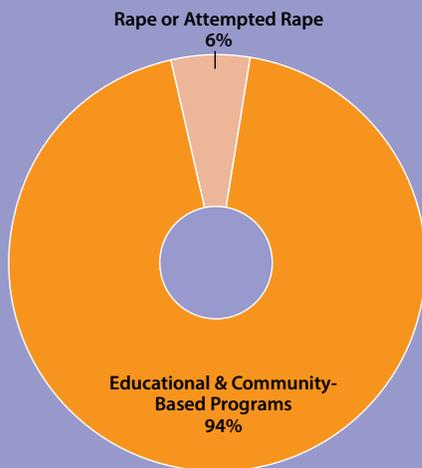


Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

South Carolina

How South Carolina Invested PHS Block Grant Funding

Total FY 2015 Funding: \$1,708,787



South Carolina used PHS Block Grant funding in Fairfield County schools to teach students how to make healthy food choices and how to grow produce in school vegetable gardens.

Keeping Children Healthy with a Farm-to-School Program

In 2011, the Kaiser Family Foundation ranked South Carolina third among states for the number of children aged 10–17 years who were obese. Obese children are more likely to have high blood pressure, asthma, and other serious health problems. One way to combat obesity is to make sure children eat lots of fresh fruits and vegetables. Having healthy foods available in convenient locations like schools can help children make healthier food choices. Schools are also a safe and supportive environment for children to learn about and practice healthy eating. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) used Preventive Health and Health Services (PHS) Block Grant funds to create and manage the South Carolina Farm-to-School Program. The program gives schools small grants to support teaching students the benefits of eating and growing fresh food.

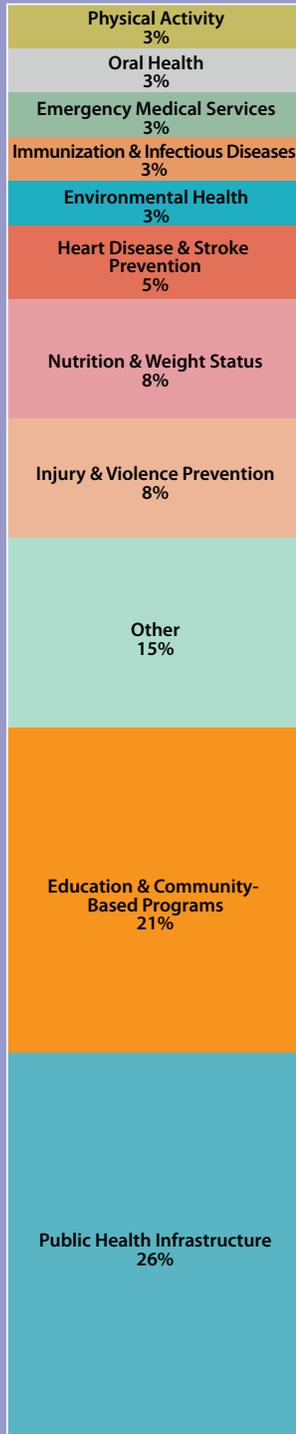
Fairfield County, South Carolina, was the first county in the state to try out the Farm-to-School Program. During the 2013–2014 school year, leaders from seven Fairfield County schools were trained on how to start and maintain this program. The schools then planted school vegetable gardens, promoted healthy activities to help reduce obesity, and taught cafeteria workers how to prepare and serve healthier food—reaching about 3,000 elementary, middle, and high school students across the seven schools.

Most schools were able to serve students locally grown fruits and vegetables at least twice a month. Four schools encouraged healthy eating through off-site activities, such as field trips to farms and food-tasting events. In addition to maintaining the Farm-to-School Program in Fairfield County, DHEC staff are planning to expand it to five other South Carolina counties that have high rates of childhood obesity.



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).