

Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

FACT SHEET

MISSION

The District of Columbia (DC) ranks highest among states in the United States for breast and cervical cancer mortality. Therefore, the DC Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (DC BCCEDP), also known as Project WISH (*Women Into Staying Healthy*), seeks to reduce the District's breast, cervical and ovarian cancer burden through the coordination of early detection services, the provision of health education, technical expertise and case management for eligible women.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Project WISH is an initiative designed to reduce the District's breast and cervical cancer burden. The program is open to all eligible women. The program offers free clinical breast exams, mammograms, pap tests and follow-up tests, case management if results are abnormal and treatment if there is a cancer diagnosis. Transportation to and from exams and translation services are provided upon request.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ☼ Women Ages 40 to 64 Years
- ☼ Uninsured or Underinsured - Medicare Part A
- ☼ Household Income less than \$19,000 for (single) or less than \$53,000 for a (family of 6)

PROJECT WISH OFFERS

- ☼ Annual Mammogram Breast exams
- ☼ Pap Tests and Pelvic exams
- ☼ Breast & Cervical Health Information
- ☼ Free Transportation to and from Exams
- ☼ Translation Services



STRATEGIC GOALS

- Eliminate breast and cervical cancer disparities in the District due to income, insurance status, ethnicity, and geographic location
- Increase access to quality early cancer detection and treatment services
- Expand the number of eligible women who receive free screening for breast and cervical cancer

For More Information About
Project WISH contact:
(202) 442-5900

Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program**Frequently Asked Questions****What is Project WISH?**

Project WISH- Women Into Staying Healthy – is a free breast and cervical cancer screening program for all eligible women.

Who is eligible for Project WISH?

- Women ages 40 to 64 years
- Household income \$19,600 (single) - \$53,000 (household of 6)
- Uninsured or underinsured - Medicare Part A

I'm eligible for Project WISH. What is the next step?

- Complete Enrollment Form
- Provide Pay Stub
- Submit Signed Consent Form

How can I get the Enrollment and Consent Form?

Call Project WISH office.
Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

What is a Mammogram?

A mammogram is a safe test used to look for any problems with a woman's breasts. The test uses a special, low-dose x-ray machine to take pictures of both breasts. The results are recorded on x-ray film or directly onto a computer for a radiologist to examine.

Mammograms allow the doctor to have a closer look for breast lumps and changes in breast

tissue. They can show small lumps or growths that a doctor or woman may not be able to feel when doing a clinical breast exam.

When should I get a Mammogram?

- Women age 40 and older should have a screening mammogram and clinical breast exam every year.
- According to the American Cancer Society, women ages 20 to 39 should have a clinical breast exam.

What is a Pap smear?

The Pap test, also called a Pap smear, checks for changes in the cells of your cervix. The cervix is the lower part of the uterus (womb) that opens into the vagina (birth canal). The Pap test can tell if you have an infection, abnormal (unhealthy) cervical cells, or cervical cancer.

Who should get a Pap test?

- All women who are or have been sexually active, or who have reached age 18 should get a Pap test.
- Women who have passed menopause should still continue to obtain a Pap test
- After a woman has had three or more consecutive, satisfactory, normal annual exams, the Pap test may be performed less frequently at the discretion of a clinician

What is ovarian cancer?

Ovarian cancer is cancer in the ovaries, the female reproductive organs located in the pelvis.

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