



COMMUNITY GRANT OUTCOME REPORT

Coordinating Partnerships to Improve Access to Public Health Coverage

Extending health coverage through school outreach

Covering Kids and Families worked with seven school districts to share information about BadgerCare+, enabling students to obtain health coverage



One key outcome of the project was the production of an online toolkit to help school districts and communities provide guidance for obtaining coverage.

► **Description:** Evidence shows health insurance is vital to reducing health disparities by facilitating preventive care. The project supported a collaboration with Wisconsin school districts to identify efficient and sustainable ways to enroll eligible, uninsured children in BadgerCare+, the state's public health insurance program. The model was tested in seven school districts: Abbotsford, D.C. Everest, and Spencer (Marathon County); River Valley (which straddles three counties in rural southwest Wisconsin); Sun Prairie and Middleton (Dane County); and West Allis-West Milwaukee.

► **Results:** Enrollment in BadgerCare+ in pilot districts increased, mirroring a statewide trend. School staff reported increased knowledge of the program and indicated they planned to continue BadgerCare+ activities after the pilot concluded. Parents in the pilot districts were twice as likely as those in other districts to have heard about BadgerCare+ from their schools in multiple ways such as school newsletters, web site postings, promotional materials, and school enrollment

events. This project suggests that Wisconsin's public school system provides a natural environment to reach and assist children and their families.

► **The Partnership:** The academic partner helped lead early stages of project planning and implementation. She worked closely with the project team to refine the project as it progressed. This project built connections between UWSMPH, many UW-Madison departments, and community partners including Catholic Charities, Community Advocates, Inc., and Joining Forces for Families.

► **Next Steps:** The WPP awarded \$400,000 in continuation funding to test a model that joins with the state's Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESA) and UW Extension to support school districts in facilitating access to health care for families. The project has leveraged \$847,467 in federal, state, and foundation grants to fund further expansion.

GRANT FACTS

Grantee: Covering Kids and Families - Wisconsin

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Grant Award: \$418,545 over three years