

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2009

NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund announces Phase VI grant awards to support North Carolina's Medication Assistance Program

Raleigh, N.C. – The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) announced the award of \$637,720 in grant funding to 15 organizations over an 18-month period beginning January 1, 2010 for the sixth phase of funding of its Medication Assistance Program (MAP). HWTF's MAP grantees assist low-income citizens to identify optimal prescription drug coverage options from public/private programs and provide them with direct assistance in obtaining medications.

"These Medication Assistance Program grants support services that are critical to our state's uninsured and underinsured residents," said Chuck Willson, HWTF Chair. "North Carolina's lower-income citizens might otherwise be unable to get the medications they need to overcome their illnesses and live healthier lives."

To date, HWTF has invested over \$25.9 million in grants to community organizations for providing these services, yielding an 11-to-1 return on investment over the last six years. MAP grantees use computer software to identify generic drugs and special free and low-cost medication programs from pharmaceutical companies. Since January 2003, MAP has helped over 100,000 North Carolina residents obtain more than \$262 million in free medications.

In 2005, the North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) listed HWTF's MAP program as a "significant safety net for the uninsured" in its NC Healthcare Safety Net Report. According to the NCIOM, North Carolina is one of three states projected to have the highest proportional increases in number of the uninsured. Also, between 2007 and 2009, North Carolina saw an increase of 322,000 in the total number of uninsured residents.

For more information about MAP, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com.

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.

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

Medication Assistance Program/Page 2

**HWTF Medication Assistance Program (MAP)
 Phase VI Grant Awards
 January 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011**

LOCAL & STATEWIDE GRANTS		COUNTIES TO BE SERVED	AWARD AMOUNT
1	Alamance Medication Assistance Program (AlaMAP)	Alamance, Caswell	40,000
2	Bladen HealthWatch	Bladen	40,000
3	Chatuge Family Practice	Cherokee, Clay, Graham	40,000
4	Columbus County Community Health Services, Inc.	Bladen, Columbus	40,000
5	Duplin Medical Association	Duplin, Onslow, Pender, Sampson	40,000
6	Givens Estates / MY Meds	Mitchell, Yancey	40,000
7	Henderson County Free Medical Clinic (dba The Free Clinics)	Henderson	40,000
8	Hot Springs Health Program	Alexander, Forsyth, Madison, New Hanover, Wayne	40,000
9	Mission Healthcare Foundation	Buncombe	46,844
10	MooreHealth, Inc.	Moore	40,000
11	Mt. Olive Family Medicine Center	Duplin, Sampson, Wayne	40,000
12	Penslow Health Clinic	Onslow	40,000
13	Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center	Bertie, Gates, Hertford, Northampton	40,000
14	Warren County Free Clinic	Warren, Vance	70,876
15	Wilkes Regional Medical Center	Wilkes	40,000
Total Amount Awarded			\$ 637,720