



Arkansas Pharmacists Foundation Awarded \$150,000 Grant

(Little Rock) - The Blue & You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas has awarded a \$150,000 grant to the Arkansas Pharmacists Foundation (APF), a division of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA). The grant will be used to support the Arkansas Immunization Action Coalition (AIAC) as it promotes and sponsors statewide immunization programs and provides mini-grants to new immunization providers.

“Immunizing Arkansans stretches far beyond keeping someone safe during flu season,” APA Executive Vice President and CEO Scott Pace said. “Immunizations ensure that people are better prepared to lead healthy and happy lives by protecting Arkansans, young and old, from debilitating diseases. This grant will further help pharmacists and other immunizers by administering new tools to provide a strong foundation for the health of Arkansas.”

The Arkansas Immunization Action Coalition is a group of healthcare providers and public health stakeholders, often referred to as the immunization neighborhood, whose mission is to serve as a catalyst to promote individual and public health for all Arkansans through collaboration, coordination, and communication about immunizations.

“Immunization is a critical building block to the health and well-being of all Arkansans,” said Dr. Jennifer Dillaha, Chair of the Arkansas Immunization Action Coalition Executive Committee. “The grant AIAC has received is an important step on the path to making sure that every citizen is able to get vaccinated.”

The Arkansas Pharmacy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that was created to promote the profession of pharmacy in Arkansas through continuing education and by providing scholarships to outstanding students. The APF is guided by Dr. John Vinson, Executive Director and the Foundation Board, composed of all living past presidents of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association.

Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield established the Blue & You Foundation in 2001 as a charitable foundation to promote better health in Arkansas. The Blue & You Foundation awards grants annually to non-profit or governmental organizations and programs that positively affect the health of Arkansans.

In its 15 years of operation, the Blue & You Foundation has awarded more than \$27 million to 1,036 health improvement programs in Arkansas.

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The Arkansas Pharmacists Association, founded in 1882, is the statewide professional association representing approximately 2,200 pharmacists in Arkansas. APA strives to further the professional advancement of pharmacists, advocate the value of pharmacy, and safeguard the health and well-being of every Arkansan. Its mission is to advance a professional and business environment for Arkansas pharmacists to be successful and fulfilled in serving patients.