Aetna Foundation Announces 2006 Regional Grants

Aetna and the Aetna Foundation have awarded 83 grants totaling $2.9 million to community organizations across the country through its 2006 Regional Community Health Grants Program.

The 2006 program continued to focus on enhancing the quality of health care, with a special emphasis on reducing racial and ethnic health disparities through our business practices and charitable giving. The grants seek to:

- Enhance training and education of end-of-life care, for health care professionals and caregivers to reduce barriers and increase use of palliative and home care services
- Combat the growing incidence of obesity through prevention and healthful behavior modification messages
- Improve oral health for children through community-based screening, treatment and/or family education initiatives
- Address depression in children, youth and adults through screening, education and outreach efforts

Grants were awarded in the followings areas:

- Depression - $782,000 or 27 percent of total grants
- End-of-Life Care - $608,000 or 21 percent of total grants
- Obesity - $916,000 or 32 percent of total grants
- Oral Health - $594,000 or 20 percent of total grants

Since 2001, the Aetna Foundation has awarded more than $14 million through the Regional Program, including nearly $11 million to initiatives that address racial and ethnic disparities in health care.
Aetna Foundation Announces 2005 Regional Grants

The Aetna Foundation has awarded 95 grants totaling $2.6 million to community organizations across the country through its 2005 Regional Grants Program.

The 2005 program continued to focus on building healthy communities, with particular emphasis on addressing racial and ethnic disparities in health care. The grants seek to:

- Enhance cultural competency training and education, including end-of-life care, for health care professionals
- Combat the growing incidence of Type 2 diabetes through prevention and healthy behavior modification messages
- Improve oral health for children through community-based screening, treatment and/or family education initiatives
- Address depression in children and adults through screening, education and outreach efforts

Grants were awarded in the following areas:

- Cultural Competency - $652,500 or 25 percent of total grants
- Diabetes - $870,500 or 33 percent of total grants
- Oral Health - $677,000 or 26 percent of total grants
- Depression - $405,000 or 16 percent of total grants

Since 2001, the Foundation has awarded more than $11 million through the Regional Program, including $8 million to initiatives that address racial and ethnic disparities in health care.

“Working to build healthy communities, Aetna and the Aetna Foundation are addressing racial and ethnic disparities in health care,” said Marilda L. Gándara, President of the Aetna Foundation. “For five years, the Regional Grants Program has been a major part of that effort by funding programs that improve understanding of racial and cultural diversity and provide access to quality health care.”
Aetna Foundation Announces 2004 Regional Grants

The Aetna Foundation has awarded 109 grants totaling $2.2 million to community organizations across the country through its 2004 Regional Grants Program.

The 2004 program continued to focus on building healthy communities, with particular emphasis on addressing racial and ethnic disparities in health care. The grants seek to:

- Enhance cultural competency -- helping health care systems and providers to more effectively care for patients with diverse values, beliefs and behaviors.
- Improve oral health for children and adults -- helping members of racial and ethnic groups, who have a disproportionate level of dental problems, access proper prevention and treatment services.

Grants were awarded in the followings areas:

- DIH - Oral Health - Adults: $251,000
- DIH - Oral Health - Children: $554,000
- DIH - Other: $98,656
- Community: $91,000
- DIH - Cultural Competency: $1,254,500

Disparities in Health $2,059,150 or 96% of total grants

"The country continues to struggle with racial and ethnic disparities in health status and use of health care services. This issue is of great concern to Aetna, which is committed to improving access to quality health care for all people," said Marilda Gándara, President, Aetna Foundation. "The Foundation supports the company's efforts by funding programs that improve understanding of racial and cultural diversity and improve access to quality care."

Since 2001, the Foundation has awarded more than $7.5 million through the Regional Program including $5 million to initiatives that address racial and ethnic disparities in health care.
Aetna Foundation Announces 2003 Regional Grants

The Aetna Foundation has announced the recipients of nearly $2.5 million in funding for its regional grants program for 2003. The grants, primarily focused on reducing racial and ethnic disparities in health, are part of a broader Aetna initiative that includes research, education and data collection to improve the quality of health care for diverse populations.

The 102 grants have been awarded in these areas:

- Disparities in health -- $2,117,050 or 86 percent of total dollars awarded
- Other health -- $197,000 or 8 percent of total dollars awarded
- Community (education, human services, civic and community) -- $159,000 or 6 percent of total dollars awarded

"Since inception of the regional community grants program in 2001, the Aetna Foundation has provided over $3 million in funding for initiatives that directly address disparities in health care. Our efforts reflect Aetna's long-standing commitment to the communities where our customers and employees live and work. The funds the Foundation is providing will help make a difference in meeting the healthcare needs of many men, women and children." said Marilda L. Gándara, Aetna Foundation President.

The grants, ranging in size from $2,000 to $50,000, support disease prevention, awareness and detection programs throughout the country, particularly for asthma, diabetes and cardiac care.

Spanish-speaking families will be able to learn about the American health care system and disease prevention, thanks to a $15,000 grant to the Arc of Mecklenburg County Inc. in Charlotte, NC.

In Rochester, NY, a $49,000 grant to Monroe County Health Department will support programs to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease in African American adults.

The Colorado Asthma & Allergy Clinic's Breathe Better Bus will continue to provide asthma education and management services to Colorado children and families with a grant of $20,400.

Other grants support training and education in culturally and linguistically appropriate care.

A $25,000 grant to the Center for Health Professions, University of California at San Francisco will help health professionals learn about health disparities and how to provide culturally competent care.

Pediatric residents at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC will receive cultural competency training through a $47,000 grant to Zero to Three - National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families.

The Baylor College of Medicine in Houston will use its $47,000 grant to improve the understanding of discharge instructions from the emergency department.

A complete list of grants awarded in each region are available to the right under Regional Details.
Aetna Foundation Announces 2002 Regional Grants

Marking its 30th anniversary, the Aetna Foundation announces the recipients of $2 million in funding for its regional grants program. These 122 grants, made to organizations throughout the country, are focused on women’s health, children’s health and disparities in health. The Foundation also announces that regional funding for 2003 will center on racial and ethnic disparities in health care and support initiatives that address the impact of this divide in our society.

“Aetna has a strong and long-standing commitment to the communities where our customers and employees work and live,” said John W. Rowe, M.D., chairman and CEO of Aetna. “For three decades Aetna has been investing in the future, and has taken a leadership role in addressing critical health care and social issues. We believe that these 122 grant recipients will make good use of this seed money in order to address targeted health concerns in communities across the United States.”

Regional grants have been awarded in the following areas:

- Children’s health - $702,000, or 36 percent of total grants;
- Disparities in health - $691,153, or 36 percent of total grants;
- Women’s health - $281,000, or 15 percent of total grants; and
- Other community needs - $262,500, or 14 percent of total grants.

Programs being funded vary from a $50,000 grant to “Chicago Communities in Schools” for a program to bring health services to Chicago public school children, to a grant of $43,000 to the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry for a program to reduce disparities in access to needed medication, and a $25,000 grant for the California Medical Association’s Women’s Health Initiative.

“Aetna is committed to teaching people - students included - about preventing diseases before they start,” said John McClure, a longtime Board member of Chicago Communities In Schools. “By partnering with Chicago Communities In Schools, Aetna will be helping thousands of children in Chicago’s public schools.”

“The Aetna Foundation’s grant will allow us to apply the best national models for improving management of chronic disease to some of our most need patients: those of diverse backgrounds,” said Robert Panzer, M.D., Chief Quality Officer for the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

“Your funding will enable us to develop a communication took kit for both state and local audiences to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of osteoporosis and its prevention,” said Carol A. Lee, president and CEO of the California Medical Association.
Regional Community Grants Program Awards $1.1 million in 2001

Aetna's Regional Community Grants Program, which seeks to improve the quality of life in communities where Aetna customers and employees reside, awarded more than $1.1 million in 2001 to a total of 86 organizations from each of Aetna's six business regions. Backed by the Aetna Foundation, the program has three components: community grants, grants in support of the company's emerging markets strategies, and funds to support Aetna Volunteer Councils. Beyond financial support, the Foundation seeks to build strategic partnerships with nonprofit organizations that share Aetna's commitment to important health issues.

Five philanthropic preventive health focus areas were identified for the Foundation's 2001 Regional Community Grants Program:

- Cardiovascular Health
- Colon Cancer
- Children's Asthma
- Disparities in Health Status
- Health Walks

Additional grant dollars went to "other" health and community causes.

The biggest piece of the total awards pie ($310,000) went to Disparities in Health, including ten grants made in collaboration with regional emerging markets directors. That was followed by Health Walks ($223,000) supporting a variety of health issues, Colon Cancer ($162,000), Children's Asthma ($129,220), Cardiovascular Disease ($120,870), Other Health ($112,500) and Other Community ($92,500).

"The program was very successful in all of the regions," said Sharon Dalton, program officer with the Aetna Foundation. "Overall, we received more than 500 proposals and made some tough funding decisions based on available resources."

"We're looking forward to building on the program's success in 2002. We received tremendous support from Aetna employees serving on the Regional Grants Committees as well as local Aetna Volunteer Councils. Their hard work and dedication were invaluable in the success of the program and to building ongoing partnerships with the grant recipients."