

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Robeson Health Care Corporation Awarded Grant from the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund**

*Model Project Strives to Improve Diabetes Education and Management*

**Raleigh, NC** – The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) is announcing the award of \$326,699 in grant funding over a 30-month period to the Robeson Health Care Corporation (RHCC) as part of its Health Disparities Initiative. HWTF Commission Chair Lt. Governor Bev Perdue presented the grant to RHCC in a special ceremony today. The grant funds will be used to improve the coordination of preventive and chronic care for people with diabetes.

“Regardless of who we are or where we’re from, we all deserve high quality health care,” said Lt. Governor Bev Perdue, HWTF Commission Chair. “Eliminating health disparities is critical to building a healthier Robeson County and a healthier North Carolina.”

RHCC’s initiative will include outreach to patients that are not making regular visits to receive services to manage their diabetes, as well as monitoring, evaluation, and a plan for continuous quality improvement. Such services are expected to prevent many of the secondary problems that can arise from diabetes, such as neuropathy, amputations or blindness.

An estimated 1.4 million people in North Carolina have diabetes or pre-diabetes. Since over a third of NC adults have never had a diabetes blood test, many of those with pre-diabetes are not aware of their condition. The death rate from diabetes among African Americans (175 per 100,000) is over twice that of whites (83 per 100,000), and American Indians also have a much higher death rate (149 per 100,000) than whites.

### **About the Health Disparities Initiative**

The HWTF Commission has allocated over \$12.6 million to address the growing problem of health disparities in North Carolina through its Health Disparities Initiative. This initiative provides grants to community-based organizations who aim to reduce health disparities. For more information, visit.

[http://www.healthwellinc.com/hwtfc/htmlfiles/fundprty\\_healthdisparities.htm](http://www.healthwellinc.com/hwtfc/htmlfiles/fundprty_healthdisparities.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](http://www.HealthWellNC.com).*

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