

EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIVE FUNDING: PARTNERING WITH LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

THE HEALTH FOUNDATION OF GREATER INDIANAPOLIS, INC. AND WISHARD HEALTH SERVICES

The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis (The Health Foundation) was created in 1985 with the \$12.5 million in proceeds from the sale of Indiana's first Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), MetroHealth. An independent, not-for-profit grantmaker, The Health Foundation has been and is still dedicated to preserve and enhancing the physical, mental and social health of the Greater Indianapolis community. Since 1986, The Health Foundation has contributed more than \$32.7 million to health-related projects that are not easily funded by other means. From the beginning, its mission has been to support health-related causes, however, its funding priorities have changed as health concerns have evolved. Its current funding priorities are HIV/AIDS, the creation of school-based health clinics and childhood obesity. Along with the Indiana State Department of Health, The Health Foundation also convenes and supports the Indiana AIDS Fund, a private, philanthropic fundraising and grantmaking fund dedicated to supporting HIV/AIDS service in Indiana. Since it was founded in 1994, the Indiana AIDS Fund has become the largest private funder of HIV/AIDS programs in Indiana, and serves as a national partner of AIDS United.



Wishard Health Services is the county hospital of Marion County the largest county in the state (encompassing the city of Indianapolis). In 2008 a care coordinator of the largest local AIDS Service Organization identified the need for a volunteer, routine and free rapid HIV testing program for individuals in the Wishard Emergency Department (ED) waiting room. Wishard services a high number of underserved and vulnerable patients in the greater Indianapolis area, many who may not have access to other HIV testing services in the community. In compliance with the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations that all individuals aged 13-64 be routinely tested for HIV,⁵⁷ Wishard launched a new HIV Screening Program to offer this service to all patients accessing medical care in its ED. The Foundation supports this special pilot program by funding its primary HIV counselor/tester through its AIDS United AmeriCorps program.⁵⁸ With this important support, Wishard is able to utilize a nearly full-time employee for only \$3,800 a year.

The Wishard HIV Screening Program offers the 55,000 unduplicated individuals that access Wishard ED services each year with the opportunity to be routinely screened for HIV. Tested individuals—regardless of status—are also linked to care and counseling via an on-site infectious disease clinic and non-medical case managers funded via the Ryan White Care Act. The Foundation has continued to fund the program since its 2008 launch, and is partnering with Wishard on the program's next phase, including the goal to have 24-hour staffing support, and an eventual scale-up to other area healthcare facilities.

This program has also been shared with the Office of National AIDS Policy as a potential model that can be widely, and cost efficiently, implemented across the United States. According to Jason Grisell, Program Manager for The Health Foundation, the Wishard HIV Screening Program offers "a low-cost way of reaching a broad spectrum of patients, including, importantly, high-risk populations that we know are disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS: low-income, uninsured, undocumented, African Americans and Hispanics."

57 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing of Adults, Adolescents, and Pregnant Women in Health-care Settings." *MMWR* 2006;55(No. RR-14). Available at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5514a1.htm

58 www.aidsunited.org/community-impact/ameriCorps/