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September 24, 2009
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Gov. Perdue Announces Launch of Rural Hope

Nearly \$3.9 million in funding awarded for improvements to rural health care facilities

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue today joined the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, the Golden LEAF Foundation, and the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) in announcing the first phase of grant awards for Rural Hope, a rural health care initiative designed to enable better health care delivery and job creation by assisting in the construction and expansion of rural health care facilities.

“In many areas of our state, rural hospitals and health care facilities work on tight budgets to serve their communities. Rural Hope will ease the burden by bringing health care and jobs to rural communities across North Carolina,” said Perdue. “I commend the North Carolina Rural Center, the Golden Leaf Foundation and the Health and Wellness Trust Fund for working together to support this initiative and making sure our citizens receive the help they need.”

The Rural Hope grant awards are funded by the Rural Center (\$3,032,500), the Golden LEAF Foundation (\$560,000) and the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (\$226,366), and range from \$32,500 to \$480,000, totaling \$3,818,866 for the 24 grants awarded. The grant application required that at least one new job be located in the project building for every \$12,000 in grant funds received, resulting in the creation of 310 new jobs. Application requirements also specified that grants be matched by at least an equal amount of private and/or public funds.

“The Golden LEAF Foundation is committed to supporting the growth and quality of rural health care, as it is a vital part of the infrastructure necessary for rural communities to attract companies and citizens,” said Dan Gerlach, Golden LEAF president. “The Foundation has made significant investments in the industry, including these six grants that benefit North Carolinians from Murphy to Kinston.”

Priority for Rural Hope was given to small towns with a population of less than 5,000 and unincorporated areas, and eligible health care facilities included: hospitals, urgent care centers, physician offices, hospice care, aging centers, mental health providers, physical therapy providers, free clinics, rural and community health centers, dental care, vision care and safety net providers.

“Providing health care access to vulnerable and underserved populations is core to the mission of the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund,” said Vandana Shah, HWTF executive director, “and we are pleased to be part of this effort.”

The Rural Center has announced it will accept a second round of applications under its Rural Health Care Initiative, bringing its investment in health care facilities to \$6 million. Applications will be due December 1 for awards to be made in February.

“These grants continue our 22-year history of helping rural communities improve their economies and their quality of life,” said Billy Ray Hall, Rural Center president. “We’re especially pleased that this program does both, by creating jobs that are desperately needed and at the same time increasing access to health care that has been short supply in too many rural communities.”

About the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center:

The N.C. Rural Economic Development Center is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to develop sound economic strategies that improve the quality of life in rural North Carolina, with a special focus on individuals with low to moderate incomes and communities with limited resources. The center operates a multifaceted program that includes conducting research into rural issues; testing promising rural development strategies; advocating for policy and program innovations; and building the productive capacity of rural leaders, entrepreneurs and community organizations. For more information, visit www.ncruralcenter.org. Contact Melody Adams for more information on the Rural Center’s Rural Health Care Initiative: 919-250-4314 or madams@ncruralcenter.org.

About the Golden LEAF Foundation:

The Golden LEAF Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1999 to help transform North Carolina’s economy. The foundation receives one-half of North Carolina’s funds from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement with cigarette manufacturers and places special emphasis on assisting tobacco-dependent, economically distressed and/or rural communities across the state. The Golden LEAF Foundation works in partnership with governmental entities, educational institutions, economic development organizations and nonprofits to achieve its mission. The foundation has awarded 825 grants totaling more than \$393 million since its inception. For more information, or to learn more about applying for a grant, visit www.goldenleaf.org or call (888) 684-8404.

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, county served, # of jobs created and award amounts.

Grantees	County Served	# of Jobs Created	Description	Rural Center	HWTF	Golden LEAF
Alleghany County	Alleghany	3	Ashley Weeks Dentistry has reused a vacant building in Sparta to start-up a full time dental practice.	\$36,000		
Ashe County Government	Ashe	3	Ashe Memorial Hospital will renovate a portion of their existing facility to add Magnetic Resonance Imaging Scanner (MRI) services.		\$36,000	
Ashe County Government	Ashe	30	Ashe County Services for the Aging will construct a 55- bed Adult Care Home with an Alzheimer and Dementia Wing	\$360,000		
Benson Area Medical Center	Johnston	5	Benson Area Medical Center will renovate a portion of their current location to accommodate a new physician, a pharmacist and three support staff.			\$60,000
Caldwell Memorial Hospital	Caldwell	8	Caldwell Memorial Hospital will renovate and upfit an adjacent office to expand its digital imaging department. Caldwell Memorial Hospital will renovate and upfit an adjacent office building to expand its digital imaging department.			\$96,000
Camden County	Camden	14	Todd's Pharmacy and Albemarle Family Practice will expand into an existing shell building to create 7 new jobs each.	\$168,000		
Cherokee County	Cherokee	40	Industrial Opportunities I will construct a 22,000 sq. ft. addition to expand its manufacturing operation to employ people with mental, physical and intellectual impairments.	\$480,000		
City of Roxboro	Person	6	Roxboro Family Medicine will renovate a vacant building to expand their practice.	\$72,000		
City of Roxboro	Person	10	Roxboro MedAccess Urgent Care will expand in its current location to add primary care services	\$120,000		
City of Washington	Beaufort	10	Metropolitan Housing & CDC, Inc. will construct a 50-bed assisted living facility.	\$120,000		
Cleveland County	Cleveland	28	Pathways Mental Health will construct a new 16-bed Detoxification/Crisis unit in Shelby.	\$336,000		
County of Lenoir	Lenoir	40	Nova Behavioral Healthcare will build an 18-bed residential Psychiatric treatment facility.	\$480,000		
County of Pender	Pender	12	PORT Human Services will construct a new campus to expand its substance and mental health services in Burgaw.	\$144,000		
Franklin County	Franklin	4	Zollieville Rest Home will renovate and expand its current space to add more patient beds.	\$48,000		

Grantees	County Served	# of Jobs Created	Description	Rural Center	HWTF	Golden LEAF
Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital	Surry	7	Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital will renovate its facility and construct new space to expand its emergency department.			\$84,000
Kinston Community Health Center	Lenoir	8	Kinston Community Health Center will reconfigure its medical office to accommodate additional patients and services. A total of 8 new employees, including three physicians, will be hired within two years.			\$100,000
Sampson Regional Medical Center	Sampson	10	Sampson Regional Medical Center will construct a new facility in Plainview/Spivey's Corner to create a rural health center			\$120,000
Snug Harbor Management LLC	Carteret	3	Snug Harbor Management will renovate its facility to create a 10-room Special Care Unit for Assisted Living Alzheimer patients.	\$32,500		
Town of Franklin	Macon	5	Angel Medical Center will reuse a vacant building to expand and create Angel Physicians Services.		\$60,000	
Town of Hudson	Caldwell	20	Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care will construct a new facility to expand their hospice services.	\$240,000		
Town of Murphy (HWTF) / Murphy Medical Center (GLF)	Cherokee	7	Murphy Medical Center will renovate an off-campus building to create a new hospital-owned Urgent Care Center and Family Practice.		\$84,000	\$100,000
Town of Warsaw	Duplin	4	Goshen Medical Center will expand its existing medical clinic to add between 4-9 new jobs.		\$46,366	
Town of Williamston	Martin	3	Martin General Hospital will renovate a vacant building for reuse as a physician's office.	\$36,000		
Vance County	Vance	30	Rural Health Group will renovate a vacant building to create two family practice suites, two behavioral health offices, a dental office, a patient education room and administrative offices.	\$360,000		

Total Awarded	310	\$3,818,866	\$3,032,500	\$226,366	\$560,000
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