



January 2024

DOH 141-131

## 2022-23 Local Health Jurisdiction Success Stories

### Washington State Congressional District 6

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](#) 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.

Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, and Pierce counties together receive approximately \$990,667 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 (CYSHCN). The success stories below show the impact of these initiatives in the 2022-23 contract year.

#### **Clallam County Health & Human Services**

We provided care coordination services to rural residents in the West End of Clallam County who lacked access to local resources. Providers in Seattle, Tacoma, and other urban areas recommend services for CYSHCN children that aren't always available nearby. Our CYSHCN Coordinator supported these families by coordinating transportation, handling their paperwork, and connecting with local partners and their resources. We worked with Forks Community Coalition with the Quillayute Valley School District, the Quileute Tribe, the Hoh Tribe, and Birth to Three.

#### **Grays Harbor County Public Health**

In partnership with Pacific County Health & Human Services, we expanded a School Medical Autism Review Team (SMART) across counties. This partnership has become a reliable referral resource within school districts, early intervention programs, and pediatric clinics. We received over 80 referrals for children with behavioral and developmental concerns who may benefit from an autism evaluation. Families received a phone call and an information packet with resources mailed to their home. The SMART has grown to 40 members with 4 active Centers of Excellence providers.

#### **Jefferson County Public Health**

Our staff are champions of the local SMART efforts, especially after COVID-19. We worked with partners like Jefferson Healthcare, local special education and school psychologists, Birth to Three, and more to understand their interest in a local SMART. We connected with other LHJs to learn from their efforts.

SMART will provide more support for diagnosing autism and strengthen community partnerships.

### **Kitsap Public Health District**

Families often must travel to larger cities for their child’s specialized health care treatment, education, and hospitalization. A coalition of the Kitsap Public Health District CYSHCN nurse, a tribal Women Infant and Children nutritionist, a school nurse liaison, and the registered dietician working with a local family practice residency, worked together to help children with Type 1 Diabetes and their families. They surveyed 60 families with children who have Type 1 Diabetes. Responses highlighted the need for education, mental health support, improved communication, and access to up-to-date technology. The coalition engaged families through sharing stories and making connections with teens with Type 1 diabetes at the local high school. The teens created an educational presentation about living with Type 1 Diabetes and not letting it control who they are. The coalition plans to connect with partners who provide services like parent support groups and mental health support for this disease so that families don’t have to travel far distances for care.

### **Mason County Public Health & Human Services**

Mason Health providers and local partners, including the Shelton School District, Mason County Public Health & Human Services, and South Sound Parent to Parent, launched SMART in 2020 to help families get a quicker autism diagnosis for their child. Before SMART, it took families years to get their child’s diagnosis through Seattle and Tacoma facilities. With SMART, families can get a diagnosis in less than 3 months and access resources sooner. Teachers, parents, other providers, therapists, or a family resource coordinator, such as those working with South Sound Parent to Parent’s Birth to Three program can refer a child for an autism evaluation. In 2022, there were 100 referrals, and 34 were diagnosed with autism. As of early December 2023, 65 children were diagnosed with autism through this program.

### **Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department**

Our MCHBG Resource and Referral Team worked with Managed Care Organizations (MCO) to collaborate on coordinated care for CYSHCN families. We raised concerns to local and state leaders about health care shortages, lack of child care, and gaps in case management. Our MCO partnerships strengthened referral pathways for the CYSHCN program and connected other Parent Child Family Health (PCFH) programs to MCHBG at our agency. We also trained our staff on “Medicaid 101.” This training shared information about the purpose of MCO case management services, client eligibility, and how to link CYSHCN and PCFH clients to their MCO for support. The goal of this training was to help improve the system of care for CYSHCN families in our community.



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