

## Healthy Maine Partnership Funding from Maine CDC

June 2012

Below are highlights about the plan to fund Healthy Maine Partnerships (HMPs), with a reduction in funding approved by the Legislature from approximately \$7.5 million to \$4.7 million:

- Mirroring Maine CDC's public health infrastructure that established eight regional public health districts and one tribal health district, nine current HMPs were chosen to be the 'lead HMPs.'
- The lead HMPs will receive approximately \$281,000 and will also take on the responsibility of supporting district public health infrastructure efforts and leading local infrastructure and capacity development within their respective districts.
- The lead HMPs are required to subcontract with the remaining 18 'supporting HMPs,' which will each receive \$120,000 from Maine CDC.
- Because school based health coordinators will no longer be funded, all HMPs will be expected to reach out to priority schools, as identified by Maine CDC and the Department of Education.
- This plan reduces administrative overhead, duplication of work and reduces the administrative burden for State government (nine contracts vs. twenty seven). It also focuses the limited resources available on those health factors that put people most at risk.

The Lead HMPs that were selected are:

- Healthy Aroostook (Aroostook County Action Program)
- Greater Somerset (Redington Fairview Hospital)
- Healthy Portland (City of Portland)
- Healthy Acadia (Healthy Acadia)
- Access Health (Mid Coast Hospital)
- Healthy River Valley (River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition)
- Coastal Healthy Communities (University of New England)
- Bangor Regional (Bangor Health and Welfare)
- Tribal Healthy Maine Partnership

The selection of the Lead HMPs was based on ratings of:

- The HMPs demonstrated ability to meet the expectations of the contract
- Efficient use of public resources
- Collaborative partnership with Maine CDC
- Ongoing support and promotion of new and developing public health infrastructure

### How does the HMP work plan for FY13 differ from that of FY12?

Status of work plans for contract ending 6-30-12:

- 27 HMP community project directors were located across the 9 public health districts. HMPs were asked to assess the needs in their community and choose from a menu of approximately 70 objectives to develop a work plan. Some of the 70 objectives pertained to schools; however, HMPs could choose whether to work with schools based on the objectives chosen.

- Each of the 31 HMP school health coordinators was employed by one of the 164 school administrative units across Maine. The 31 school health coordinators were required to address objectives specific to the school setting.

Work plans for contracts to be effective 7-1-12:

- HMPs will have a more focused set of objectives, including both community and school settings. There will still be flexibility to choose objectives within the defined set of objectives, but HMPs will be required to address school objectives as part of the work plan with priority schools.
- Priority schools will be identified by Maine CDC and the Department of Education to ensure the most vulnerable children are benefiting from the HMP work.

#### **How will schools be connected to the work of HMPs?**

- HMPs will be required to work with priority schools to address school-related objectives outlined in their contracts.
- HMPs will be unable to replicate all of the work that the 31 full-time school health coordinators accomplished in the districts in which they were employed.
- In order to be successful addressing the school-related objectives, it will be important for school districts to work with the HMPs to make progress toward meeting these objectives.

#### **How can HMPs address sustainability?**

- It is understood that these funding cuts are difficult for local HMPs, and that some HMPs are experiencing significant reductions.
- HMPs are encouraged to secure additional private and public funding. Many HMPs have been successful at this in the past.
- Supporting HMPs may have the opportunity to obtain funding from the lead HMP to contribute toward carrying out District-wide activities.
- It is believed that \$120,000 will allow a supporting HMP to function effectively, especially with more regional administration.
- The range of contractual funding provided to each community HMP by Maine CDC prior to the reduction in the Fund for a Healthy Maine was from \$135,000 to \$344,000 (excluding funds to school health coordinators). Just two HMPs statewide were above the \$300,000 amount.

#### **How will the work of HMPs be monitored to ensure quality services for Maine communities and schools?**

- Maine CDC requires quarterly reporting on HMP objectives.
- Each HMP has a project officer from Maine CDC to provide support and technical assistance. If a Maine CDC project officer notes that an HMP is not meeting its milestones for an objective, the project officer will contact the HMP to provide technical assistance. Maine CDC project officers can follow up to determine how the technical assistance is implemented, and whether further assistance is necessary.
- At year's end, Maine CDC will assess the performance of the HMPs and will make decisions regarding contracting and funding for the coming year based on the overall performance of the HMP, which will include performance on school-related objectives.
- Maine CDC staff is in discussion with the Contracted Services Unit of DHHS to develop more refined performance based measures for these contracts in order to hold the HMPs accountable for meeting the objectives of their contracts.

**Information Superintendents may want to know about the HMPs:**

- School-health coordinators, once funded as part of the HMP funding line, will not be funded in the contracts effective July 1, 2012.
- In order to connect to schools located in their respective communities, all HMPs will be expected to reach out to priority schools, as identified by Maine CDC and the Department of Education.
- HMPs will be required to choose specific school-related objectives in the new contract year.
- The number of objectives and focus of objectives will be determined by Maine CDC to assure that appropriate levels of work are being conducted with schools.
- The school-related objectives have been drawn from the previous programming menu and have been assessed as appropriate and do-able without the additional resource of a school health coordinator.
- Maine CDC project officers will closely follow the progress of the HMPs as reported in the monitoring system, and will actively work with those HMPs that do not meet the expectations.
- Maine CDC project officers will work with the Department of Education to assure that any technical assistance necessary for HMP work with schools is appropriate for the setting.
- Because this work will be conducted in partnership with a school, HMPs will be held accountable for their contribution to the partnership. HMP project officers will assess whether the HMP is meeting the expectations that have been set and also review how the technical assistance provided has been implemented.