



January 2024

DOH 141-128

2022-23 Local Health Jurisdiction Success Stories

Washington State Congressional District 3

The Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (MCHBG) is provided through Title V of the Social Security Act of 1935. [Washington State Department of Health](https://www.wa.gov/department-of-health) receives about \$8.8 million annually, and more than 60% goes to serve 39 counties through contracts with Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJ) and a hospital district.

Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum counties together receive approximately \$7,87,067 of MCHBG funding to improve maternal and child health outcomes in their communities. These funds help create and support initiatives for pregnant individuals, infants, children, adolescents, and children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN). The success stories below show the impact of these initiatives in the 2022-23 contract year.

Clark County Public Health

Clark County Public Health (CCPH) adopted a system of care approach to our CYSHCN work to better address the systemic issues that prevent families from thriving. We believe families benefit through patient-centered, coordinated, comprehensive, and ongoing care throughout their life. Our system of care work intends to improve access to medical homes, center the family voice, and implement inclusive practices. CCPH heard directly from families through qualitative research and expanded our partnerships with the programs that serve them. We worked with the CYSHCN community to learn about their priorities, challenges and address the systemic barriers to help ensure that all children in Clark County thrive.

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services

“Callie,” a Lewis County community member enrolled in our Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program during her pregnancy. At the time, she and her partner were not working and were on the brink of losing housing. Callie had a mental health history that included untreated depression and anxiety. Callie’s NFP nurse helped her enroll in school and get financial aid to support her living situation. Callie continued school throughout her pregnancy. After her baby was born, Callie found a job that allowed her to do her schoolwork at work. She and the nurse identified a support system to help with child care. Callie also accessed a mental health therapist. Callie graduated from the program and said that her nurse was such a support that she “wished every mom could have an NFP nurse.”

Pacific County Health & Human Services

Pacific County has many Hispanic families who are enrolled in the WIC program. WIC is one of the referral pathways to the CYSHCN program. The proportion of Hispanic children enrolled in the CYSHCN program did not match the makeup of our community. Our newest WIC certifier, who is also our Spanish interpreter, made a significant impact on the referral rate. She worked with families to identify need and referred them to the CYSHCN program. By supporting families in their primary language, we increased equitable care.

Skamania County Community Health

Our agency began work to become a trauma-informed organization. We are an integrated agency of Public Health, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Developmental Disabilities, and a Pathways program. Our programs work with individuals who have experienced trauma, so it is important for our staff to understand trauma and how it affects everyone. We reviewed our current policies and procedures to identify ways to make sure we were not retraumatizing clients and staff. We created a trauma-informed committee, which helped review our all-staff training materials among other efforts. We incorporated our values into our policies and procedures and are also working on an onboarding policy.

Thurston County Public Health & Social Services

“Sara,” a married 19-year-old, enrolled in Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) during her first trimester of pregnancy. She was engaged in her pregnancy and visits with her nurse until she learned that the unborn baby was a girl. Her behavior changed after learning the news, and she withdrew from her pregnancy. Sara missed many NFP visits, and it wasn’t until a few months after the baby was born that she was ready to contact her nurse. The nurse noticed Sara wouldn’t hold or look at her little girl. A nurse home visitor assessed Sara for depression and helped her find counseling. Unfortunately, it took months to get an appointment. The nurse was working closely with the pediatrician, who had concerns about their client’s mental health and the infant’s growth because Sara wasn’t feeding her baby regularly. Through weekly visits, the nurse and pediatrician noticed positive changes. Mother and baby are slowly bonding. Sara is in therapy and works with her nurse on attachment and other parenting tools. Sara’s nurse is helping her understand the developmental needs of her child.

Wahkiakum County Public Health & Human Services

Our agency worked with our local food bank and pantries to identify ways to ensure families with food insecurity can access healthy, nutrient-dense foods. We met with our local food bank to discuss policy, environmental, and system changes to help meet our goals. We focused on making food boxes available for families experiencing food insecurity who may need them when the food bank is closed. We have freezer meals to assist until a more permanent setup is achieved. To that end, we also coordinated with Health and Human Services regarding access for families needing food access.



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