



OREGON

The **Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant** provides funding for health problems specific to Oregon. PHHS Block Grant funds allow Oregon to use dollars **where** we need them, **when** we need them to protect the public's health. We apply our funds to two health priorities that have little or no other means of financial support. Programs that serve our states unique health needs are highlighted below:

Support for Oregon's 34 Local Health Departments

PHHS Block Grant funds provide services in support of local health departments (LHD). These services include the following:

1. Site visits to each LHD at least once every three years. These site visits include a comprehensive review of all funded programs, technical assistance, and a compliance check to ensure state and federal regulations are followed.
2. Public Health Nursing Leadership Institute that pairs up to 10 LHDs' future nurse leaders with an established mentor. The future leader attends monthly workshops and completes a year long leadership project. This program helps ensure public health nursing leadership into the future, particularly because of the current nursing shortage and aging of the nursing workforce.
3. Web-based Resources <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/lhd/index.shtml>*
4. Assistance with local planning and with LHDs completion of an annual plan that meets statutory requirements.



Multi-Cultural Health

PHHS Block Grant funds provide a variety of support for the Multi-Cultural Health Program (MCHP) at the State Health Division. There are four major program areas in MCHP—

1. MCHP facilitates the Health Care Interpreter Program for the state by ensuring state rules are followed, coordinating training, and assisting with dispute resolution.
2. MCHP provides consultation to State Health Division programs regarding research design that will accurately collect racial and ethnic data.
3. MCHP provides cultural competency training to Department of Human Services staff members.
4. MCHP provides resource development and community outreach.



Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment

PHHS Block Grant funds also support rape crisis counseling and other needed services to rape victims. In the past year, 28 crisis intervention programs provided services, such as shelter, counseling, and advocacy to 12,823 women and children.

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* Links to non-Federal organizations are provided solely as a service to our users. Links do not constitute an endorsement of any organization by CDC or the Federal Government, and none should be inferred. The CDC is not responsible for the content of the individual organization Web pages found at this link.

Federal PHHS Block Grant Funds Crucial to Local Public Health Nursing Services

Issue:

Oregon's ability to provide public health nursing leadership is at risk. The number of nurses in Oregon can no longer accommodate the state's growth. Leadership positions are often filled by professionals who lack experience in public health, management, evaluation, or policy development. According to a survey of nurse executives at 40 of Oregon's 59 hospitals, the following critical care areas have staffing shortages:

- Intensive Care Units—60%;
- Operating room/Surgical Services—55%; and
- Obstetrics—30%.

Nearly 50% of Oregon's nurses are 50 years old or older, a proportion that has more than doubled during the past 20 years. In the next 15 years, approximately 15,000 Registered Nursing (RN) jobs will need to be filled and 40% of licensed RNs are expected to retire.

Intervention:

The impending crisis of vacant public health nursing leadership positions led the Oregon Department of Human Services to invest Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant funds in a mentoring program to assist local health departments secure future leadership. A leadership institute for public health nurses began five years ago so that—

- Experienced and sometimes retired nursing leaders could serve as mentors.
- Mentors could help inexperienced nurses work on an innovative job-related project.
- New nurses could learn about—
 - Budgeting;
 - Leadership;
 - Planning;
 - Cultural Competency;
 - Understanding the federal, state, local system;
 - Program Evaluation; and
 - Assessment.



Impact:

For five years, this mentoring program has helped the nurses enhance their skills in leadership, policy development, staff management, and working with their communities. Results include the following:

- The 17 participating local health departments are responsible for more than 70% of the state's population.
- Evaluations provided by supervisors have been positive.
- Successful projects by participants include the following:
 - Developing an alternative clinic site supported by clients and the community.
 - Implementing a communicable disease reporting database to assist with tracking diseases.
 - Leading staff through a process to improve clinic flow and efficiency.

One participant said, "The project helped us to think outside the box - how to think about community needs, how they (mentors) fought obstacles to do such interesting things. This was an inspiration to me." PHHS Block Grant funds have given Oregon the flexibility to implement a program aimed at developing a skilled public health nursing staff in the state and ultimately ensuring that Oregon residents continue to receive the quality services they deserve.

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