
Medical Education, Research, and Public Health Grants

Legislative Audit Bureau

November 2010

Order of Commissioner of Insurance

- ◆ Issued in March 2000 to approve conversion of Blue Cross Blue Shield United of Wisconsin to a for-profit corporation
- ◆ Proceeds were divided equally between MCW and UW
- ◆ 35 percent of funds were to be used for public health and 65 percent for medical education and research
- ◆ Created the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation

MCW Endowment Balances

Calendar Year	Endowment Balance (in millions)	Change from Previous Year
2004	\$326.7	–
2005	346.5	6.1%
2006	384.5	11.0
2007	415.6	8.1
2008	291.9	(29.8)
2009	340.1	16.5

UW Endowment Balances

Calendar Year	Endowment Balance (in millions)	Change from Previous Year
2004	\$309.7	–
2005	336.8	8.8%
2006	365.3	8.5
2007	406.7	11.3
2008	303.2	(25.4)
2009	325.1	7.2

MCW Medical Education and Research Grants Awarded (2004 through 2008)

- ◆ 113 grants
- ◆ \$45.8 million awarded
- ◆ 26.4 percent of grant funds awarded competitively

UW Medical Education and Research Grants Awarded (2004 through 2008)

- ◆ 78 grants
- ◆ \$43.6 million awarded
- ◆ 17.9 percent of grant funds awarded competitively

MCW Public Health Grants Awarded (2004 through 2008)

- ◆ 102 grants
- ◆ \$23.4 million awarded
- ◆ 100.0 percent of grant funds awarded competitively

UW Public Health Grants Awarded (2004 through 2008)

- ◆ 103 grants
- ◆ \$26.2 million awarded
- ◆ 84.4 percent of grant funds awarded competitively

Review of MCW and UW Funded Projects

- ◆ Expenditures reviewed were generally allowable
- ◆ Most proposals had clear and specific objectives, but some were unclear or overly ambitious
- ◆ Progress reports were generally completed, but not always timely
- ◆ Most grantees in our sample met at least some of the objectives described in their proposals, but there were exceptions

MCW Special Initiative on Violence Prevention

- ◆ Planning began in late 2006
- ◆ Focused on at-risk youth and violence prevention in Milwaukee
- ◆ Implementation plan presented to Board in January 2010
- ◆ MCW intends to commit up to \$2.0 million per year for ten years

UW Special Initiative on Healthy Birth Outcomes

- ◆ Planning began in early 2007
- ◆ Targeted to Milwaukee, Racine, Beloit, and Kenosha
- ◆ Development grant RFPs issued in September 2009
- ◆ Oversight and Advisory Committee intends to commit \$10.0 million for the initiative over five years

Policy Considerations

- ◆ Amend conflict of interest policies
- ◆ Clarify allowable uses of medical education and research funds
- ◆ Redefine the supplanting prohibition
- ◆ Determine the degree to which medical education and research funds should be competitively allocated
- ◆ Determine the level of public health funding the schools may directly expend

Medical Education, Research, and Public Health Grants

Legislative Audit Bureau
November 2010