

I am excited to announce that the Hocking County Health Department will begin offering a new service to the women of Hocking County beginning September 1, 2013. We have recently been informed that the HCHD was awarded the Komen grant. With this grant, we have developed the Breast Education and Awareness Program (BEAP). This means that women needing breast health services such as mammograms, follow up testing, medications or other treatment may receive assistance with the costs of these services.

It is recommended that women age 40 and older should receive a yearly mammogram unless otherwise suggested by their physician. However, mammograms can be costly, especially for individuals without insurance. BEAP can help with this! Hocking Valley Community Hospital has agreed to partner with the Hocking County Health Department in providing mammogram services at no cost to uninsured or under insured (if your insurance does not pay for a mammogram) women of Hocking County. Income is not considered with this program.

Follow up testing, such as an MRI or a biopsy, may be needed if something suspicious is found on a mammogram. These tests can be extremely expensive but necessary. BEAP can provide assistance with payment of these services. Finally, if a woman has been diagnosed with breast cancer, the last thing she needs to worry about is the cost of treatments and medications. BEAP can provide some assistance with this as well for qualifying women.

Women who may qualify for BEAP assistance must be:

- Uninsured or under- insured
- Age 40 or over OR considered "high risk"
- A resident of Hocking County
- Have a doctor's order for the test or treatment or a bill showing services received

If you have any questions about BEAP or breast health, feel free to contact the Hocking County Health Department at 740-385-3030 ext. 255.