

## **A Success Story:**

### **Local Health Program**

State Program: Local Health

National Health Objective: HO 23-11 Performance standards

Block Grant Role: Supplemental Funding

Block Grant Funding Percentage: 10-49% - Partial source of funding

Block Grant Current Year Funds: \$132,000

#### **Issue:**

Statewide Need for Computer Skills Training

Over a period of several years, staff from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD), along with trainers for the Kansas Integrated Public Health System (KIPHS), have identified a need to provide basic computer skills training to local health department workers statewide.

This need has been identified through both formal assessment and informal observation. The Kansas Health Institute performed an independent assessment of local health departments' preparedness levels in Kansas, and progress made between 2002-03 using an assessment tool largely based on CDC's Public Health Preparedness and Response Capacity Inventory (aka PHPPPO tool). The tool revealed a 14.4 percent computer skills competency level in 2002, and a competency level of 19.8 percent in 2003.

#### **Intervention:**

The Montana Public Health Training Institute has developed several computer training modules for the public health workforce addressing several products/functions, including Outlook, Microsoft Word, Excel, Managing Files, and PowerPoint. These modules were developed in cooperation with the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice and utilize the Public Health Informatics Competencies. The modules have been made available for adaptation and use in other states and regions.

#### **What We Did:**

A partnership between KDHE, KALHD, the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita (UKSM-W), and the Heartland Centers for Public Health Community Capacity Development, St. Louis University School of Public Health, enabled the development of statewide regional computer training for local health department personnel in Kansas. This training effort, known as the Chautauqua Informatics Project, is aimed to provide all health department personnel with comprehensive computer skills and is based on the Montana Public Health Training Institute modules.

After completion of three pilot training sites, training was offered statewide to all local health department personnel through local agency administrators. Initial training was offered in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook at multiple levels, based on individual electronic software skills assessment utilizing the AProve It@ package.

**Impact:**

To date, public health personnel in 45 counties have successfully participated in the Chautauqua Informatics Project offerings and demonstrate proficiency on post-training assessments. The project is actively promoting training statewide, with the goal of reaching 80 percent of Kansas counties during 2005.

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