

Lead States in Public Health Quality Improvement

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Michigan Awarded Grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to Improve Public Health Services and Community Health Outcomes

Grant Will Support Efforts to Improve Quality of Public Health Statewide

The Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) announced today that Michigan received a three-year, \$450,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to improve the quality of public health and prepare for national public health accreditation. The grant is part of a national program called Lead States in Public Health Quality Improvement: A Multi-State Learning Collaborative (MLC), which is managed by the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) and the Public Health Leadership Society (PHLS).

Michigan is one of 16 states chosen to participate in the program. The grant will support the implementation of projects to address specific health outcomes like decreasing the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases or reducing the burden of illness due to obesity and physical inactivity or tobacco and alcohol use. Additionally, Michigan will use the funding to improve how public health services are delivered, such as developing comprehensive community health profiles, the collection and use of health data, or the integration of customer service into public health programs.

“Moving forward with the three-year MLC-3 Project allows us to take Michigan’s robust Local Public Health Accreditation Program to the next level by promoting and enhancing the continuous quality improvement focus in state and local health capacity and services,” noted Dr. Rebecca Head, health director for the Monroe County Health Department and local health department co-chair of Michigan’s MLC-3 Steering Committee.

“Michigan residents value high-quality public health programs and services,” said Debra Tews, senior accreditation specialist at the Michigan Department of Community Health and state co-chair of Michigan's MLC-3 Steering Committee. “So we’ll focus on preparing the state and local health departments for national accreditation in a collaborative manner that emphasizes demonstrable quality improvement.”

NNPHI and PHLS will provide guidance to Michigan and the other 15 states receiving grants and share the lessons learned with health officials across the country. The work of the project will play a critical role in helping the public health community prepare for national accreditation in 2011 and will help local and state health departments ensure they are providing quality public health services and programs to improve the health of their community.

Acknowledging the momentum surrounding the national voluntary accreditation program for public health departments, NNPHI Chief Executive Officer Joseph Kimbrell said, "This project is timed to coincide with the launch of the national accreditation standards and will help health

departments across the country identify and implement the tools and methods they need to ensure the safety and health of the communities they serve."

Lead States in Public Health Quality Improvement builds off the momentum of two Multi-State Learning Collaborative initiatives also funded by RWJF. States in the first phase of the MLC project explored the use of accreditation as a quality improvement process and helped shape the recommendations that established the Public Health Accreditation Board, the nonprofit group that will administer the voluntary accreditation program for state and local public health departments beginning in 2011. The second phase of the MLC brought together 10 states to explore best practices for teaching and implementing quality improvement practices at the state and local level. Michigan has been a part of these efforts since the MLC project's inception.

For more information about Michigan's Local Public Health Accreditation Program and the Multi-State Learning Collaborative, visit: www.accreditation.localhealth.net/

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The National Network of Public Health Institutes promotes the development and sustainability of unique non-profit organizations that are making innovative contributions to public health. Public health institutes are committed to collaborating with government, the business community, academia, and other non-profit organizations to improve public health structures, systems and outcomes. Twenty-eight member institutes in twenty-six states currently share NNPFI's vision to foster innovations in health.

The Public Health Leadership Society (PHLS) is a membership organization comprised of the alumni from the following leadership programs for senior public health professionals: National Public Health Leadership Institute, State and Regional Public Health Leadership Institutes, and the Robert Wood Johnson State Health Leadership Initiative. PHLS provides an opportunity for alumni to continue their learning experiences and leadership development, maintain and develop professional and personal relations, and contribute to innovative thinking about public health issues. Members of PHLS collaborate with other national public health organizations to shape the future of public health.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful, and timely change. For more than 35 years, the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.

The Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) is a non-profit corporation created in 1990 by Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, Wayne State University and the Michigan Department of Community Health to enable communities to apply state-of-the-art community health practices. MPHI is a full-service research, development and educational institution, one of several collaborative research and development institutes in the field of community health, and is governed by a board of 12 directors representing government, MPHI's partner universities, foundations and others. For more information, please visit www.mphi.org.

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) protects, preserves, and promotes the health and safety of the people of Michigan with particular attention to providing for the needs of vulnerable and under-served populations. MDCH is responsible for health policy and management of the state's publicly-funded health service systems. About 2 million Michigan residents will receive services this year provided with total or partial support from MDCH.