



January 2024

DOH 141-130

2022-23 Local Health Jurisdiction Success Stories

Washington State Congressional District 5

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.

Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Franklin, Lincoln, Northeast Tri (Ferry, Pend Oreille, Stevens), Spokane, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties together receive approximately \$992,126 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.

Asotin County Health District

Staff attended community coalition meetings to coordinate services for CYSHCN, including for a child struggling with eyesight. Staff identified eye clinics that would accept the child's insurance. Other organizations assisted the family in getting to their appointment, completing the exam, and getting the child's glasses. Thanks to this support, the child has improved vision and is doing better in school.

Benton-Franklin Health District

We created a Perinatal Collaborative/Birth Outcomes Taskforce to improve perinatal and birth outcomes in our counties. Staff brought together participants from clinical and community sectors to coordinate efforts on issues like perinatal substance use disorder and congenital syphilis. Thirty-nine participants attended the first Perinatal Collaborative meeting. Our staff are committed to learning about reducing harm and stigmatizing language. We also published a Maternal Child Health Data Dashboard.

Columbia County Public Health

We focused on increasing CYSHCN referrals and strengthening community connections. We worked with the public library, food bank, local schools, and the Boys and Girls Club. We coordinated with the Boys and Girls Club to increase access to afterschool programs for CYSHCN.

Garfield County Health District

Staff supported our school district's new Healthy Celebrations policy. We supported the policy by researching and being a thought partner around the "Whole School, Whole Community, and Whole Child" model and other school wellness policies.

Lincoln County Health Department

Staff and community partners are creating the first school-based health center (SBHC) in the county. This clinic will be based in Reardan School and staffed by Lincoln Hospital/North Basin Medical Clinics. Staff connected with other SBHCs in the region to learn from their programs and helped present to the Reardan School Board of Directors. SBHCs increase access to care and can improve health outcomes for children.

Northeast Tri County Health District

We are establishing a School Medical Autism Review Team (SMART) in Pend Orielle County. Staff connected with others in the state to learn and collaborate. We identified local providers, counselors, psychologists, and schools, and possible outreach partners. As a rural county, access to care can be limited and families often travel several hours to get services. This makes SMART an important resource.

Spokane Regional Health District

Staff completed the Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE) Champion training through Tufts University. Staff then trained 605 individuals from more than 25 organizations in the HOPE framework. Participants included partners working with diverse communities such as Shades of Motherhood Network, an organization for Black doulas; Lumen High School, a trauma-informed school for teen parents; and the Washington Partnership on Juvenile Justice. Our goal is to create support for the building blocks that prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences and establish a HOPE collaborative focused on resilient families.

Walla Walla Department of Community Health

We supported a CYSHCN family who had missed 2 appointments with their Speech and Language Pathologist. The appointment was in a city an hour away and the family did not have money for gas. We put in a referral to the Educational Service District's Early Intervention Program, and requested that they make the family a priority. The day after putting in the referral, the family had an intake appointment and the feeding bottle they needed. A community organization provided a gas card.

Whitman County Public Health

Our 2021-2022 Community Health Needs Assessment found that understanding how and where to find help is a barrier to people getting resources. In response, we redesigned and relaunched the [Palouse Resource Guide](#) (PRG), a comprehensive online directory. This directory has more than 500 entries related to health care, behavioral health care, services for CYSHCN and more. We include links to the PRG on local organizations' websites and provide information about the PRG in hospital discharge paperwork.



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