



PHHS Block Grants Can Help Health Departments

Strengthen Infrastructure and Prepare for Accreditation

Public health departments have made tremendous strides in performance management (PM), quality improvement (QI), and workforce development (WD) in the past few years, thanks in part to support from programs such as the National Public Health Improvement Initiative (NPHII). While Congress has discontinued funding for NPHII and Community Transformation Grants, other CDC-supported programs are receiving additional funds. For example, the Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant doubled in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. Health departments can use such funds to continue capacity-building activities that support infrastructure and accreditation, including activities in PM, QI, and WD.

What is the opportunity?

PHHS funds can and should support infrastructure investments in PM, QI, and WD

- 7 Strengthening capacity and infrastructure can help ensure success for disease-specific programs
- 7 States that support accreditation efforts of local health departments and tribes ultimately help achieve overall state health objectives

What can be supported?

State, tribal, local, and territorial health departments can use PHHS funds for infrastructure activities, including:

- 7 Activities related to *Healthy People 2020* infrastructure objectives
- 7 Accreditation fees, preparation activities, and coordination staff
- 7 PM and QI staff (e.g., Performance Improvement Managers)
- 7 Technical assistance to build PM, QI, and WD capacity
- 7 TRAIN affiliate subscriptions and enhancement fees

What are the next steps?

Start now to make the case for infrastructure investments. Each year, PHHS Block Grant recipients (all state and territorial health departments, and two tribes) must send CDC work plans and budgets. This is an opportunity to embed improvements (i.e., capacity-building to support accreditation preparation and strengthen PM, QI, and WD) into activities funded by the PHHS Block Grant. Each recipient organization will hold advisory committee meetings to determine how funds will be allocated each year. **Now is the time for conversations that can influence how these funds will be used in 2015 and beyond.**

- 7 ***Plan your strategy*** by exploring guidance designed for your agency found at www.phf.org/PHHSBlockGrant:
 - Guidance for States with Local Health Departments
 - Guidance for Territories and States without Local Health Department
 - Guidance for Tribes that Receive Block Grant Funds
 - Guidance for Local Health Departments and Tribes that Do not Receive Block Grants Funds Directly from CDC
- 7 ***Share this information*** with those in your agency who request PHHS funds or decide how they are used
- 7 ***Check CDC funding opportunity announcements*** for guidance on how accreditation activities can be built into applications for all CDC-funded programs
- 7 ***Stay informed*** by visiting the Public Health Foundation (PHF) Block Grant webpage for additional information and updates on how to use PHHS funds to continue to strengthen PM, QI, and WD capacity, and subscribing to PHF E-News to receive future announcements

How can PHF help strengthen my health department's infrastructure?

- 7 ***Contact*** Margie Beaudry (mbeaudry@phf.org or 202-218-4415) about technical assistance and training
- 7 ***Access*** free online resources such as courses on TRAIN, the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals, tools, case examples, and white papers