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Funding Public Health

Public Health is a partnership of public, private, nonprofit and voluntary sectors focused on the health for the entire community. These partners work together to:

- ~~///~~ Promote and encourage healthy behaviors
- ~~///~~ Prevent the spread of disease
- ~~///~~ Protect against environmental hazards
- ~~///~~ Prevent injuries
- ~~///~~ Respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery
- ~~///~~ Promote the quality and accessibility of health services

The State of Wisconsin funding for Wisconsin public health programs and services are through state General Purpose Revenue (GPR) dollars. In 2008, Wisconsin is found to be 47th in the U.S. in the use of GPR funding for public health. Continued funding reductions are also found in local communities as less tax levy dollars are used for public health.

The systematic neglect of Wisconsin's public health structure and infrastructure results in an inability to respond effectively, efficiently and safely to health threats. The gaps impact effective communication, state statutes and regulations, education and training, surveillance, collaboration and partnerships. All of these deficits result in an inability to protect and promote the health of the public.

Solution

The Wisconsin Nurses Association is interested in legislative strategies that support:

1. A strong, viable public health infrastructure and the 11 health priorities as defined in "*Healthiest Wisconsin 2010: A Partnership Plan to Improve the Health of the Public*".
2. Screening, vaccinations, healthy lifestyles, and prompt treatment and interventions that limit disease progression.
3. Promote comprehensive strategies that increase access and funding for mental health and AODA services.
4. Strategies that limit health care disparities.
5. Access to and funding for primary care services including:
 - A. Hearing, oral, and vision care for the general public and those in school health settings and correctional facilities;

- B. Full range of infant and child health services, including screening, diagnosis and treatment for physical, mental & developmental health;
- C. Full range of sexual health services, including education, family planning, prenatal care, labor and delivery care and postpartum care (maintain the Title XIX Family Planning waiver that allows Wisconsin to use federal funds to provide family planning services to all women below the federal poverty level);
- D. Comprehensive strategies that promote healthy life style changes that include tobacco cessation and weight management/obesity programs;
- E. Prevention of intentional and unintentional injuries due to domestic violence and firearms.

For more information contact the Wisconsin Nurses Association at 608-221-0383 or info@wisconsinnurses.org