**Washington 2008-2011 State Implementation Grant Overview**

**Grantee:** Washington State Department of Health, Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs Program

**Website:** http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Autism/AbouttheAutismProject

**Project Activities**

Washington State’s Autism Project focused on:

- Spreading awareness about the importance of early screening and identification of autism and other developmental delays
- Educating providers on diagnosis and treatment
- Improving service systems in Washington State for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

Activities built upon 11 of the 31 recommendations from the governor appointed Autism Task Force; the Children with Special Health Care Needs National Performance Measures; and the national Combating Autism Act of 2006. The project activities are described below.

**Partners and Stakeholders**

The state grant partnered with the University of Washington’s LEND grant in forming the Combating Autism Advisory Council which guides the work of the Project. The Council is made up of parents and representatives from autism-specific organizations, children’s hospitals, parent support organizations, and state agencies. Four subcommittees were formed and focused their work on these activities listed below.

**Access Subcommittee:**

- Multi-Disciplinary Autism Summits
  June 2009 and June 2010
- Community Asset Mapping Project
- Developmental Screening Partnership Committee Project

**Family Involvement Subcommittee:**

- Early Childhood Milestone Map Brochure
- My Child’s Map to Services Booklet
- Talking to Parents About Autism DVD

**Training Subcommittee:**

- Outreach and Trainings
- Educational Materials (Autism Guidebook)
- New Autism Chapter in Nutrition Guide
- Tiers to Autism Diagnosis

**Public Policy Subcommittee:**

- Key Policy Issues Fact Sheets
- House Human Services Committee Work Session
Washington-Specific Web Resources and Training Calendar

Washington State developed web pages through a grant-funded contract with the Autism Society of Washington. These webpages provided an easy-to-navigate location for trainings and resources.

The newly developed pages on the ASW web site provide local, state and national autism-specific resources such as:

- Evidence-based information
- Resources
- Trainings
- Family support
- Links to experts in screening, diagnosis and treatment

To visit these webpages, click here.

Two-Year CDC Supplemental Grant

The supplemental funding program enhanced Washington’s existing grant-related efforts to promote CDC’s “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” campaign. Staff implemented strategies to reach the greatest number of parents of young children within a defined population group and assess the effect of increasing parent awareness of developmental milestones.

Successes & Lessons Learned

Washington State dealt with a shortage of experts able to diagnose children with ASD/DD during their grant period. This put a lot of constraints on families, who had to travel long distances and wait longer for screening, assessment, evaluation and diagnosis. The Washington team found success in collaborations to streamline screening and diagnosis services.