

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

(Approved April 4, 2008)

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.

The Council recommends the following expansion

\$2,500,000R – 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. The Council supports the recommendation of the Public Health Task force to support 1 FTE for each of the 85 local health departments.

The Council recommends the following expansion

\$2,600,000R – 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.

The Council recommends the following expansion

\$1,500,000R - FY 2008-09

Funds for Pediatric Diabetes Education and Prevention

Provide funding to support and expand community-based pediatric education and prevention programs.

The Council recommends the following expansion

\$500,000R - FY 2008-09

**R – Recurring funds
NR – Non-Recurring**

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.

The Council recommends the following expansion

\$97,000R - FY 2008-09

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

The Council recommends the following expansion

\$250,000NR - FY 2008-09

Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

- **Stroke Public Awareness** - Provides funding for a stroke public awareness campaign, a Survey of gaps and needs in the prevention and treatment of stroke, and to continue to the Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Task force.

The Council recommends the following expansion

\$360,000R – FY 2008-09

- **Reduce the Leading Causes of Death** - Provide funds to reduce the leading causes of death by expanding patient self-management of the risk factors associated with injury, cancer, heart disease, stroke and asthma including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and tobacco cessation across the state.

The Council recommends the following expansion

\$5,237,000R – FY 2008-09

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.

Accurate Race and Ethnicity Data

MHAC supports efforts to improve the accuracy of reporting race and ethnicity data from all health providers in the state. This would allow the state to identify community specific health disparities and effectively and efficiently address those inequities.