DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, Disease Outbreak Control Division

Program: Immunization Branch

Award: $572,428

Project contact: Ms. Nancy Bartter, Ms. Lisa Mendez

1. For each group/category or program/project for which ARRA funds have been obtained, please provide the following information:
    a. A brief summary of the program/project, including goals
    Supplemental operational funds for immunization, associated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will be used to support the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 statewide school-based flu vaccination program, for the prevention of influenza among a key population:
        - Acquiring contractual nursing services to provide vaccine administration in Stop Flu at School clinics;
        - Establishing four temporary positions to assist with clinic staffing and scheduling, collecting and organizing completed vaccine administration consent forms, planning and monitoring Stop Flu at School operational activities, preparing required ARRA reports, and other essential tasks;
        - Acquiring contractual support services to package, deploy, and return medical supplies and vaccine to and from Stop Flu at School clinics island-wide on Oahu; and
        - Acquiring contractual data entry services to input all completed vaccine administration consent form data into an electronic database for evaluation.
    b. Whether funds were appropriated for expenditure by a federal agency, were awarded as a formula/block grant to a State or country agency, or were awarded on a competitive grant basis;
    Funds were appropriated by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a grant to the State of Hawaii Department of Health.
    c. Whether matching funds are required, and, if so:
        i. Are they available; N/A
        ii. Have they been secured; N/A
        iii. If they have not been secured, why not; and N/A
        iv. Will the State be required to continue that match or provide increased/full funding in the future in the future; N/A
    d. If there additional requirements to receive funds, what are they; N/A
    e. The amount of funds involved and the state/federal fiscal year within which the funds must be expended (e.g. SFY 2009 – 2010 or FFY 2009 – 2010);
    The award total was $572,428 and must be expended within FFY 2009 – 2012.

f. What criteria were used to identify the program/project as a priority and how does the program/project meet them;

Offering influenza vaccine in the school setting provides an effective and feasible approach to increase the immunization coverage of school-age children. Such an increase would be expected to reduce the spread of influenza and decrease the burden of seasonal influenza among households and communities.

The Stop Flu at School program demonstrates a sustainable school-based mass vaccination model that can be utilized to efficiently provide seasonal influenza vaccine annually as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for the prevention and control of influenza among schoolchildren in Hawaii ages 5-13 years, while at the same time, preparing our state's ability/resources to respond to potential pandemic events.

g. Efforts undertaken to coordinate application for funds and administration of the program/project, including expenditure of funds, with other federal, state, and county agencies;

Critical to the operational success of the Stop Flu at School program are the following key partners: State of Hawaii Department of Education, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, Hawaii Catholic Schools, American Academy of Pediatrics – Hawaii Chapter, Hawaii Medical Service Association, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Hawaii Pacific University School of Nursing, University of Hawaii Schools of Nursing, and Hawaii Medical Reserve Corps.

h. The criteria used to select activities for the program/project;

In the 2007-2008 flu season, the Hawaii State Department of Health (HDOH) initiated its first Stop Flu at School program by offering free influenza vaccination through school-based clinics statewide. Due to the program's overall success and continued support, this program was continued in the 2008-2009 flu season. Through this statewide program and with the support of many vital collaborating partnerships, over 60,000 of Hawaii's schoolchildren and 9,300 faculty and staff were vaccinated each flu season in over 330 school settings. HDOH remains ambitious in continuing the Stop Flu at School program for upcoming flu seasons.

i. Efforts made to provide public notice and seek public comment/input or, if public comment/input was not sought, why;

The Department of Health collaborates in an on-going manner with many partners, including those mentioned in section g above, in order to plan for and implement this program.

j. Efforts made during the bidding/award process to ensure that it was transparent and that the funds were awarded based on merit and in a prompt, fair, and reasonable manner;

Normal state procurement practices were followed and duly documented.

k. Measures employed to 1) reduce duplication of efforts, 2) ensure that funds were used for authorized purposes, and 3) prevent cost overruns, fraud, waste, error, and abuse;

The Department of Health has published draft guidance for internal programs as well as an internal ARRA Oversight Committee to assure timeliness and accuracy, and to scrutinize for waste, fraud, error, and abuse. This Committee convenes monthly or as needed. In turn, the Department of Accounting and General Services and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism also provide oversight and guidance.

l. Current status of the program/project, including percentage of awarded funds that have been obtained, percentage of awarded funds encumbered and/or expended, and what part(s) of program/project have been completed; and

Contract modifications and encumbrance of funds are still in progress. The grant award was received too late to be useful to pay vendors for work at the fall 2009 clinics. Most funds that will be encumbered for vendors will be used for the fall 2010 clinics.

m. Actual or anticipated economic impact to the State of the program/project, including the number of jobs saved/created and the long-term public benefits of the program/project.

One full-time position has been established and will be filled November 19, 2009. Other positions are still pending establishment.

As evidenced by the 2008-2009 Stop Flu at School Program, partnering with schools and school systems as well as other community partners is vital to enhancing and expanding the State of Hawaii's efforts in seasonal influenza vaccination coverage amongst schoolchildren. With each subsequent influenza season that we directly invest towards influenza prevention, we gain valuable experience with mass vaccination strategies, improve vaccination coverage in target populations, and potentially reveal indirect beneficial effects on persons having close contact with children, therefore positively impacting our communities. We also augment our state's capacity to respond to pandemic events.

With the possible exception of nutrition and sanitation, immunizations are the most cost-effective public health intervention available. Well-designed studies have repeatedly demonstrated that immunizations reduce illness and save lives and money.

As individuals, the public directly benefits from our efforts because immunizations reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases, which otherwise would cause significant morbidity, disability, and mortality. On a societal level, the population benefits from reduced medical expenditures for treatment of illnesses that are prevented via our efforts. In addition, this immunization effort mitigates the economic impact of vaccine-preventable diseases by reducing the years of potential life lost that would otherwise occur without this immunization program.