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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 10, 2008**

**NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Awards Nearly \$24 Million for Youth Tobacco Prevention and the Elimination of Health Disparities**

**Raleigh, NC** – Today the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) announced grant awards totaling \$23,977,000 to 68 organizations across the state as part of two of its major preventive health initiatives, the Teen Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation (TTUPC) Initiative and the Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (HDI).

At the December 5, 2008 meeting of the HWTF Commission, nearly \$17 million in funding was approved for Phase IV of the TTUPC awards to support community-based efforts to reduce youth smoking and over \$7 million was approved for Phase II of the community grant awards designed to eliminate health disparities.

“As long as health disparities exist, we will fight to eliminate them. As long as teens struggle with tobacco use, we will fight to help them,” said Governor-elect Bev Perdue, HWTF Chair. “My goal is for North Carolina to be the healthiest state in America, and we will work to overcome any obstacles that stand in our way.”

TTUPC grant awards range from \$172,000 to \$1,350,000 for a 36-month period beginning July 1, 2009. These awards fund community-based or statewide efforts to prevent youth initiation of tobacco use and to promote cessation of tobacco use among youth. Since HWTF began funding prevention efforts and related media campaigns in 2003, middle school smoking in the state has dropped by 52% and high school smoking has dropped by 30%. Continued efforts are critical to sustain the decline in tobacco use since new youth enter into the teen years every year, and the decision to remain tobacco free needs to be repeatedly reinforced.

HDI grant awards range from \$161,000 to \$870,000 for a 36-month period beginning July 1, 2009. These awards fund community projects designed to reduce health disparities in morbidity and mortality related to diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease among African American, American Indian and Latino populations. Grantees will also work to increase the cultural competency of health care providers so they can provide more culturally appropriate services to disparate populations. The current phase of HDI grantees are following a cohort of over 2,400 individuals to assess the impact of grant services, and modest improvements have already been observed in key health indicators among the populations served.

The full list of grant awards can be viewed at [www.HealthWellNC.com](http://www.HealthWellNC.com) (click on ‘HWTF Funding Priorities’ in the upper right corner).

**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](http://www.HealthWellNC.com).*

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All grant recipients are listed by name, region served and award amount on the attached pages.

<b>Phase II Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative Grantees</b>		
<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Counties Served</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
Asheville Buncombe Institute of Parity Achievement	Buncombe	\$300,000
Community Boys and Girls Club of Wilmington	Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender	\$300,000
Cornerstone Ministry	Bertie, Pitt	\$375,000
East Carolina University	Duplin, Warren	\$275,000
FirstHealth of the Carolinas	Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond	\$300,000
Forsyth Medical Center Foundation	Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, Yadkin	\$300,000
Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe	Halifax, Warren	\$161,000
Lincoln Community Health Center	Durham	\$300,000
Loving Light Community Outreach	Bertie, Gates, Hertford, Perquimans	\$225,000
Native American Interfaith Ministry	Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Hoke, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland	\$300,000
NC Academy of Family Physicians	Statewide	\$405,000
NC Minority Prostate Cancer Awareness Action Team	Brunswick, Cumberland, Franklin, Sampson, Wayne	\$229,000
Piedmont Health Services and Sickle Cell Agency	Guilford	\$300,000
Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center	Bertie, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wilson	\$870,000
Robeson County Health Department	Anson, Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland	\$600,000
Rural Health Group	Halifax, Northampton, Vance, Warren	\$434,000
Together Transforming Lives	Franklin, Halifax, Northampton, Wilson	\$300,000
Tri-County Community Health Council, Inc	Harnett, Johnston, Sampson	\$300,000
Wake Forest University Health Services	Forsyth	\$300,000
YWCA of Asheville and Western NC	Buncombe	\$300,000
Zara Betterment Corporation	Bladen	\$200,000
<b>Total Grant Awards</b>		<b>\$7,074,000</b>

<b>Phase IV Teen Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Grantees</b>		
<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Counties Served</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
Alamance-Caswell-Rockingham LME (County Government Entity)	Alamance	\$300,000
Alleghany County Schools (Public School System)	Alleghany	\$260,000
American Lung Association of the Atlantic (Private, Nonprofit Organization)	Caswell, Haywood, Pender, Wilson	\$300,000
Ashe County Schools (Public School System)	Ashe	\$268,000
Blue Ridge Healthcare (Private, Nonprofit Organization)	Burke	\$201,000
Buncombe County Safe and Drug Free Schools (Public School System)	Buncombe	\$360,000
Cabarrus Health Alliance (County Government Entity)	Cabarrus	\$300,000
Cancer Services of Gaston County, Inc. (Private, Nonprofit Organization)	Gaston	\$300,000
Catawba County Public Health (Public Health Department)	Catawba	\$300,000
Cherokee County Schools (Public School System)	Cherokee, Clay, Graham	\$300,000
Chowan Hospital Foundation (Private, Nonprofit Organization)	Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrell, Washington	\$435,000
Coastal Horizons Center (Private, Nonprofit Organization)	Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender	\$300,000
Craven County Health Department (Public Health Department)	Craven, Pamlico	\$283,000
NC Division of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities (ALE) (NC State Agency)	All 100 Counties	\$1,200,000
Duplin County Health Services (Public Health Department)	Duplin	\$300,000
El Pueblo, Inc. (Private, Nonprofit Organization)	All 100 Counties	\$300,000

<b>Phase IV Teen Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Grantees</b>		
<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Counties Served</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
FirstHealth of the Carolinas (Private, Nonprofit Organization)	Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Scotland	\$300,000
Forsyth County Department of Public Health (Public Health Department)	Forsyth	\$282,000
Greene County Health Department (Public Health Department)	Greene	\$172,000
Guilford County Department of Public Health (Public Health Department)	Guilford	\$300,000
Halifax County Schools (Public School System)	Halifax	\$300,000
Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe (NC Tribal Organization)	Halifax, Warren	\$241,000
Haywood County Health Department - Hi Top (Public Health Department)	Haywood, Jackson, Madison, Swain, Transylvania	\$300,000
Haywood County Health Department - NC STEP (Public Health Department)	All 100 Counties	\$493,000
Healthy Caldwellians (Private, Nonprofit Organization)	Caldwell	\$293,000
Henderson County Public Schools (Public School System)	Henderson	\$216,000
Hertford County Public Health Authority (Public Health Department)	Hertford	\$240,000
Lincoln County Health Department (Public Health Department)	Lincoln	\$248,000
Lumbee Nation Tribal Program (NC Tribal Organization)	Cumberland, Hoke, Robeson, Scotland	\$300,000
Macon County Public Health Center (Public Health Department)	Macon	\$235,000
Mecklenburg County Health Department (Public Health Department)	Mecklenburg	\$450,000

Phase IV Teen Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Grantees		
Grantee	Counties Served	Award Amount
McDowell Public Schools (Public School System)	McDowell	\$300,000
Mitchell County Schools (Public School System)	Mitchell	\$300,000
Nash County Health Department (Public Health Department)	Nash	\$239,000
North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs (NC State Agency)	Alamance, Bladen, Caswell, Columbus, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Orange, Person, Randolph, Robeson, Rockingham, Sampson, Scotland, Stokes, Surry, Wake, Yadkin	\$525,000
Old North State Medical Society (Private, Nonprofit Organization)	All 100 Counties	\$330,000
Orange County Health Department (Public Health Department)	Orange	\$277,000
Rowan County Health Department (Public Health Department)	Rowan	\$300,000
SAVE of NC GASP (Private, Nonprofit Organization)	All 100 Counties	\$300,000
Surry County Health and Nutrition Center (Public Health Department)	Surry	\$271,000
Union County Public Schools (Public School System)	Union	\$406,000
Vance County Schools (Public School System)	Vance	\$300,000
Watauga County Schools (Public School System)	Watauga	\$295,000
Wilkes County Schools (Public School System)	Wilkes	\$281,000
Wilmington Health Access for Teens (WHAT?) (Private, Nonprofit Organization)	Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Sampson, Tyrell, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wilson	\$1,125,000

<b>Phase IV Teen Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Grantees</b>		
<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Counties Served</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
Yancey County Schools (Public School System)	Yancey	\$227,000
Youth Empowerment Solutions! (YES!) (Private, Nonprofit Organization)	Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Chatham, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Cumberland, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Graham, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hoke, Iredell, Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Polk, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Vance, Wake, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, Yancey	\$1,350,000

**Total TTUPC Grant Awards: \$16,903,000**