



INDIANA

The **Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant** provides funding for health problems in Indiana that range from disaster preparedness to poison control. PHHS Block Grant dollars fund seven different Indiana health programs.

PHHS Block Grant funds allow Indiana to use dollars **where** we need them, **when** we need them to protect the public's health. The Indiana program focus on improving clinical preventive health services, access to medical care and environmental health issues. Programs that serve our state's unique health needs through the PHHS Block Grant include the following:



Source of Ongoing Care—Primary Clinical Health Services

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to provide primary health care to medically indigent patients through the operation of nurse-managed clinics, rural health clinics and/or training centers in underserved areas. This includes improving the recruitment and retention of health professionals in rural areas lacking them. As of September 2005, 24 previously-funded facilities are operational in Indiana rural counties. The three currently funded clinics treated 10,023 patients in 2005.



Environmental Health—West Nile Virus

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to support the local health departments to locate, test, and eliminate mosquitoes that could be carrying West Nile Virus.



IU Internship Project

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to support an internship project in which students participate in a unique eight-week community-based primary care practice prior to their second year of medical school. This program is designed to influence career choice and practice location. The goal is to improve both the supply and distribution of primary care physicians in rural or medically underserved areas as well as impacting workforce diversity and improving the quality of care.



Refugee Health Assistance

PHHS Block funds are used in Allen County to provide translators who speak Vietnamese, Somali, Thai, Spanish, Bosnian, and Burmese. Brochures are also being translated into Spanish, Burmese, Bosnian, and Somali. Spanish language classes are provided for health department staff. These program components combine to significantly reduce the language barriers that cause inaccurate or incomplete health histories provided by refugees.

Indiana State Department of Health

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Help May Be 50 Miles Away In Indiana

Issue:

If you live in a rural county, in Indiana, and you become ill, health care may be 50 miles away. Indiana has 6 million residents, and 862,670 are without health insurance. Many of the uninsured live in one of Indiana's 46 rural counties with limited access to primary health care. The residents delay seeking help for their health problems because of the distance to care and the cost. Medically underserved rural populations have disproportionately higher death rates and disabling conditions and are at higher risk of suffering the consequences of untreated infectious diseases, and unmanaged chronic ailments. They have little access to preventive health care such as screening for breast, cervical, prostate, colon, and skin cancers. Rural populations also have the added occupational risks of exposures to pesticides, herbicides, and sun, as well as farm accidents. Based on epidemiological data, the following were target areas of concern:

- Overuse of emergency rooms for routine care by rural residents, a costly practice.
- Prevalence of heart disease and stroke, the number one killer in Indiana. It is estimated that about half of all heart attacks and two-thirds of all stroke victims have high blood pressure.
- The elderly being able to identify and control health conditions to ensure their independence.
- Adolescents engaging in risky behaviors and making choices that may lead to poor health.

Intervention:

In 1995, Indiana decided to use the Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant to start solving the problem of access to care in rural Indiana by supporting nurse managed clinics throughout the state. The state eventually sponsored 27 clinics located in rural, medically underserved counties, 25 of which are still operational. The most recently funded clinics by the Block Grant are located in Martin, Daviess, and Orange counties.

It is required by the state health department for all grantees to meet the following objectives for the nurse managed clinics:

- Increase the proportion of regular clinic patients who have their high blood pressure under control to 50%.
- Increase to 50% the proportion of adolescents aged 13 years through 18 years who have received all of their screenings, immunization services, and at least one of the counseling services appropriate for their age and gender as recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.
- Increase to at least 40% the proportion of adults aged 65 years and older who have received all of their screenings, immunization services, and at least one of the counseling services appropriate for their age and gender as recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.
- Provide 100% of the patients with instructions on the proper use of hospital emergency rooms.



Impact:

The PHHS Block Grant's flexibility and emphasis on funding projects for which there was no other funding has really made an impact in our state. Martin County Healthcare Clinic has a patient count of 3,189, Daviess Clinic served 2,999, and Orange Clinic has a patient count of 3,835. Effective use of nurse practitioners increases access to health care and cost savings. Studies have concluded that 80% of adult primary care services and up to 90% of pediatric primary care services could be performed by nurse practitioners. The cost of seeking care from a nurse practitioner is 40% less than that of a physician. Improved access to care for Indiana's rural population through nurse managed clinics and Block Grant funds has proven to be a lifesaver in our state.

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