



Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

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Community Water Fluoridation Program

The Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water administers a community water fluoridation program. The program provides five core services/functions: 1) Monitors water systems for Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water using monthly operational reports and inspection reports. 2) Reporting and managing water system data and monthly fluoridation data for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS). 3) Provides information about fluoridation issues to citizens and communities. 4) Provides training opportunities for water operators, engineers and health care professionals. 5) Provides grant funding for communities to start or upgrade fluoridation equipment for water systems and includes fluoride split sample test kits for designated water treatment plants. Since 1981, the program has assisted over 65 communities to initiate or upgrade their fluoridation systems. Funding sources include the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHS) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) State-base Oral Disease Prevention Program Grant. The annual budget has consistently provided \$100,000 in mini-grants to meet equipment needs and \$25,000 for training and outreach opportunities. This year the mini-grant opportunity has been increased to \$125,000. The average grant is approximately \$10,000.

Lessons Learned:

Financial incentives for small communities are essential. Periodic training for water works operations on new equipment or procedures is very important.

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