

Title V/Maternal and Child Health Success Story: October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

MCH Grantee (check box):

- Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health
- Fargo Cass Public Health
- Grand Forks Public Health Department
- North Dakota State University
- South East Education Cooperative

North Dakota Maternal and Child Health Priority Area (check box):

- Increase the rate of breastfeeding at 6 months
- Reduce overweight and obesity in children

In a sentence or two, describe the problem you were trying to solve or the reason why your intervention is needed.

Of the 1,600 employees that work for the Grand Forks School District, a high percentage are women within childbearing age. No lactation policy was in place to protect these moms as they return to work after the birth of a baby.

In a brief paragraph, please share what you implemented and how it made a difference.

For the past two years, we have worked with the Grand Forks School District to pass a district-wide lactation policy. In March 2019, the district passed administrative guidelines. We worked closely with the lead school nurse to survey employees, create guidelines and present a plan to the superintendent. With full support from the superintendent, the guidelines were presented to the school board and passed. With the guidelines passed, Grand Forks Public Health awarded the district a grant to purchase 13 mini fridges. These fridges can now be checked out by breastfeeding employees and used to store their milk in a convenient location.

Are there any specific NUMBERS or OUTCOMES you can share as a result of your work?

The Grand Forks and Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School Districts work together to serve approximately 7,400 students. Approximately 1,600 people are employed. There are two high schools, one alternative high school, three middle schools, and 11 elementary schools.

Were there any “AHA” or “lightbulb” moments you can share?

In previous years, we met with the district’s human resources department to introduce this initiative but we weren’t successful. Working with the school nurses was the key to implementation.

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Are there any “quotes” from anyone benefitting from this that you can share?

“What a wonderful opportunity. This will benefit our staff greatly.” Kelly – Grand Forks Middle School Nurse.

Is there anything else you want to share?

