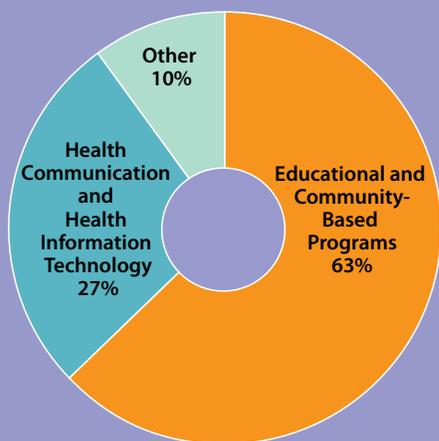


Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

Washington

How Washington Invested PHHS Block Grant Funding

Total FY 2015 Funding: \$1,402,279



Four counties in southwest Washington started a community health worker program to help people get healthier together.

Building Health from the Community Up

More than half a million people live in Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties in southwest Washington. Residents of these four counties struggle with some of the same health problems common to many Americans. One in five adults in Clark County never exercises. One in four adults in Cowlitz County smokes cigarettes. One-third of adults in Skamania and Wahkiakum counties are overweight.

These four counties used Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant funding to form the Healthy Living Collaborative (HLC) of southwest Washington. The HLC's goal is to identify ways to improve health among residents across the counties. Members of the HLC decided to create a community health worker (CHW) program, a strategy designed to empower people to make changes in the way they live.

Twenty-three people were selected by the HLC to become CHWs in 2014 and received more than 120 hours of intensive training. The training focused on how CHWs could connect community members to services to help them exercise more, stop smoking, and eat healthier food.

The CHWs are listening to what the community says it needs and are creating opportunities for healthy changes. The CHWs also provide inspiration, since they often face many of the same health issues that concern their friends and neighbors. When a CHW experiences success in making a healthy life change, community members are likewise inspired to make positive changes to improve their health.

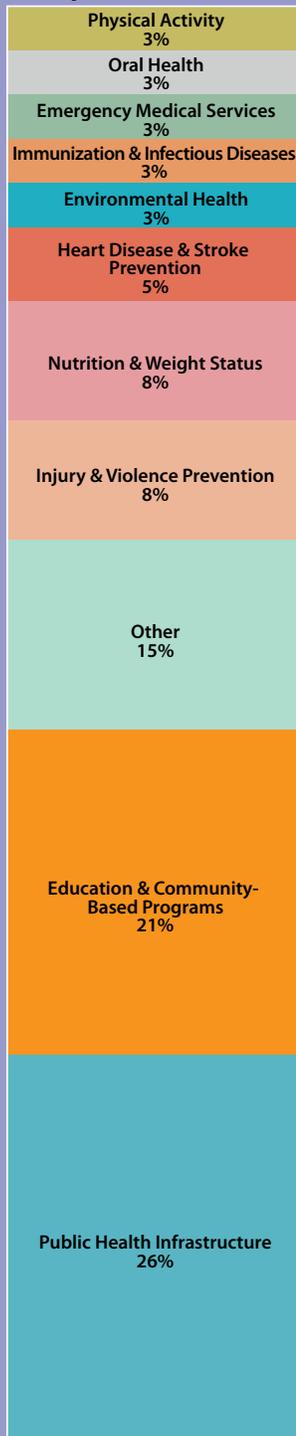
After an evaluation of the CHW project, the HLC anticipates training more CHWs to support improvements in the overall health and well-being of their communities.

Exercising, eating healthy foods, and avoiding use of tobacco products all help people live longer, healthier lives. The CHW project, which was started in response to a suggestion made during a community meeting, is finding ways to help families and neighborhoods grow stronger and healthier together.



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).