Seven Awards were made during round one of the Health Care Without Harm Nurses Workgroup Mini-Grant Initiative. These small grants are meant to provide initial funding for organizing new initiatives resulting from the Beldon funded March 2004 Commonweal meeting of nurses and environmentalists and to further the 2005 Nurses Workgroup work plan.

Grantee: Ann Converso for the New York State Nurses Association District #1 and the Veteran’s Affairs Western New York Healthcare System

Project: The funding will support two days of outreach and training on chemical exposure, waste reduction and other issues for a variety of participants include nursing staff, management, and nursing executives as well as nursing students. In addition, The United American Nurses, The Communication Workers of America, locals 1133 and 1168, (both of who represent significant numbers of nurses in the area and have a collegial relationship with the UAN in Buffalo) will also be invited. The events will be a celebration of Earth Day, Nurses Week, and Employee Recognition Week.

Goals:
- Build Environmental Health Champions in the Nursing Community through outreach and education.
- Promote best practices in medical waste management.
- Develop and administer a survey on day one of the event to ascertain information regarding hospital policies and compliance, chemical exposure and staff nurse involvement with issues in their facilities, with the intention of using the information to develop model contract language for future use.

Relationship to Commonweal/Nurses Workgroup Goals:
This project advances the Commonweal and HCWH Nurses Workgroup goals by seeking to build environmental health champions in the nursing community, by engaging nurse leaders at the local and state level, by seeking information that can be used to develop model policies, and by promoting best practices in medical waste management.

Grantee: Healthy Schools Campaign

Project: To support the environmental health work of our School Nurse Advisory Committee. This work, which is a partnership between the Healthy Schools Campaign, the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing and the Illinois Association of School Nurses will link school nurses to the environmental health movement, and provide training and resources for school nurses to address environmental health at the school and school district levels.

Goals: The overall goal of the project is to provide leadership training for school nurses and provide them with the resources needed to promote best practices in
the school environment around asthma and obesity. In the first year, this project will:

a) Strengthen the School Nurse Advisory Committee, which will provide leadership and direction to this project.

b) Provide leadership and skills training to school nurses on how to advocate for a healthy school environment at the district and school levels.

c) Ensure that the unique perspective of school nurses is represented in policy development relating to HSC’s school environmental health and school food programs.

**Relationship to Commonweal/Nurses Workgroup Goals:**
This project advances the Commonweal 2004 meeting initiative in that it will provide school nurses with the training and support necessary to address school environmental health issues, and create links between school nurses and Illinois’ environmental health advocacy community.

---

**Grantee:** Boise State University and the Environmental Pollution Coalition of Southwest Idaho

**Project:** Seeks to increase the knowledge and skills of nurses and health care workers regarding environmental pollution. The project will provide enhanced tools in such areas as minimizing volume of waste generated thus reducing the waste disposal costs incurred and reducing the use of toxic chemicals. This will be accomplished by providing an educational opportunity to learn about environmental pollution, its impact, and potential solutions to the problem. Workshop participants will be motivated to improve their health care practices and to become conscientious citizens in reducing environmental pollution.

**Goals:** To increase the knowledge and skills of nurses and health care workers regarding environmental pollution by:

- Assessing environmental exposures and impact of environmental exposures on selected populations of southwest Idaho (Spring 2005)
- Workshop topics will be developed based on the analysis of data collected spring 2005. A major workshop for health care professionals in southwest Idaho will be offered in fall 2005. The workshop topics will include:
  - Impact of environmental exposures in the community and workplace
  - Community resources available on environmental exposures
  - Use of safe material and products in the workplace
  - What nurses and health care workers can do to prevent pollution in the work and community environment
Relationship to Commonweal/Nurses Workgroup Goals:
- Educating and informing nursing and health care workers about the environmental and health impacts of environmental pollution.
- Promoting comprehensive pollution prevention practices.
- Providing potential solutions to environmental pollution.

Grantee: West Virginia Nurses Association

Funding: $1,000.00
Project: To provide training on environmental health issues for the West Virginia Nurses Association’s 2005 Spring Conference. The plan to spotlight environmental issues is not limited to that event. WVNA will continue its effort to educate WV nurses and the community on issues related to environmental health at all of their 2005 events. The specific topic, “Is What We Breathe And Eat Destroying Our Health,” will be presented by Environmental Specialist, Novella Jackson, RN, MS, BC, CAN.

Goals: To increase collaborative relations. WVNA is committed to working with nursing specialty groups as well as other health care and environmental groups.

Relationship to Commonweal/Nurses Workgroup Goals: The applicants attended a conference on 09/29/04 entitled, “CMA Lobbyist Networking Briefing on Environmental Health Workshop & Think Nationally Act Locally.” That conference was a commitment made by ANA while at Commonweal.

Grantee: Peggy Wolff, M.S., A.P.R.N., H.N.C.
Project: This collaborative project creates a partnership amongst an environmental health nursing consultant, a state nurses association, and an environmental health coalition that focuses on educating nurses about the health hazards of fragrances and the implications for a chemically sensitive population.

Goals:
- Write and publish an article for the nursing community on the health hazards of fragrances and the implications for a chemically sensitive population;
- Write and publish a second article for the chemically sensitive community on the health hazards of fragrances and the implications for a chemically sensitive population
- Edit and promote a newly developed Massachusetts Nurses’ Association continuing education on-line program, “Fragrance Free! Creating a Safe Health Care Environment”
- Direct traffic to a web site developed by a nurse, Betty Bridges, R.N., on fragrance and health entitled, “Fragrance Product Information Network”
- Develop model institutional policies related to the use of fragrances in health care settings.
**Relationship to Commonweal/Nurses Workgroup Goals:** This project is in sync with HCWH Nurses Workgroup Project #3, Goal #5: “Promote the new “Fragrance” on-line, continuing education program developed by Massachusetts Nurses’ Association within the broad nursing community.

**Grantee:** The Public Health Nurses Section of the American Public Health Association

**Project:** The purpose of this project is to strengthen environmental health efforts by increasing the involvement of public health nurses. It will focus on ensuring a sound foundation in environmental health for public health nursing (PHN) practice, education, research and advocacy; disseminating information; engaging more public health nurses in this work; and supporting their efforts as they move forward.

**Relationship to Commonweal/Nurses Workgroup Goals:**
The HCWH Nurses Work Group is focusing on four major goals in 2005. This project will address all of them either directly or indirectly by virtue of the networks and broad reach of the participants in this project.

- This project will help facilitate a shift in the professional practice of public health nursing as it relates to HCWH goals. It will raise awareness in public health nurses of the relevance and importance of environmental health in nursing practice.
- This project will help develop new leaders and potential new HCWH champions within the nursing community.
- Public health nurses will offer important new opportunities for communicating HCWH activities and resource materials. The two meetings conducted will include dissemination of the Green Meeting Guide and adherence to the recommended practices, thus providing a first opportunity to model this importance contribution in the broader PHN community.
- All of the participating organizations have affiliations and counterparts in public health organizations around the globe, as well as membership in international public health associations and organizations. As this work moves forward, more collaborative endeavors in environmental health and nursing may be fostered.

**Grantee:** The Endometriosis Association

**Project:** Design a CEU for nurses concerning how to promote disease promotion through awareness of environmental exposures, and risks, particularly as related to endometriosis and associated complications. This presentation would help to increase awareness of risks associated with women’s diseases, and how environmental toxins as one of these potential risks, may be related.

**Relationship to Commonweal/Nurses Workgroup Goals:**
- Educating and informing nursing and health care workers about the health impacts of environmental pollution.
- Promoting relationships between nurses and environmental organizations.