

AHEI Grant Report
Washington-Unicoi-Johnson Counties Medical Alliance
Thermometer Distribution to Indigent Families

Thank you to AHEI for providing \$500 to our Alliance to purchase 147 digital thermometers. The pediatricians and nurses working at the Johnson City Community Health Center selectively distributed these thermometers to needy families with children. None of these families owned a thermometer. Pediatricians and other medical providers had been unable to retrieve reliable information and history from these parents other than "the baby felt warm." It was difficult for the medical care providers to provide treatment guidelines without reliable monitoring and having access to a "fever diary" was impossible. These providers noted that having thermometers to distribute to needy families would be very helpful.

The thermometers were kept in a secure location for medical providers to access easily when a child presented who was in need of febrile monitoring and the family didn't own a thermometer. At the time of dispensing, education and instruction on proper technique to reliably monitor febrile illness was given to family members. Interpreters were needed by 50% of recipients and 64% of recipients didn't know how to use a thermometer. The medical providers are hopeful this thermometer distribution project will lead to improved febrile monitoring and better patient care for their pediatric patients.