

Preventive measures

Registry to track kids' shots

A \$106,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will support a new statewide registry of immunization records for pre-school children. Program organizers say competition for the "All Kids Count" grant money was fierce.

By BARBARA SOLOW

A new statewide registry of immunization records for children should be up and running by early summer.

Organizers hope the registry, funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, will improve the health of pre-school-aged children in North Carolina.

"Right now, up to 40 percent of children under age two in North Carolina are not age-appropriately immunized," says Annette Byrd, who heads the Immunization Branch of the state Department of Environmental Health which will administer the registry. "Our goal is to help providers stop missing opportunities to immunize children before they get to school."

Physicians would be able to tap into the registry through their local health departments, Byrd says. Reminders could then be sent to parents of children who have not yet received shots for diseases such as measles and polio.

The immunization project is a collaborative effort by 10 North Carolina counties representing 20 percent of the state's population.

Last year, those counties received a \$150,000 planning grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation — one of 23 projects funded as part of the foundation's nationwide "All Kids Count" program.

The North Carolina registry was not among the 12 projects chosen for a full \$500,000 implementation grant but it did receive an additional \$106,221 from the New Jersey-based foundation this year.

Among the barriers identified at the time of measles outbreaks in the 1980s was the lack of local and statewide immunization registries for physicians.

Counties participating in the new North Carolina registry are Durham, Granville, Guilford, Hoke, Person, Robeson, Scotland, Vance and Warren, Byrd says. The vaccine unit at Duke University Medical Center also is part of the project.

Eventually, participants hope similar registries will be set up in other Tar Heel counties.

Dipping into assets

N.C. foundations resigned to payout rule

As interest rates decline, foundations find their investments may not cover their federal obligation to pay out 5 percent of their assets each year. Some foundations may have to dip into assets to comply with the payout rule. But they hesitate to seek changes in the rule, fearing a backlash from Congress.

By TODD COHEN

In 1969, Congress cracked down on the nonprofit sector. Lawmakers held hearings to investigate possible abuses, and those hearings culminated in laws designed to more tightly monitor and regulate the sector.

One of those laws has come to be a thorn in the side of some foundations. It requires that a private foundation each year pay grants totaling

five percent of the market value of the foundation's assets.

When interest rates are high, foundations have found they can more than cover that requirement through investments. But when interest rates fall, as they have been recently, some foundations worry they might have to dip into assets to cover the payout rule.

Because of the recent slide in interest rates, for example, the \$114 million-asset Cannon Foundation in Concord has reduced the amount of income it expects its investment managers to produce.

"If you have a balanced portfolio, it's difficult to get a five percent yield," says Dan Gray, the foundation's executive director.

The income target, which was as high as 6.5 percent in recent years, has been reduced to 4.5 percent.

REGULATION

And Gray expects that the gains of recent

years that helped boost assets, now will be used simply to meet the payout rule.

The payout rule also represents an added hurdle for some trusts. While state law permits a trust to dip into assets if that's the only way to meet the payout rule, some trust officials say that doing so may contradict the intent of the original donor.

"This five percent rule is really at odds maybe with the grantor-donor's wishes, and requires you to start eating your seed corn," says Art Kiser, senior vice president and group executive for Wachovia Bank, which is trustee for numerous N.C. trusts, including the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust in Winston-Salem.

Kiser says Kate B. Reynolds probably will have to dip into assets in three to four years.

Despite the impact of declining interest rates, Kiser and other foundation officials believe that lobbying Congress to lower the payout requirement - or simply to tie it to an index that fluctuates with interest rates - could backfire.

"Were we to request them to consider lowering the payout or tie it to a benchmark rate, their inclination might be to raise it because total returns earned by foundations have been double-digit for several years," Kiser says.

Bob Hull, director of the Southeastern Council on Foundations, has heard similar worries from other trustees.

"This is not an issue that the foundation community wants to raise," he says. "Unless we get into what appears later to be a long-term period with very low returns [on investments], I don't think any of us would wisely open that discussion."

A regional player

Janirve Foundation makes mark in mountains

Despite a low-key approach to publicity, the Janirve Foundation in Asheville is making a name for itself among regional grant-seekers. Since it became active in 1984, the foundation has concentrated on funding higher education, social services and arts programs in the Carolinas and Florida.

By BARBARA SOLOW

In the relatively short time it has been active in North Carolina philanthropy, the Janirve Foundation has become known as a key resource for grant-seekers in the western part of the state.

In the past decade, the Asheville-based foundation has awarded about 600 grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000.

The foundation was set up in the 1950s by Irving Jacob Reuter, a General Motors executive who had a summer home in Asheville.

Janirve — named for Reuter and his wife Jeannett — became active in 1984 with a \$25 million contribution from their estate. Since that time, assets have doubled to about \$50 million.

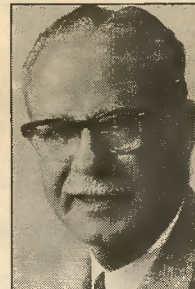
While Janirve's focus in the early years was on funding higher education and religious organizations, the emphasis in recent years has shifted to social services.

A grant analysis by Capital Consortium Inc. in Raleigh shows

JANIRVE FOUNDATION

- HEADQUARTERS: ASHEVILLE
- FOUNDER: IRVING J. REUTER
- \$55.3 MILLION IN 1991, UP FROM \$44.1 MILLION IN 1990
- TRUSTEE: FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PALM BEACH, FLA.
- NUMBER OF GRANTS IN 1991: 88
- AVERAGE GRANT: \$20,473
- AREA OF INTEREST: SOCIAL SERVICES, ARTS, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, THE ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, RELIGION
- DEADLINES: PROPOSALS CONSIDERED ON QUARTERLY BASIS BY FIVE-MEMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHOSE ORIGINAL MEMBERS WERE NAMED BY REUTER. GRANTEEES MUST WAIT TWO YEARS FROM TIME OF RECEIVING GRANTS BEFORE REAPPLYING.

SOURCE: CAPITAL CONSORTIUM INC., FLORIDA FUNDING PUBLICATIONS INC.



Met R. Poston
Board Chairman

that social service programs received more than a third of the \$1.8 million awarded by the foundation in 1991.

Among the largest grants given that year was \$250,000 to Park Place Education, Arts and Science Center in Asheville. The foundation also supported hospitals, colleges and environmental organizations in the Carolinas and Florida.

In 1992, Janirve's five-member advisory committee approved \$2.3 million in grants, says board chairman Met R. Poston.

"We like to see projects that benefit a relatively large group of people as opposed to something very needy and worthwhile but affecting a rela-

tively small number of people."

The foundation recently was involved in supporting a program called Children First, which was designed to improve services for children in mostly rural Buncombe County.

Janirve also provided part of the \$1.7 million in foundation support for the Lewis Rathbun Wellness Center - a temporary home for families of patients being treated in Asheville-area hospitals. The center is scheduled to open in April.

Despite the foundation's active grant-making role, board members have maintained a low-key approach to public relations.

Janirve does not produce an annual report, and administrators of some of the programs it has funded say they were asked not to publicize the source of their grants.

That may be changing, however. "My feeling is that we need to reach out a little more and be a little bit more forthcoming in the area of publicity," Poston says. "We recognize that we are by no means among the largest foundations in the state but we are a substantial factor, I do believe, in the western part of the state."

Asheville-area community leaders agree.

"I think they are known for trying very hard to help the most people with their resources," says Adelaide Keys, chairman of the board of directors of the new wellness center. "They look at how far-reaching it is and how much it will help Western North Carolina."

Richard Wood, an attorney who is legal counsel for the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, sees Janirve as a significant player in the region's philanthropy.

"With the exception of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, they are the only charitable foundation focused on western North Carolina," he says. "The generosity of Janirve in the short time they have been here has meant an awful lot to Buncombe County and outlying communities."

For information about the foundation's deadlines or grantmaking requirements, call (704) 258-1877.

BRIEFLY

Charlotte foundation gives scholarships

The Foundation for the Carolinas in Charlotte is giving \$1,000 scholarships to students whose parents are employed by construction companies in Mecklenberg County. The application deadline is March 1. For details, call Lisa Eaves at (704) 376-9541.

Medical center receives grant

The Duke Endowment has awarded two grants totalling \$240,000 to the New Hanover Regional Medical Center Foundation to support the Center for Successful Aging and Clinical Pastoral Education program.

Duke Endowment gives year-end grant

The Duke Endowment has given \$725,000 to Davidson College for the renovation of science buildings, an ongoing medical humanities program, scholarships and a new computer software system that will link the campus to one core network.

UNC-CH gets funds for nonprofit studies

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in Winston-Salem has given \$45,000 to the School of Social Work at UNC-Chapel Hill to plan a new center for nonprofit studies and research that also would provide training and technical assistance to nonprofit professionals. The center is the idea of Richard Edwards, the school's dean. He is assembling an advisory board to help plan the center. UNC-Chapel Hill now offers a handful of courses for nonprofits. Edwards envisions a broad program that cuts across academic disciplines. Initially, the program would offer a certificate degree.

Correction

In a story on the Burroughs Wellcome Fund in its February issue, the *Philanthropy Journal* incorrectly identified Samuel Katz, a professor of pediatrics at Duke University and a member of the Fund's board of directors.