

## **KENTUCKY'S UNINSURED GET FREE MEDICAL CARE AND PRESCRIPTIONS**

*Block grant funding helps in recruiting providers and maintaining services*

### **Public Health Problem**

- Many of Kentucky's 576,500 uninsured residents are overweight and have diabetes and high blood pressure, making regular medical care and prescriptions a necessity to prevent death and disability from chronic diseases.
- Over a third of the uninsured have no regular source of medical care and many use the emergency room for their medical needs, an expensive and inconsistent source of care.
- Uninsured people may also lack the money to buy needed prescription medicines and be unable to decipher the complicated pharmaceutical company Patient Assistance Program information resulting in a failure to benefit from these programs.

### **Program**

- Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant funds supplied to Health Kentucky, Inc., a nonprofit charitable organization, help them coordinate a statewide network of volunteer providers called the Kentucky Physicians Care program.
- Using these funds supplied by the Kentucky Department for Public Health, Health Kentucky, Inc. works with public and private organizations to help meet the health-care needs of the poor and uninsured, by recruiting volunteer providers to provide services and free prescription medicines.

### **Impact**

Examples of the program benefits to eligible clients are:

- Free services were provided by participating physicians, dentists and pharmacies through 2,507 referrals from the toll free Kentucky Physicians Care Hotline.
- Almost 100,000 free prescriptions were filled at participating pharmacies with a value of over \$9 million.

### **Contact**

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