



# WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS

The **Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant** provides funding for health problems in Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, American Samoa, Republic of Palau, Marshall Islands, and Guam that range from diabetes to infant deaths to foodborne infections. PHHS Block Grant dollars fund 31 different health programs in the aforementioned Western Pacific Islands. In many cases, the PHHS Block Grant provides 100% of the funds used by the state public health programs to which they are allocated.

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



## **Northern Mariana Islands—Diabetes Complication Control**

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to maintain the diabetes registry at the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC); provide patient screening; and provide diabetes care training for health providers. Localized educational materials were also provided to each health clinic in the Northern Mariana Islands, including posters, diabetes models, and pamphlets to promote diabetes awareness and education.



## **Federated States of Micronesia—Infant Health Initiative**

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to conduct public awareness campaigns to educate pregnant women and mothers about the importance of early prenatal care, baby care, immunizations, and family planning. As a result, there has been a decline in infant mortality.



## **American Samoa—Vegetable Intake and Nutrition Promotion Program**

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to provide aggressive nutrition education, including demonstrations at community clinics, through village groups and at worksites. The department of health sponsors bi-weekly television programs on a variety of health issues. Half of the show focuses on nutrition and physical fitness. Food demonstrations stressing the importance of using local foods and tips on growing vegetables are also featured on the television program.



## **Republic of Palau—Heart Disease and Stroke**

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to maintain a registry of all patients with cardiovascular disease and conduct community health fairs where blood pressure, blood glucose, and cholesterol screening are made available at no cost to the public.



## **Marshall Islands—Foodborne Infections and Food Safety**

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to inspect the restaurants, school cafeterias, and the national water system for incidence of food-borne pathogens. It also provides health education and information about food-borne pathogens and water-borne diseases to the general public and provides in-service training for all food handlers and store owners in the country.



## **Guam—Unintentional Injury Deaths**

Motor vehicle crashes and accidents was one of the top ten causes of death for people ages 34 years and younger from 1993 to 2001. Because of this, Block Grant funds are used to ensure correct installation and use of car seats. As a result of the program, 53 car seats were installed and participants received training on child passenger safety.