

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 13, 2008

NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Announces Awards of Grants to Extend Medication Assistance Program

(Greensboro, NC) – Today, the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) announced new grant awards totaling more than \$1.6 million to 40 organizations to help low-income North Carolina residents gain access to prescription drugs. This is the fourth phase of funding for HWTF's highly successful Medication Assistance Program (MAP) which has provided access to over \$122 million worth of free medications for more than 87,000 North Carolinians since its launch in 2003.

"It's critical that prescription medications are always accessible and always affordable" said Lt. Governor Bev Perdue. "These grants will help our seniors and lower-income residents save money and live healthier lives."

The grant awards were announced today at the Guilford County Department of Public Health (GCDPH), a MAP grantee since the program began in 2003. HWTF Commission Chair Lt. Governor Bev Perdue acknowledged the \$55,000 grant award to continue their vital work in Phase IV in a ceremony with GCDPH Health Director Merle Green, Pharmacy Director Joy Southerland, and a recipient of program services.

Grantees use computer software to identify generic drugs and special free and low-cost medication programs from pharmaceutical companies. HWTF has invested \$16.4 million in grants to community organizations for providing these services, yielding an eight-to-one return on investment over the last five years.

Grantee sites will help low-income residents of all ages apply for free, discounted and low-cost drugs through pharmaceutical companies' prescription assistance programs. Applicants may also choose to work with Medicare-eligible seniors to help them identify their optimal federal plan, or provide specialized assistance to patients with certain disease states like mental health or chronic illnesses.

The NC Institute of Medicine listed HWTF's MAP program as a "significant safety net for the uninsured" in its NC Healthcare Safety Net Report 2005. The full list of grant awards can be viewed at: http://www.healthwellnc.com/hwtfc/htmlfiles/fundprty_medmgmnt.htm

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 \$143 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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All grant recipients are listed by name, amount awarded, and campuses served in the table on the attached pages.

HEALTH WELLNESS TRUST FUND COMMISSION

Medication Assistance Program Phase IV- Grantees

MAP Phase IV Grants Awarded				
	Organization	City	Region Served	Grant Amount
1	Albemarle Hospital Foundation	Elizabeth City	Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Pasquotank, Perquimans	\$ 40,000
2	Angel Medical Center	Franklin	Macon	\$ 40,000
3	Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry	Asheville	Buncombe	\$ 60,000
4	Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital	Dunn	Harnett	\$ 40,000
5	Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc	Bolivia	Brunswick	\$ 40,000
6	Cape Fear Valley Medical Foundation	Fayetteville	Cumberland, Harnett, Sampson	\$ 50,000
7	Carolina Family Health Centers, Inc	Wilson	Edgecombe, Nash, Wilson	\$ 70,000
8	Clay Comprehensive Health Services, Inc (CHATUGE)	Hayesville	Cherokee, Clay, Graham	\$ 40,000
9	Columbus County Dept of Aging	Whiteville	Columbus	\$ 40,000
10	Community Care Center of Forsyth County	Winston-Salem	Davie, Forsyth, Stokes	\$ 40,000
11	Community Care Clinic of Rowan	Salisbury	Rowan	\$ 40,000
12	Community Free Clinic	Concord	Cabarrus	\$ 70,000
13	Crisis Control Ministry, Inc	Winston-Salem	Davie, Forsyth, Stokes	\$ 40,000
14	Diakonos, Inc / Fifth Street Ministries	Statesville	Iredell	\$ 35,000
15	First Health of the Carolinas	Pinehurst	Moore	\$ 40,000
16	Franklin County Volunteers in Medicine	Louisburg	Franklin	\$ 38,000
17	Gaston Family Health Services	Gastonia	Gaston	\$ 35,000
18	Good Samaritan Clinic, Inc	Morganton	Burke	\$ 35,000
19	Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry	Hickory	Catawba	\$ 55,000
20	Guilford County Dept Public Health	Greensboro	Guilford	\$ 55,000
21	Helping Hands	Lenoir	Caldwell	\$ 40,000
22	Hoke County Senior Services	Raeford	Hoke	\$ 27,000
23	Hyde County Health Department	Swan Quarter	Beaufort, Hyde	\$ 24,000
24	Kinston Community Health Center	Kinston	Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow Pitt, Wayne	\$ 40,000
25	Metropolitan Community Health Svcs	Washington	Beaufort, Pitt	\$ 40,000

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MAP Phase IV Grants Awarded				
	Organization	City	Region Served	Grant Amount
26	New Hanover Regional Medical Ctr	Wilmington	Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender	\$ 40,000
27	Pender Adult Services	Burgaw	Pender	\$ 35,000
28	Richmond County Health Depart	Rockingham	Richmond	\$ 40,000
29	Rockingham County Health Dept	Wentworth	Rockingham	\$ 40,000
30	Saluda Medical Center	Saluda	Buncombe, Henderson, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania	\$ 40,000
31	Scotland Neck Family Medical Ctr	Scotland Neck	Halifax	\$ 40,000
32	Southeastern Regional Medical Ctr	Lumberton	Robeson	\$ 40,000
33	Surry County Seniors Services	Mt. Airy	Surry	\$ 40,000
34	The Hunger Coalition, Inc	Boone	Avery, Watauga	\$ 27,000
35	Thomasville Medical Center	Thomasville	Davidson	\$ 38,000
36	Transylvania County Volunteers in Medicine	Brevard	Transylvania	\$ 23,000
37	Urban Ministries of Wake County, Inc	Raleigh	Wake	\$ 40,000
38	West Caldwell Health Council	Collettsville	Alexander, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Watauga, Wilkes	\$ 40,000
39	WestCare, Inc	Sylva	Haywood, Jackson, Swain	\$ 40,000
40	Winston-Salem Urban League	Winston-Salem	Forsyth	\$ 10,000
				\$ 1,607,000