

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund announces the availability of \$8.9 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 \$8.9 million in grant funding over three years to reduce health disparities in North Carolina.

Starting today, HWTF will accept applications from eligible organizations who seek to reduce disparities, for both children/youth and adults related to obesity and chronic diseases, including but not limited to: cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer. According to the 2003 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Report Card published by the NC Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, African Americans, Native Americans and Latinos experience significant disparities in most areas of health status, especially those targeted by this initiative.

“Funding innovative and proven approaches to eliminating health disparities among racial and ethnic groups is paramount to ensuring that all North Carolina residents are able to live healthy and productive lives,” said Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, HWTF chair, “Working together is the only way we can understand and tackle this growing national and statewide problem.”

The Department of Health Education at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) will provide technical assistance to grant applicants and grant recipients over the three year period. Six regional half-day information workshops for potential applicants will be held in Durham on Dec. 10; Winston-Salem on Jan. 12; Charlotte on Jan. 18; Lumberton on Jan. 21; Greenville on Jan. 25 and Elizabeth City on Feb. 1. *Those interested in attending should pre-register for these regional workshops by calling (877) 683-8560 or (919) 530-5334.*

Grant proposals will be accepted from existing HWTF grantees as well as organizations not currently receiving HWTF funding. Organizations are eligible to receive an HWTF grant if they 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, limiting youth access to tobacco products, or reducing the health consequences of tobacco use*

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 March 1, 2006.**

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 \$127 million to support preventive health initiatives and \$78 million to fund a prescription drug assistance program. For more information, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com.

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