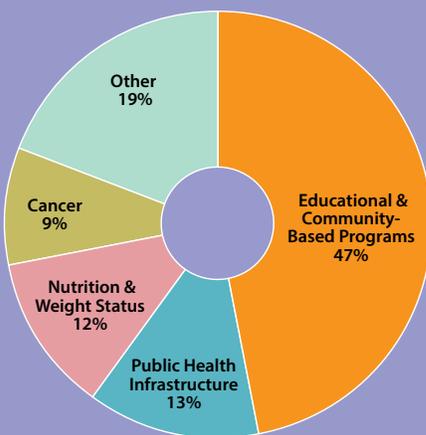


Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

Puerto Rico

How Puerto Rico Invested PHS Block Grant Funding

Total FY 2015 Funding: \$2,135,710



The Alzheimer's Coffee Break project has been a way for community members to ask health department staff questions and learn about Alzheimer's disease resources in Puerto Rico.

The Alzheimer's Café: Increasing Awareness About Alzheimer's Disease

In 2015, an estimated 42,000 adults in Puerto Rico had Alzheimer's disease. People who have this disease experience changes in their brain that can make them forgetful. They also can become easily confused and have a hard time completing daily tasks like cooking or getting dressed. People diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease can get treatment to help them live a normal life longer. The Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDoH) started a project to teach people in the community about the condition so that they and their loved ones would know when to speak with a doctor and seek treatment.

In 2014, PRDoH used its Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant funds to develop a program called *Un café por el Alzheimer* (the Alzheimer's Coffee Break or Alzheimer's Café). This program uses the Puerto Rican coffee break tradition to hold short conversations about Alzheimer's.

In 2014, more than 1,000 people came to 1 of the 11 Alzheimer's Coffee Break sessions in the community, and almost 3,000 came to 1 of the 36 sessions the next year. Staff members led the gatherings, answered questions, and shared hope. They gave advice on how to lower one's risk for Alzheimer's disease, when to see a doctor, and how to live with the condition. They also offered advice to family members caring for a loved one who has the disease.

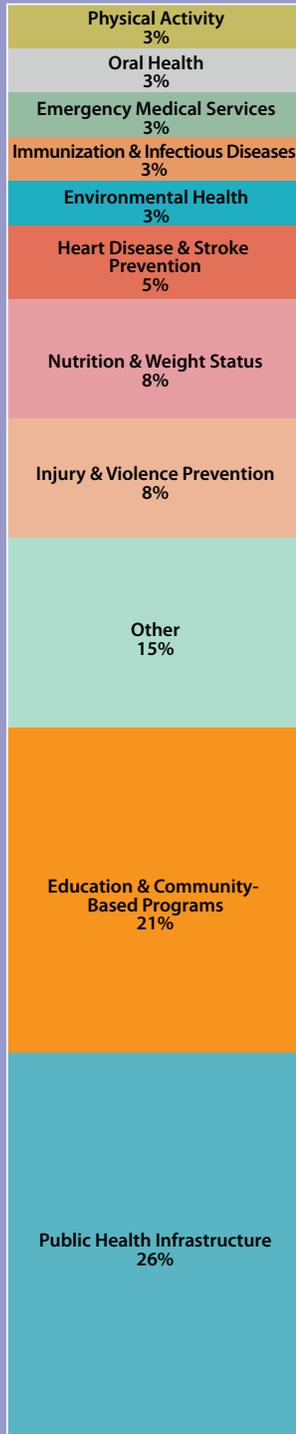
The Alzheimer's Coffee Break project met its goal of raising awareness about the disease. Newspapers, radio stations, and TV stations did stories on the project. A Facebook page and Twitter profile were started in 2014; more than 1,000 people viewed the feeds in the first week. In 2015, the Facebook page was accessed more than 10,000 times each week.

The Alzheimer's Coffee Break project provides a comfortable way for people to talk about the disease and support each other. The PRDoH Alzheimer's group plans to continue working with other organizations to connect Alzheimer's disease patients to the early care they need.



Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

2015 Top-Funded Health Areas



Excludes all non-discretionary funding: administrative costs (up to 10%), direct assistance, and funds set aside for sexual violence (rape prevention).

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).