

Washington State Department of Health – Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant



Building the Healthiest Next Generation in the 4th Congressional District

The Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (MCHBG) is provided through Title V of the Social Security Act of 1935.

Washington State receives about \$8.8 million annually, and over 60% goes to 34 local health jurisdictions and one hospital district to serve all 39 counties.

Adams, Benton and Franklin, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan, and Yakima Counties together receive about \$953,000 of MCHBG funding to improve the health and lives of pregnant and reproductive-age women, infants, children, and adolescents, including children and youth with special health care needs.

In 2015, MCHBG funding helped more than 14,000 pregnant women, approximately 89,000 newborns, more than 11,000 children with special health care needs, and about 48,000 additional children, adolescents, and adults statewide.

operating in their area so that a greater number of families in need can be reached.

Benton and Franklin counties: Coordinating with hospitals to help premature babies.

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program at the Benton-Franklin Health District coordinates with the local hospital as well as several agencies that serve Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs to ensure that all children possible receive necessary services. The MCH program recently took the lead on efforts to help a family care for premature triplets. The family was enrolled in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and received home visits to support the mother in breastfeeding and assist in providing proper care to the three fragile babies. Follow-up services are in place to track the infants' development and growth. Because the hospital and health district coordinate their services, the family receives help every step of the way.

Adams county: Meeting the needs of families throughout the community.

Adams County Health Department (ACHD) coordinates services for families who have children with special healthcare needs. Their goal is to ensure that care is specific to each individual family. ACHD and the Children with Special Healthcare Needs (CSHCN) program are the only groups who provide services related to literacy and language ability. Their bilingual program offers support to Spanish-speaking parents and children as 62% of residents within the county are Latino (2015 Census). English and Spanish are the only languages currently available as they reach the predominant populations in this region.

ACHD also focuses on raising awareness of CSHCN services to the Managed Care Organizations and provider networks



DOH 350-017 January 2017

For people with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711).

Washington State Department of Health works with others to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington State.

For more information contact:

Lacy M. Fehrenbach, MPH, CPH
Washington State Title V Director
Office of Healthy Communities
Lacy.fehrenbach@doh.wa.gov
(360) 236-3687



The Maternal and Child Health Block Grant provides funding to every county so all children in Washington State can achieve their highest health potential.

Okanogan county: Supporting families through nurse home visiting.

Home visiting is very important in Okanogan County where families may have to travel long distances for medical treatment. The county public health nurse visited several families that have children with special health care needs and connected them to health care services and Early HeadStart programs when necessary. Additionally, nurses provided families with information on safe sleep, nutrition, and car seat safety, to name only a few.

Yakima county: Helping to prevent and heal childhood trauma.

Through collaboration with Virginia Mason Memorial Hospital, Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic, and Yakima Neighborhood Health Clinic the MCH program staff, have become leaders in the movement to raise awareness of ACEs, childhood trauma, and resilience. All parents who receive home visiting are learning about dealing with and overcoming trauma. Parents and children benefit from understanding the affects of trauma and learning protective factors to develop coping skills. As a result of community meetings, trainings, and fostering partnerships among schools, social services, law enforcement, and other agencies, community awareness in Yakima County has grown.

Douglas county- Families find support at the health district.

The Chelan-Douglas Health District offers a variety of health-related services. Families who seek assistance will get the help they need, or be connected to services better suited in the area.

One instance began when a young mother consulted the local health department at an Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) visit. She asked questions and raised concerns about the potential of her child having autism. The child's behavior was challenging to the point where it made achieving daily responsibilities difficult for the family. The ABCD staff connected the family to the Children with Special Health Care Needs program. They were then able to see a doctor and get a diagnosis. The family was connected with an autism support group, and the child is now receiving behavioral and occupational therapy. With the proper support, the family can better handle situations as they arise. The mother said of her challenges: "I didn't know, I thought I was the only one." The program and staff is proud to offer the needed assistance.

Grant county- Connecting to help children with special health care needs thrive in school.

The Children with Special Health Care Needs nurse at the Grant County Health District is part of a countywide council that builds partnerships and linkages with community agencies that serve children with special health care needs. The guest at one of the monthly meetings was an 8-year-old with type 1 diabetes. Together, the mother, teacher, school nurse, and child shared how they could work together to help the child be successful in school.