Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

Republic of Palau

DeWill2Live: Reducing Drunk Driving To Save Lives

Alcohol abuse is one of Palau’s top eight health concerns, and driving under the influence (DUI) is a serious problem there. More than 90 DUI cases were reported by Palau authorities in 2014. Surveys revealed that half of all high school students rode with drivers who were drinking alcohol, and nearly one in five students drove a car while consuming alcohol. Motor vehicle safety laws in Palau had not sufficiently addressed the drinking and driving problem. In 2008, Palau launched an anti-drunk driving campaign called “DeWill2Live,” named after DeWill Reklai, a young man who had been killed by a drunk driver. The Republic of Palau’s Bureau of Public Health used Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant funds to continue and expand DeWill2Live to reach more youth about the dangers of drunk driving.

DeWill2Live began as a collaboration between Reklai’s family and the Ministry of Health. The campaign promotes awareness of drunk driving prevention among preteens and teens. The campaign involves partners and stakeholders from community groups, businesses, and schools who share the mission to prevent drunk driving through awareness and public education. Every year, Palau holds a candlelight vigil, promotes anti-drunk driving messages through a billboard roadside campaign, and sponsors school-based presentations featuring anti-DUI messages. More than 500 people throughout Palau support the campaign and participate in its activities.

As a result of funding provided by the PHHS Block Grant, Palau was able to launch its first ongoing anti-drunk driving campaign.
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What is the PHHS Block Grant?

The Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant provides flexible federal funding to 61 states, tribes, and US territories. These grantees use the funding to meet vital public health needs within their jurisdictions that align with national priorities—the Healthy People (HP) 2020 objectives.

Block Grant Investment Across the Nation

In fiscal year 2015, the 61 grantees received about $126 million from the PHHS Block Grant to support critical programs and services. Most funds (85%) supported HP 2020 objectives in 10 key areas: 1) Public Health Infrastructure, 2) Education and Community-Based Programs, 3) Injury and Violence Prevention, 4) Nutrition and Weight Status, 5) Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, 6) Environmental Health, 7) Immunization and Infectious Diseases, 8) Emergency Medical Services, 9) Oral Health, and 10) Physical Activity.

Public Health Infrastructure was the most funded area (26% of total funding); 43 grantees directed funds toward public health systems assessment, health improvement planning, accreditation, quality improvement, laboratory services, and other infrastructure activities. Education and Community-Based Programs was the second-most funded area (21% of total funding); 29 grantees directed funds toward community-based primary prevention services, worksite health promotion programs, and culturally appropriate community health programs.

Grantees also directed funds toward supporting local organizations working to improve community health (27% of total funding) and reduce health disparities (23% of total funding).

Please visit www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant for more information.