awareness programs.

Illinois Department of Public Health

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Illinois's Hearing Screening Program: Expanding from Newborns to all Kids

Issue:

Left undetected, hearing impairments in infants can negatively affect speech and language acquisition, academic achievement, and social and emotional development. If detected; however, these negative impacts can be diminished and possibly eliminated through early intervention. Given this and other reasons, the need for universal newborn hearing screening was identified as a need by the Illinois state legislature in the early 1990s and placed into statute.



Intervention:

The Illinois Department of Public Health receives appropriation for both grants to local health departments and for work with local birthing hospitals for newborn hearing screening. While the primary focus has been on newborn screening, the department felt a need to build the infrastructure of this system, which also reaches school age children. The Illinois Department of Public Health has begun to build this system by adding field staff who could recruit new services providers, provide technical assistance to existing providers, work with birthing hospitals, and ensure that testing equipment is properly maintained to meet state standards. The Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant award funds have allowed the department to leverage its state funds to build such a system.

The Department's Vision and Hearing Program has reached many new milestones.

Highlights/Successes of the intervention model include—

- A current enrollment of over 60% of birthing hospitals in the state, with an annual submission of some 180,000 test records.
- Service grant awards to 79 local health departments (an increase of two new health departments over the last two grant years), a state university nursing school, and two local school district programs.
- Distribution by these grantees of 181,500 hearing tests to school aged children across the state in 2005–2006, an increase of approximately 4% from the previous fiscal year.

Impact:

The impact of the federal funds on this program are enormous. Current plans call for more utilization of PHHS Block funds to continue to build this program.

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