

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 20, 2008

NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund announces the availability of \$7.5 million in grant funding to address health disparities in North Carolina

Raleigh, NC – The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) announces the availability of \$7.5 million in grant funding over three years to reduce health disparities in North Carolina.

“In North Carolina the opportunity to live a healthy life should not be contingent on who you are, or where you are from,” said Lt. Governor Bev Perdue. “As long as health disparities persist, we will fight to eliminate them.”

Starting today, HWTF will accept applications from eligible organizations that have documented experience and success in developing and implementing services to reduce disparities in health status by providing services to one or more of the groups targeted in the HWTF Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (HDI) or facilitating the development of such services.

Funds are available to initiate new projects, or to expand existing projects, specifically designed to focus on reducing health disparities related to diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer among adults. Funds are also available for efforts designed to increase the cultural competency of health care providers in North Carolina to increase the quality of services provided to African American, American Indian, Latino and low-income patients with diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Organizations eligible to receive a grant will fit into any of the following categories:

- A state agency
- A local government or other political subdivision of the state, or a combination of such entities
- A nonprofit organization which has a significant purpose promoting the public's health

Grant proposals will be accepted from existing HWTF grantees as well as other NC organizations not currently receiving HWTF funding. Interested applicants can obtain a copy of the Request for Proposal and other application materials by visiting HWTF's web site at www.healthwellnc.com. **Final applications must be received by October 1, 2008.**

Regional application information workshops for potential applicants will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations:

August 25, 2008	Robeson Community College , Bldg 9, Room 901 5160 Fayetteville Rd Lumberton, NC 28360
August 29, 2008	Asheville/Buncombe Technical Community College Enka Campus, Haynes 209 1459 Sand Hill Rd Chandler, NC 28715
September 3, 2008	Guilford County Department of Public Health , Room 122 1203 Maple Street Greensboro, NC 27405
September 5, 2008	Elizabeth City State University , KE. White Graduate Center 1704 Weeksville Rd Elizabeth City, NC 27909
September 8, 2008	Wake County Human Services , Board Room 10 Sunnybrook Rd Raleigh, NC 27610

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 \$102 million to fund prescription drug assistance programs. For more information, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com.

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