

"Community Health Care Collaborative Grant Program" E2SSB 6459

E2SSB 6459 establishes a *Community Healthcare Collaborative Grant Program* that will generate \$9 million based on a \$3 million state investment. The bill requires a \$2 dollar match from other sources for every state dollar granted, as well as performance outcomes that insure results and return on state dollars invested. Organizations that receive grants will get one-half the total amount upon selection as a grant recipient. The remaining half will be released one year later, but only if the organization is meeting objectives and producing outcomes.

What is being achieved now in Washington's community collaboratives?

King and Snohomish counties *Kids Get Care*:

- Connected 19,500 children to "medical and dental homes" over 4 years.
- Increased by 41% the number of two-year-olds up to date with Well Child Checks at 3 clinics. Research ties this to a 48% lower chance of avoidable hospitalization.
- Achieved substantial improvements on 4 measures of evidence-based prevention in 2 years.
- Statewide savings from reduced inappropriate hospitalization and less need for medical treatment.

Spokane *Project Access and Community-Minded Enterprises*:

- Provided over \$5 million in charity medical care and \$250,000 of donated prescription medications.
- Showed a return on community investment exceeding \$9.75 in medical care for each program dollar.

Central western Washington *CHOICE Regional Health Network*:

- Connected 70% of the uninsured in the region to a primary care medical home.
- Decreased inappropriate ER visits by 50% in one hospital, and reduced charges by 55% (from \$27,000 to \$12,000) per patient. More than half of those served are on Medicaid. This program is being replicated in four area hospitals.
- In two years, over 2,000 applications submitted for 900 uninsured people with chronic diseases who received free or discounted prescription drugs valued at nearly \$500,000.

Benton Franklin *Community Health Alliance*:

- 871 clients in a 10-month start-up period have received over \$91,238 of donated medical services.

Wenatchee *Community Choice*:

- 4,500 individuals connected to a medical home and educated on how to better navigate the complex health care system.
- 1,400 certified medical interpreter encounters provided to ensure communication, overcome cultural barriers and provide client education.
- 300 independent and small businesses informed about lower cost alternative for financing healthcare coverage for themselves and their employees.

Nationwide, 250 Healthy Communities Access Program (HCAP) grantees participated in an evaluation that showed healthcare collaboratives have the potential to:

- Raise \$6 for every governmental dollar invested.
- Reduce unnecessary and wasteful healthcare spending by 10%.
- Increase safety-net care capacity by 30%.

Communities Connect is a consortium of nonprofit health care collaboratives from around the state. Each collaborative has developed differently in response to community need, but all are building local capacity to improve access to quality health care.

Communities Connect has member organizations in 28 of Washington's 39 counties, including Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clark, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, King, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Whatcom, Whitman and Yakima.

CONTACT: Sue Sharpe, Chair ~ 360.739.3027 ~ Suesharpe@msn.com ♦ Holly Detzler, Organizational Support ~ 360.493.5566 ~ detzlerh@crhn.org