



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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June 23, 2010

TO: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Health Services: Governor's Section 13.10 Request for the Use of Additional Federal Stimulus Funding for Wellness and Chronic Disease Prevention Project Data Collection -- Agenda Item III

### REQUEST

The Governor requests that the Joint Committee on Finance approve the allocation and expenditure of \$251,497 in 2010-11, from moneys received under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), to fund data collection activities in communities that received separate ARRA grants for chronic disease prevention and wellness previously approved by the federal Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC).

### BACKGROUND

On January 14, 2010, the Committee approved the expenditure of approximately \$20.7 million in federal stimulus funds for prevention and wellness activities in the state, under the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) program. Of the total amount approved by the Committee, the federal government eventually approved grants totaling approximately \$10.7 million. Included in that amount was a grant to fund obesity prevention activities in Wood and La Crosse Counties.

On March 19, 2010, the CDC awarded grants to 44 sites nationwide under the community program component of the CPPW. The La Crosse and Wood County project was approved, with a total allocation of \$5,956,968. This funding will be used to achieve a variety of objectives in the counties, including improving access to fruits and vegetables, increasing the number of individuals engaging in physical activity, encouraging the implementation of farm-to-school programs, and increasing the number of restaurants that provide nutritional information or healthy meal options.

The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC), an organization of 12 federally recognized Native American tribes and bands, also applied for and received a grant under the CPPW communities program to fund tobacco use prevention activities. Unlike the projects in La Crosse and Wood Counties, the GLITC did not apply for this grant opportunity in conjunction with the Department of Health Services (DHS), and the 2009 Act 2 review and approval provisions did not apply to this funding.

The CDC provided \$1,000,000 to the GLITC to fund tobacco use prevention activities in five tribal communities (the Menominee Indian Nation, La Courte Oreilles and Red Cliff Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa, the St. Croix Chippewa, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans). These activities include creating media and educational campaigns, promoting tobacco-free workplaces, restricting tobacco sales to minors, and supplementing funding for nicotine replacement therapy.

## **ANALYSIS**

The CDC will distribute \$11,040,000 in ARRA funding nationwide to fund data collection activities in communities that received CPPW grant funding. DHS has applied for a total of \$532,593 to support pre-project and post-project data collection in La Crosse County, Wood County, and the tribal communities. Of the total grant amount, \$251,497 would be allocated in 2010-11 under this s. 13.10 request, and DHS would include the remaining \$281,096 in its 2011-13 biennial budget request. DHS has already submitted the application for this funding to the CDC, with the announcement of final awards anticipated by the end of June.

These funds would support two rounds of data collection through the behavioral risk factor surveillance system (BRFSS) to evaluate the impact of the CPPW activities conducted in the designated communities. The BRFSS is a telephone survey system, overseen by the CDC and administered by state health departments, that collects information on health risk behaviors, preventive care, and access to care. DHS currently contracts with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Survey Center (UWSC) to conduct the BRFSS in the state. UWSC conducts approximately 330 telephone interviews each month through this system. In 2009, the UWSC received \$228,300 in CDC funding to conduct the BRFSS in Wisconsin.

Most of this ARRA funding would be provided as a contract to the UWSC. In the fall of 2010, the UWSC would conduct 1,500 telephone interviews in La Crosse County, 1,500 interviews in Wood County, and 750 interviews in the tribal communities in the GLITC project. The UWSC will conduct the same number of interviews in the fall of 2012. This would provide the state and the CDC with a baseline measurement of the status of the relevant health-risk factors (obesity, nutrition, and physical activity in La Crosse and Wood Counties, and tobacco use in the GLITC tribal communities), and a measurement of those factors after the CPPW projects conclude.

Over the two-year project period, the UWSC will receive a total of \$478,710 to conduct the additional telephone interviews. Approximately \$405,778 would be allocated for the staff and

supplies needed to conduct the additional interviews. The remaining \$73,932 would be used for preparation of the survey, interviewer training, and other programming costs.

In addition to the UWSC contract, \$53,883 would be allocated to DHS for coordination of the BRFSS data collection. Over the two-year project, \$39,802 would be provided to support the salary and fringe benefits of the BRFSS coordinator, and \$14,081 would be provided for other supplies and services. The coordinator would be responsible for communication with the CPPW community sites and the CDC, monitoring data collection, reviewing data files, and providing quarterly reports on ARRA expenditures.

The attachment to this paper provides a table with the two-year project budget for the UWSC contract and DHS costs.

The initial applications and awards for the CPPW community grants did not include funding for this data collection through the BRFSS, with the understanding that the CDC would provide a separate funding opportunity for those activities at a later date. If the Committee denies the request, federal funding would not be available for this data collection, although the projects previously approved by the Committee and the CDC would still be required to conduct these activities. DHS indicates that if the Committee does not approve this funding, state or local funding would need to be allocated to support these activities in order to remain in compliance with the original grant agreement approved by the CDC.

## **CONCLUSION**

Approval of this request would allow DHS to use federal funds to support data collection activities that were included in the projects approved by the Committee and CDC in La Crosse and Wood Counties, and the tribal communities receiving ARRA funding through the GLITC. The grants funding the La Crosse and Wood County projects have already been approved by the Committee, and include a data collection requirement that would be funded through this request. If the Committee does not approve this request, state or local funding would need to be allocated to fund the data collection components of the original projects in order to comply with the grant applications approved by the CDC.

Prepared by: Sam Austin  
Attachment



## ATTACHMENT

### Communities Putting Prevention to Work Data Collection Project Proposed Total Budget for Additional BRFSS Surveys

#### University of Wisconsin-Madison Survey Center (UWSC)

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Project Start-up   | \$7,417       |
| Sample Preparation   | 7,836         |
| Project Management, Monitoring Sample, Reporting to Client | 13,039        |
| Programming and Debugging of Survey Instrument             | 17,395        |
| Training of Interviewers                                   | 9,625         |
| Conducting Interviews and Interviewer Supervision          | 405,778       |
| Programming: Data Checking, Cleaning and other Preparation | <u>17,620</u> |
| Total, UWSC  | \$478,710     |

#### Department of Health Services (DHS)

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Salary, Fringe and Indirect Costs, BRFSS Coordinator | \$39,802   |
| Supplies and Services                                | 450        |
| Rent   | 1,219      |
| Fiscal and Internal Services                         | 12,212     |
| Travel   | <u>200</u> |
| Total, DHS   | \$53,883   |
| Total, DHS and UWSC                                  | \$532,593* |

\*The request before the Committee is for \$251,497, the amount that would be allocated in fiscal year 2010-11.