

Testimony
Health and Human Services Committee
Wednesday, June 16, 2010
North Dakota Department of Health

Good afternoon, Chairman Weisz and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Molly Sander, and I am the Immunization Program manager for the North Dakota Department of Health. I am here today to provide information about the use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for the immunization program.

The Immunization Program received an allocation of vaccine and two operations grants through the ARRA program.

The program has received \$345,220 worth of vaccine that is being used to provide influenza vaccine to the local public health units for school-located vaccination clinics and meningococcal vaccine for children to be vaccinated for the middle school requirement and prior to college entry.

The noncompetitive operations grant that the Immunization Program received totaled \$310,296. The goal of this grant is to increase immunization rates by implementing new or expanding current programs. The local public health units were consulted at the June 2009 local public health unit directors of nursing and administrators meeting as to which activities to fund through this grant. This funding is being used to:

- Add forecasting and reminder/recall to the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS).
- Conduct a statewide media campaign promoting immunizations.
- Hold a statewide immunization conference for health-care providers.
- Provide funding to local public health units for immunization coalitions.

The competitive operations grant that the Immunization Program received totaled \$146,360. This grant can be used only to enhance the data quality, analytic capability, functionality, and scope of the NDIIS. This funding is being used to enhance the NDIIS by:

- Adding a school immunization module to assist schools in assessing immunization rates.
- Adding an indicator to identify children who have moved out of state, which improves data quality in the NDIIS.
- Improving the reports available to providers.

- Purchasing software to assist the NDIIS in connecting with electronic health records.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.