

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 21, 2008**

**NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund announces the availability of \$24 million in grant funding to reduce tobacco use among NC teens**

**Raleigh, NC** – The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) announces the availability of \$24 million in grant funding over three years to reduce tobacco use among North Carolina teens.

“Stopping teens from smoking today will save lives tomorrow,” said Lt. Governor Perdue. “Raising awareness about tobacco’s dangers, lowering use through prevention and helping current smokers quit, are critical steps towards creating North Carolina’s first tobacco-free generation.”

Starting today, HWTF will accept applications from eligible organizations that seek to prevent youth initiation of tobacco use; promote tobacco use cessation among youth; eliminate youth exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke; and eliminate health disparities among minority youth or other youth populations identified with tobacco-related health disparities.

Since HWTF began funding prevention efforts in 2003, middle school smoking in NC has dropped by 51.6% and high school smoking has dropped by 30.4%. This translates into 34,000 fewer teen smokers in our state since 2003. In 2007, 80% of NC middle school students and 51% of high school students had never tried smoking – not even a puff.

Grant proposals will be accepted from current HWTF grantees as well as organizations not currently receiving HWTF funding. Organizations eligible to receive the grant include:

- A state agency
- A local government or other political subdivision of the state, or a combination of such entities
- A nonprofit organization which has a significant purpose promoting the public’s health, limiting youth access to tobacco products, or reducing the health consequences of tobacco use

Interested applicants can obtain a copy of the Request for Proposal and other application materials by visiting HWTF’s web site at [www.healthwellnc.com](http://www.healthwellnc.com). **Final applications must be received by October 1, 2008.**

**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](http://www.HealthWellNC.com).*

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