

**Maryland Cancer Fund
Current Primary Prevention Grant Recipients
Fiscal Years 2015 - 2016**

Adventist HealthCare, Inc.

Cancer Primary Prevention Grant

Project Title: Tobacco Cessation Program to Reduce Lung Cancer

Adventist HealthCare, Inc. (AHC) is awarded a Maryland Cancer Fund – Cancer Primary Prevention Grant for tobacco use prevention and cessation.

Tobacco use continues to be one of the most serious public challenges we face as a nation. According to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, tobacco use—particularly cigarette smoking—is the leading preventable cause of death in the country. Each year, an estimated 443,000 people die prematurely from smoking or exposure to secondhand smoke, and another 8.6 million live with a serious illness caused by smoking, including cancer. Programs that assist current tobacco users to quit and to stay quit are recommended for reducing lung and other cancers. This project will include tobacco cessation counseling in an acute-care setting (i.e., hospital) and follow-up support (e.g., nicotine replacement therapy and telephone counseling up to one year) to increase the number of tobacco use who quit and to prevent lung cancer. In addition, educational materials about the harms of tobacco use and resources to help current tobacco users who want to quit will be made available during health fairs and other events.

Anne Arundel County Health Department

Cancer Primary Prevention Grant

Project Title: Anne Arundel County Department of Health HPV Vaccination Initiative

The Anne Arundel County Health Department is awarded a Maryland Cancer Fund – Cancer Primary Prevention Grant for HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccination.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the United States. Persistent infection can lead to cervical and other cancers. Condoms may not provide full protection so other prevention methods (i.e. vaccination) are indicated. Vaccines For Children (VFC) does not cover HPV vaccine for individuals between the ages of 19 and 26, even though this age group is in need. Therefore, the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, in collaboration with two STI clinics, will provide free Gardasil® HPV vaccine to 19 to 26 year old males and females referred for STI testing. The STI clinics will provide the first dose of the series with the remaining doses to be administered at the Department's Health Centers. Department staff will schedule appointments for the remaining does and provide reminder calls of upcoming appointments in an effort to improve rates of series completion. Outreach will be provided to community stakeholders to increase awareness of HPV infection and vaccine with the goal of increasing vaccine uptake in the County. Using evidence-based strategies, the Anne Arundel County Department of Health will be working towards decreasing the rate of multiple cancers in Anne Arundel County.

**Harford County Health Department
Cancer Primary Prevention Grant
Project Title: Faith Communities Health Program**

The Harford County Health Department is awarded a Maryland Cancer Fund – Cancer Primary Prevention Grant for nutrition, physical activity and healthy weight.

The Harford County Health Department will address the County's high cancer mortality and incidence rates by establishing a Faith Communities Health Program. Harford County is a relatively wealthy jurisdiction with a surprisingly high burden of cancer. Of particular concern, are the health disparities in cancer mortality, exemplified by Black individuals having a 15% higher likelihood of dying from cancer than Whites. Engaging partners from multiple sectors, such as public health and faith-based organizations is a consensus health improvement strategy. This effort will create a Faith Communities Health Program that will: (1) engage community partners, including local churches that serve predominantly minority populations; (2) provide opportunities, including mini-grants for the purposes of developing health ministries seeking to improve the nutrition, physical activity, and overall health of their communities; (3) work with Harford Community College to provide faith community nursing curriculum support; (4) establish an Online Resources Forum for strengthening health communications; (5) recruit a faith community nurse/health educator liaison that can support overall Program aims. This proactive approach will increase awareness of health disparity issues, foster self-empowerment, and strengthen the community's capacity to institute cancer primary prevention efforts at the local level.

**Johns Hopkins Center to Reduce Cancer Disparities
Cancer Primary Prevention Grant
Project Title: Coaching Grandparents to Increase the Rate of HPV Vaccination**

The Johns Hopkins Center to Reduce Cancer Disparities (CRCD) is awarded a Maryland Cancer Fund – Cancer Primary Prevention Grant for HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccination.

The most recent data from the 2013 National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen) found that only 50% of Maryland females aged 13-17 years and only 34.2% of Maryland male adolescents reported beginning the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series (1). The Johns Hopkins Center to Reduce Cancer Disparities (CRCD) will expand its existing breast, cervical and colorectal cancer outreach in Baltimore City and Prince George's County by coaching grandparents and engaging other care takers to help increase the rate of HPV vaccination among African American preteens. CRCD will utilize the principles of Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and its existing community advisory groups in these two jurisdictions to:

(1) Conduct a community assessment by surveying African American caretakers (parents, grandparents, or guardians) of preteens about their attitudes, beliefs, knowledge and awareness, and behavioral intentions, barriers, concerns, and any communications they have had with providers about HPV vaccination.

(2) Integrate the findings from the community assessment into the evidence based recommendations from the Community Preventive Services Task Force by using integrated community-based interventions that include client reminders and education.

(3) Evaluate the impact of the community interventions in increasing the rate of HPV vaccinations using pre-post assessments, follow-up surveys and tracking systems.

**Worcester County Health Department
Cancer Primary Prevention Grant
Project Title: Ocean City Smoke Free Beaches & Boardwalks
(Award Period for FY2015 only)**

The Worcester County Health Department is awarded a Maryland Cancer Fund – Cancer Primary Prevention Grant for tobacco use prevention and cessation.

The Worcester County Health Department would like to join with the town of Ocean City to assure that the 8 million annual visitors, residents, and workers that spend time in the largest resort in Maryland is a healthy and safe environment. Ocean City is a desired destination for relaxation, conferences, and employment serving Maryland and the entire Mid-Atlantic region with its 10 miles of white sand beaches, coastal bays and 2.5 miles of boardwalk. Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke has been found to cause disease (including cancer) and premature death for those who do not smoke. The Health Department commends the Mayor and Council for voting in favor of restricting smoking on the beach and boardwalk at the August 26, 2014 meeting. This policy is expected to go into effect on May 1, 2015. Funds are being requested in order to inform the public of the new policy with signage and to establish designated smoking locations with cigarette butt receptacles. The labor costs will be provided as an in-kind contribution by the town of Ocean City. The Health Department will administer a Memorandum of Understanding to Ocean City and partner with them in providing outreach, education and consultation.