
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2010

New Workplace Wellness Initiative Launches at Department of Commerce
NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Sponsors “Live Healthy, Work Well NC”

RALEIGH, NC – Today the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) launched *Live Healthy, Work Well NC*, a pilot program for North Carolina Department of Commerce employees that will save state dollars and make healthy living a convenient and affordable option for its workers.

“The health and wellness of our workforce is vital, and this pilot project will improve both of those and lead to a savings of state dollars,” said Governor Bev Perdue.

The pilot program [focuses on prevention with](#) customized proactive intervention plans tailored to suit the needs of each employee, and it will be implemented within the state Department of Commerce over a two-year period. Approximately 700 employees within Commerce are eligible to participate in this program.

“North Carolina’s Department of Commerce is leading the way toward healthy living and setting an example for all state employees,” said Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco. “We welcome the opportunity to serve as the pilot agency for this forward-thinking program funded by the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund.”

A registered nurse practitioner will be set up to practice in two separate Commerce sites. This on-site clinic will enable employees to be seen by a health care provider, obtain prescriptions, and access many of the same services doctors provide, without having to use sick time or to lose time in transit.

NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund is providing the grant funding and partnering with LivingWell Health Solutions to provide the worksite wellness intervention. The University of North Carolina's Department of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention will evaluate the pilot project. The evaluation will assess the impact of the worksite wellness program through information gathered from the Health Risk Management Intervention and from a web-based survey, and a cost benefit analysis will be completed.

About the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund makes North Carolina stronger, both physically and economically, by funding programs that promote preventive health. Created by the General Assembly in 2000 to allocate a portion of North Carolina's share of the national tobacco settlement, HWTF has invested \$199 million to support preventive health initiatives and \$116 million to fund prescription drug assistance programs. For more information, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com.

###