

Common Ground: Transforming Public Health Information Systems

A national program of
the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



www.commongroundprogram.org

Common Ground Fact Sheet

Overview

Common Ground: Transforming Public Health Information Systems is a three-year, \$15 million national initiative designed to help state and local public health agencies better respond to health threats by improving their use of information systems. The program's overarching principle is that public health agencies do essentially the same kind of work throughout the country and function in many similar ways. Finding this "common ground" will help agencies share their experiences and best practices, address common approaches to problems, and develop common business processes. Based upon a broader understanding of these processes, the grantees will define the information system needs to support public health.

Working collaboratively is the key to developing information system requirements that support a public health agency's work. To that end, in December 2006, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) awarded grants to 31 public health agencies throughout the country. The **Public Health Informatics Institute** (the Institute) serves as the *Common Ground* national program office, guiding grantees in two areas: Informatics Capacity and Requirements Development.

Grantees

Informatics Capacity: Grantees analyze their agency's business processes related to a specific public health problem and create a plan for future requirements development. RWJF awarded 15 grants of up to \$30,000 for 15 months.

State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services -- DPH Business Process Assessment Project

City of Austin Health and Human Services Department (TX) -- Common Ground Preparedness Initiative

Sonoma County Department of Health Services (CA) -- Redesign of Billing and Accounts Receivable for Sonoma County Health Services

Genesee County Health Department (MI) -- S.T.D. with I.T.! [Stop Transmitting Disease with Information Technology!]

Kane County Health Department (IL) -- Building Capacity for Public Health Business Process Assessment and Redesign

Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government (KY) -- The Louisville Metro Health Department Informatics Capacity

Madison County Health Department (NY)-- Madison County Health Department— Informatics Capacity Project

Mahoning County District Board of Health (OH)-- Environmental Health Permitting: Can We Improve the Process?

Maricopa County Department of Public Health (AZ) -- Maricopa County Public Health Process Redesign

Monroe County Health Department (MI)-- Seamless Service: Integrating Maternal and Child Health Programs in Monroe County, Michigan

State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services -- Information Systems Governance and Planning Process

Multnomah County Health Department (OR) -- Common Threads: Transforming Decentralized Public Health Data into an Integrated System for Communicable Disease Investigation and Control

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill -- Developing Business Process Development Skills for Public Health in NC

County of Santa Cruz (CA) -- Reassessing, Rethinking, and Redesigning Public Health in Santa Cruz County

Summit County Board of Health (UT) -- A Business Process Analysis of the Work Interactions Between Food-borne Illness, Disease Surveillance, Restaurant Inspection, and Case Management

Requirements Development: Grantees apply a proven methodology to analyze their business processes and define system requirements.

These grantees focus their work in one of two areas: chronic disease prevention and control or public health preparedness. RWJF awarded 16 grants of up to \$600,000 for 36 months.

Chronic disease prevention and control

Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County (NC)
-- Developing Electronic Community Connections for Public Health

State of California, Health and Human Services Agency -- Building Bridges: Reducing Chronic Disease in California

Coconino County Health Department (AZ)
CCHD Moves Ahead

Kitsap County Health District (WA) --
Kitsap County Health District: Our Business is Your Business

Louisiana Public Health Institute

Louisiana Health Information Exchange [LaHIE]
-- Public Health Information Systems Improvement Project [PHISIP]

State of Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Common Ground

State of Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Mainstreaming Chronic Disease Surveillance

State of Rhode Island Department of Health

Integrate Community Resource Information for Chronic Care Support

State of South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

South Carolina Chronic Disease Requirement Development Project

State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services -- Wisconsin's Common

Ground: Integrating Chronic Disease Informatics Systems

Public health preparedness

Children's Hospital Corporation (MA) -- State and Local Health Collaboration: Managing inventory, tracking patients, and building capacity within local and state health authorities

Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County (IN) -- MCHD: Local Public Health Business Process Analysis, Redesign, and Requirements Development

Health Research Incorporated (NY) -- Adopting a Nationally Accepted Project Management Methodology to Improve Public Health Preparedness Informatics in New York State

State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services -- Grounded in Excellence

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (TN) -- Incident Command Informatics [ICI]

Spokane Regional Health District (WA) -- Alerting and Communicating Requirements for Public Health in Washington State

For more information:

Common Ground Web site: www.commongroundprogram.org

Public Health Informatics Institute Web site: www.phii.org

E-mail inquiries: commonground@phii.org

Phone: (800) 874-4338

