

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Feb. 11, 2008**

**NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Awards Grant to  
Guilford County Department of Public Health**

*Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue to announce \$1.6 million in grants to improve low-cost prescription drug access*

**(Greensboro, NC)** – Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue, chair of the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF), will announce \$1.6 million in grant awards for the Medication Assistance Program (MAP) at the Guilford County Department of Public Health on Wednesday in Greensboro. The Guilford County Department of Public Health is one of 40 recipients that were awarded MAP grants by HWTF.

**Who:** HWTF Chair Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue; Merle Green, Health Director of the Guilford County Department of Public Health; Joy Southerland, Pharmacy Director; Mary Elizabeth Batten, MAP Program Director, a MAP program beneficiary and other state and local community leaders

**What:** NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund MAP IV Grants Announcement

**When:** Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 1 – 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Guilford County Department of Public Health, Room 416, located at 1100 E. Wendover Ave. in Greensboro.

HWTF initiated MAP in 2003 to help low income individuals with limited health insurance get access to the lowest-cost prescription drugs. MAP funding allows grantees to use specialized software to access free and reduced cost medications for their clients.

**ABOUT THE NC HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND:**

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) 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](http://www.HealthWellNC.com).

**ABOUT THE MEDICATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:**

While a number of programs exist to provide low-cost or free prescription drugs to low-income individuals, accessing these programs is often very difficult. To help people access these programs, the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) supports a network of medication assistance programs (MAP) to serve North Carolina's under- and uninsured. HWTF initiated MAP in January 2003 and has awarded more than \$17.8 million to 84 organizations. MAP grantees across the state represent many organizations, including: local agencies on aging, senior centers, health departments, hospitals, community health centers and health clinics.

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