The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

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CHARLES D. BAKER

Governor

KARYN E. POLITO

Lieutenant Governor

March 25, 2019

Dear Friend of Public Health,

The Department of Public Health and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Advisory Committee are seeking public comment for the priorities for the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.

For your information and use in thinking ahead, enclosed you will find a Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant summary, which includes federal fiscal year 2019 program priorities.

We have scheduled an open meeting on April 2, 2019 from 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM following the conclusion of the Ounce of Prevention Conference in the Meeting Room A, DCU Center, 50 Foster Street, Worcester, MA, 01608. Written comments can also be made to:

Elizabeth Barry

Deputy Director

Bureau of Community Health & Prevention

250 Washington Street, Floor 5

Boston, MA 02108

Email: Elizabeth.Barry@MassMail.State.MA.US

This hearing provides a forum for Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant funded agencies as well as other public health professionals and consumers to share their thoughts with the Department concerning Program priorities. I encourage you to participate on April 2, 2019.

If you have any questions about the hearing, you may contact me by email (see above). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Barry

Deputy Director, Bureau of Community Health & Prevention

Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant Program

Enclosure (1)The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant was established in 1981 as a flexible way for states to address priority health concerns focused on healthy people objectives and prevention initiatives. The grant has been a key mechanism utilized by Massachusetts to achieve the three Public Health Core Functions:  Assessment, Policy, and Assurance.  The Block Grant assures the infrastructure is in place both at the state and community level to address the ten Essential Public Health Services.  These funds are the foundation upon which other services and initiatives are built. This funding, integrated with both state and other federal funding, assures that Massachusetts can continue to address the disparities which exist in health outcomes and maintain core public health activities such as assessment and sanitation.

The State used the following criteria to select projects from DPH Offices and Bureaus for allocation of funding in Federal FY2019:

* Healthy people 2020 objectives
* Compliance with Maintenance of Effort requirements
* Focus on primary and secondary prevention
* Consistent with State Health Plan (SHIP)
* Focus on building/maintaining public health infrastructure including
  + Data collection and analysis,
  + Public Health Workforce, and
  + Community Investments.

Program goals are briefly outlined along with the estimated allocation of funding:

*Data collection and analysis –* improve public health data infrastructure by investing in MDPHNet, vital records, the trauma system, and other tools to improve data availability and online access; - *$859,625*

*Public Health Workforce-* Increase the capacity of individuals, organizations, and teams to build healthier communities across the Commonwealth through investing in the public health workforce - *$1,669,175*

*Sexual assault prevention –* support and monitor funded programs' sexual assault prevention and survivor services by building their capacity to provide culturally competent services to all survivors, especially underserved and disparate populations *- $390,430.00*

*Mass in Motion* – lower the risk of chronic disease by supporting equitable food access and active living opportunities in cities and towns in Massachusetts *- $898,264.00*