

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2009

NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund announces \$2.7 million award of Medication Assistance Program grants

Raleigh, NC – The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) announced the award of more than \$2.7 million in grant funding to 46 organizations over two years for the continuation 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.

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.

“I am proud of the Medication Assistance Program, which has worked with pharmaceutical companies to help more than 64,000 patients navigate the health care system and receive more than \$209 million in free medications,” said Governor Bev Perdue, former HWTF Chair. “These grants will enable North Carolina’s low-income citizens to continue to get the medications they need.” HWTF awarded continued grant funding to these existing MAP projects in response to Governor Perdue’s budget proposal that recommended continued funding for this critical service.

To date, HWTF has invested more than \$21.5 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 North Carolina residents access more than 640,000 prescriptions, providing over \$209 million in free medications.

“The North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund is pleased that we are able to extend the funding for current Medication Assistance Program grantees,” said Vandana Shah, HWTF Executive Director. “These grant awards can continue to help residents who are struggling to make ends meet.”

The full list of grant awards can be viewed at: www.healthwellinc.com (click on “Funding Opportunities” in the upper right hand 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.

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

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HWTF Medication Assistance Program (MAP)
Phase IV Recertification Awards
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011

LOCAL & STATEWIDE GRANTS		COUNTIES SERVED	RECERTIFIED AMOUNT AWARDED
1	Albemarle Hospital Foundation	Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Pasquotank, Perquimans	\$60,000
2	Angel Medical Center	Macon	\$60,000
3	Ashe Memorial Hospital	Ashe	\$60,000
4	Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry	Buncombe	\$60,000
5	Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital	Harnett	\$60,000
6	Boomer Medical Center	Wilkes	\$60,000
7	Brunswick Senior Services, Inc.	Brunswick	\$60,000
8	Caldwell Senior Center, Inc.	Caldwell	\$60,000
9	Cape Fear Valley Medical Foundation, Inc. (CCMAP)	Cumberland, Harnett, Sampson	\$70,000
10	Carolina Family Health Centers, Inc. (Wilson Community)	Edgecombe, Nash, Wilson	\$60,000
11	Columbus County Department of Aging	Columbus	\$40,121
12	Community Care Center of Forsyth County (Community Care Center/ Doctors Care Inc.)	Davie, Forsyth, Stokes	\$60,000
13	Community Care Clinic of Rowan County	Rowan	\$60,000
14	Community Free Clinic of Cabarrus	Cabarrus	\$90,000
15	Crisis Control Ministry	Davie, Forsyth, Stokes	\$60,000
16	Diakonos, Inc. / Fifth Street Ministries	Iredell	\$60,000
17	FirstHealth of the Carolinas	Moore	\$60,000
18	Franklin County Volunteers in Medicine	Franklin	\$59,500
19	Gaston Family Health Services, Inc.	Gaston	\$60,000
20	Good Samaritan Clinic, Inc.	Burke	\$60,000
21	Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry	Catawba	\$60,000
22	Guilford County Department of Public Health	Guilford	\$60,000
23	HealthQuest of Union County, Inc.	Anson, Union	\$52,400
24	Helping Hands Clinic, Inc.	Caldwell	\$60,000
25	Hoke County Senior Services	Hoke	\$37,244
26	Hunger Coalition	Avery, Watauga	\$60,000

HWTF Medication Assistance Program (MAP)
Phase IV Recertification Awards
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011

LOCAL & STATEWIDE GRANTS		COUNTIES SERVED	RECERTIFIED AMOUNT AWARDED
27	Hyde County Health Department	Beaufort, Hyde	\$32,000
28	Isothermal Planning AAA	McDowell, Rutherford	\$70,000
29	Kinston Community Health Center, Inc.	Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pitt, Wayne	\$60,000
30	Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health Department	Washington, Martin, Tyrrell	\$60,000
31	Metropolitan Community Health Services	Beaufort, Pitt	\$60,000
32	New Hanover Regional Medical Center	Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender	\$49,070
33	Pender Adult Services, Inc.	Pender	\$59,252
34	Richmond County Health Department	Richmond	\$60,000
35	Rockingham County Health Dept	Rockingham	\$60,000
36	Saluda Medical Center, Inc.	Buncombe, Henderson, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania	\$59,997
37	Scotland Neck Family Medical Center	Halifax	\$60,000
38	Southeastern Regional Medical Center	Robeson	\$60,000
39	Surry County Senior Services	Surry	\$60,000
40	Thomasville Medical Center	Davidson	\$56,850
41	Transylvania County Volunteers in Medicine	Transylvania	\$60,000
42	Urban Ministries of Wake County, Inc.	Wake	\$60,000
43	Watauga Medical Center/ Appalachian Healthcare Project	Avery, Watauga	\$59,664
44	Wayne Action Group for Economic Solvency, Inc. (WAGES)	Duplin, Johnston, Lenoir, Wayne, Wilson	\$60,000
45	West Caldwell Health Council, Inc.	Alexander, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Watauga, Wilkes	\$60,000
46	WestCare, Inc.	Haywood, Jackson, Swain	\$60,000
Total Request for Phase IV Recertification			\$2,716,098