

**Legislative Priorities
Of the
NC Minority Health Advisory Council
2007-2009 Biennium**

(Adopted February 14, 2007)

Community Focused Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (CFEHDI)

Funds to support the Community Focused Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (CFEHDI) which focuses on the use of prevention measures to support healthy lifestyles for faith-based and community-based organizations, local health departments and American Indian Tribes. Grants will be awarded to close the gap in the health status of African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and American Indians as compared to whites in the following areas: infant mortality, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, cancer, diabetes, homicides, and motor vehicle deaths.

\$3,000,000 FY 2007-08

\$3,000,000 FY 2008-09

Funds for Harm Reduction Program

Establish legislation to authorize the State Health Director and local boards of health to implement three community based harm reduction programs as part of a comprehensive Hepatitis C and HIV disease prevention program. Services include, but are not limited to, access to sterile syringes, case management, outreach, transportation, and referrals for housing and medical care.

\$550,000 FY 2007-08

\$550,000 FY 2008-09

Funds for Interpreter Services

Funds to hire qualified interpreters based in local health departments in the state to ensure public health compliance to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which requires agencies receiving federal funding to provide language services for Limited English Proficient clients. Also, funds may be used by local health departments to provide incentives to recruit and hire bilingual staff and train interpreters.

\$5,000,000 FY 2007-08

\$5,000,000 FY 2008-09

Funds for Diabetes Prevention

Provide funding to establish or expand community education, outreach, and support activities for diabetes control and prevention, with a special emphasis on reaching populations disproportionately impacted by the disease.

\$1,000,000 FY 2007-08

\$1,000,000 FY 2008-09

Diabetes Education Umbrella

Funds to support a diabetes education umbrella to be located in the state health director's office. Funds may be used to create positions for an American Dietetic Association (ADA) registered dietitian and registered nurse to provide oversight of local health departments' diabetes education programs to meet ADA requirements and receive reimbursement.

\$165,000 FY 2007-08

\$165,000 FY 2008-09

Infant Mortality Reduction

- Funds to continue efforts to reduce preterm births through the use of hormone progesterone therapy to decrease their risk of having another preterm baby. Funds will be used to increase access to the therapy for low-income women.

\$300,000 NR FY 2007-2008

- Funds to strengthen Sudden Infant Death Syndrome risk reduction efforts and to launch a statewide, ongoing "Safe Sleep Campaign".

\$300,000 FY 2007-2008

\$300,000 FY 2008-2009

Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

MHAC supports the recommendations of the Justus Warren Task Force. Visit the Task Force website located at www.startwithyourheart.com.

Increase in Cigarette Tax

MHAC supports a .75 per pack increase in the cigarette tax with a portion of the revenues to be used to reduce tobacco related illness and conditions.

Dental School

MHAC supports the establishment of the East Carolina University School of Dentistry.