

PROACTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

The Proactive Grant Program reflects the Health Trust's interest in developing integrated service delivery strategies. We believe these are not only the most efficient way of using resources, but also the most effective approach to improving health care access and quality. By documenting such projects and evaluating the lessons learned, the Health Trust aims to make the case for long-term support of the most promising strategies.

These projects were initiated by the Health Trust and developed through the collaborative efforts of grantees and Health Trust staff. The Proactive Grant Program does not accept unsolicited proposals.

The projects listed below represent all grants approved since the inception of the program in 1999. Those listed with a white band are new or ongoing as of June 2005. When reports or papers resulting from these grants are complete, they can be found on the Health Trust's website, www.healthtrust.net.

Advancing Violence Prevention through Evaluation Capacity \$410,000

July 2002 through June 2005

Coordinating organization: Illinois Center for Violence Prevention

The project evaluated and described interventions used to develop the evaluation capacity of more than 45 Chicago-area organizations serving victims of domestic violence and at-risk youth. The goal was to enhance the sustainability, impact, and effectiveness of the organizations' violence-prevention programs.

Assuring Better Child Health and Development II (ABCD II) \$120,025

January 2005 through December 2006

Coordinating organization: Illinois Department of Public Aid

This grant enables Illinois to participate as one of five states in the ABCD II project sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund in New York, and to receive technical assistance from the National Academy for State Health Policy. Its objectives include refining and communicating current Medicaid policy and implementing new policy related to children's healthy mental development; increasing parents' awareness of their children's development and their social/emotional health; and evaluating the project's activities in order to inform future policy and practice in Illinois and other states.

Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders**\$1,279,131***July 1999 through June 2008*

Coordinating organization: Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago

Partner organizations: Children's Memorial Hospital; the Illinois Jewish Genetic Disorders Committee

The Center was established to increase understanding of Jewish genetic disorders in the Chicago area. It provides information, referrals, screenings, and genetic counseling. The Center also does advocacy work, disseminates research findings, and educates health care professionals.

Chicago Housing for Health Partnership*Pilot phase, July 2002 through June 2003***\$145,000***Demonstration phase, July 2003 through June 2006***\$450,000**

Coordinating organization: AIDS Foundation of Chicago

This initiative—a partnership of health care systems, respite facilities, and transitional and permanent housing providers—is evaluating the impact of expedited hospital discharge, specialized case management, and housing on the health of chronically ill homeless adults and on health care costs. The project will measure the extent to which its interventions lead to lower mortality rates, increased quality of life, greater adherence to medical plans, longer stays in housing, and decreased use of inpatient and emergency room services.

Chicago Patient Safety Forum**\$299,950***January 2005 through December 2006*

Coordinating organization: Chicago Patient Safety Forum

This grant supports the infrastructure and multi-agency projects of two of the Forum's task forces, Pediatric Patient Safety and Medication Safety. The Pediatric Patient Safety project is designed and implemented at four sites—Children's Memorial Hospital, John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Mount Sinai Children's Hospital, and Advocate Health Care—along with Northwestern University's Institute for Health Services Research and Policy Studies. The Medication Safety task force will extend the Illinois Hospital Association's medication reconciliation project beyond the hospital setting, taking it into the community and involving community pharmacies, primary care practices, and the University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Pharmacy.

Enhancing Developmentally Oriented Primary Care

Planning phase, January 2004 through December 2004 **\$156,538**

Coordinating organizations: Advocate Health Care (\$75,235); Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (\$43,305); Ounce of Prevention Fund (\$37,998)

Implementation phase, January 2005 through December 2007 **\$450,000**

Coordinating organization: Advocate Health Care

Partner organizations: Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; Illinois Academy of Family Physicians; Ounce of Prevention Fund

In the planning phase, the partners developed a framework and structure for a multi-year project to improve the financing and delivery of health promotion and developmental services in primary health care settings for Chicago children under the age of three.

The implementation of the plan builds upon Chicago's other child development projects focused on improving primary care. The project seeks to expand the delivery of comprehensive developmental and social/emotional assessments for children ages zero to three; to ensure appropriate developmental and mental health referrals; and to increase parent education about child development in primary care practices in Chicago and throughout Illinois.

Illinois Medicaid Research Project **\$236,655**

July 2002 through June 2004

Coordinating organization: University of Chicago/Chapin Hall Center for Children

This project was a collaboration among three University of Chicago entities: the Center for Urban Research and Policy Studies at the Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies; the Center for Health Administration Studies at the School of Social Service Administration; and the Chapin Hall Center for Children. Its goals were to improve understanding of Medicaid's impact on recipients and to inform Medicaid policy discourse and development in Illinois. To that end, the collaboration has produced and disseminated policy papers and briefs with data and analysis on Medicaid expenditures, recipients, and recipients' use of services.

Improving Access to Health and Mental Health Care for Chicago's Deaf Community

Phase I, July 2002 through December 2003 \$184,270

Coordinating organizations: Sinai Health System (\$86,076);

Advocate Health Care (\$98,194)

Phase II, January 2004 through December 2006 \$516,465

Coordinating organizations: Sinai Health System (\$252,145);

Advocate Health Care (\$264,320)

Phase I produced face-to-face interviews in American Sign Language (ASL) with 203 Deaf participants regarding their health status, health care experiences, communication styles, and barriers to accessing health care.

In Phase II the project partners are implementing a three-year demonstration project to evaluate the effectiveness of health education interventions targeting the prevention of cardiovascular disease and the self-management of depression in Chicago's Deaf community.

Informing Public Policy for Better Health \$500,615

December 2000 through December 2004

Coordinating organization: Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago

The grant provided leadership and support for the public policy goals of the Michael Reese Health Trust's Proactive Grant Program. Project staff used the information and experience gained from the program to work with public officials in making administrative and policy changes that improve health care quality and access.

KidCare Enrollment

Phases I and II, December 1999 through May 2001 \$121,414

Phase III, July 2001 through August 2002 \$250,000

Coordinating organization: Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council

Partner organizations: Children's Memorial Hospital; Norwegian American Hospital; Sinai Health System; Advocate Bethany Hospital; Advocate Trinity Hospital

Participant hospitals engaged in a systematic, data-driven, hospital-based KidCare outreach and enrollment effort. The project documented the public health and fiscal efficacy of the approach, and disseminated the information to other hospitals serving low-income Chicago neighborhoods.

Make Medicare Work Coalition

\$900,000

January 2005 through December 2007

Coordinating organizations: Health & Disability Advocates (\$300,000); Suburban Area Agency on Aging (\$300,000); Progress Center for Independent Living (\$300,000)

This project is a planned and organized response in Illinois to the Medicare Prescription Drug Modernization and Improvement Act of 2003 (MMA). Grants allow each agency to increase its staffing and partnerships to enhance advocacy, outreach, education, and enrollment in response to the MMA legislation. The agencies will work together to develop project materials, implement programs and meetings, and develop and implement advocacy activities. They expect to reach more than 82,500 seniors and people with disabilities and their families each year, and to train more than 750 professionals and volunteers.

MRHT Partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Aid (IDPA)

\$400,000

January 2005 through December 2006

Coordinating organization: Illinois Department of Public Aid

IDPA will build upon resources, programs, and grants of other state agencies, use Medicaid data, and involve individuals in community agencies and universities in designing, implementing, and evaluating pilot projects to decrease negative birth outcomes and improve children’s oral health.

Partners in Care

\$359,501

December 1999 through June 2004

Coordinating organization: Council for Jewish Elderly

In partnership with eleven primary care sites, the project implemented and evaluated a service model that adds a social worker to the primary care team and provides screening tools to identify at-risk elderly. Evaluation measures documented improvements in mental and physical health; identification and treatment of older adults with depression, cognitive impairment, and other functional problems; and increased knowledge among health care providers about aging and mental health.

Pediatric Asthma Intervention

\$300,000

December 1999 through June 2002

Coordinating organization: Sinai Health System

Partner organization: La Rabida Children’s Hospital

The project documented the value and cost-effectiveness of integrating high-quality medical care with enhanced patient education and/or case management to control asthma symptoms of children living in low-income, inner-city neighborhoods.

Pediatric Community Re-Integration Program **\$539,790**

December 1999 through April 2003

Coordinating organization: Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital and Care Network

Partner organizations: La Rabida Children's Hospital; The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago

The project implemented and evaluated an intervention for low-income children with acquired disabilities and their families during a nine-month period following discharge from rehabilitation. The evaluation documented the degree to which the intervention improved participants' quality of life, functioning, and self-sufficiency.

Project Access **\$600,000**

July 2000 through December 2004

Coordinating organization: SSI Coalition for a Responsible Safety Net (now renamed Health & Disability Advocates)

Partner organizations: the Neonatal Intensive Care Units of the University of Chicago Children's Hospital and Mount Sinai Children's Hospital

This project implemented and evaluated enhanced legal, social, and medical support to families of infants with special health care needs upon discharge from the Neonatal Intensive Care Units of partner hospitals. Evaluation measures documented parental/caregiver adherence to post-discharge care, medical and developmental outcomes for infants, use of emergency rooms, hospitalizations, use of support services, and maternal/infant quality of life.

Sinai Urban Health Institute

December 2000 through January 15, 2004 **\$382,158**

Coordinating organization: Sinai Health System

January 2004 through December 2006 **\$358,000**

Coordinating organization: Sinai Health System

The original grant provided the Health Trust's Proactive Grant Program projects with research, evaluation, and technical assistance, including counsel on the evidence available and required to support public policy efforts.

The second grant continues to provide consultation on the evaluation components of the Proactive Grant Program initiatives. In addition, it supports the dissemination of project results through articles, papers, and presentations; implements and manages the three-year evaluation of the project, Improving Access to Health and Mental Health Care for Chicago's Deaf Community; and provides resources to help the Institute develop and apply for additional grants.