

# News Release

September 27, 2011

Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County  
117 S. Main Street, Dayton, Ohio  
Public Information Office 937.225.4403  
Contact Person 937.266.0150

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Public Health Awarded \$180,000 to Help Create Healthier Communities

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Today, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County was awarded a grant of \$180,000 to be used for improving community-wide health systems and for developing a Community Transformation Implementation Plan (sometimes called a health improvement plan) for Montgomery County.

The health improvement plan will enhance Montgomery County's capacity to implement policy, environmental, program and infrastructure changes designed to reduce obesity rates, decrease tobacco use and the incidence of heart disease and stroke by a minimum of 5% over the next five years.

**Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County was the only health department in the State of Ohio to receive this grant.** In the United States, chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are the leading causes of death, disability, and health care costs, accounting for 70% of all deaths each year and 75% of all medical costs. Although chronic diseases are among the most common and costly health problems in the country, they are also among the most preventable.

Montgomery County Health Commissioner Jim Gross explained, "We are very proud to be recognized by the federal government for our on-going efforts to make county-wide changes to health systems and build area-wide coalitions to improve the health of our citizens." "We are honored to be leading the efforts to pull together many health-related agencies and community partners to address the health issues that are killing us and causing preventable illness and suffering," he stressed.

#### **Background:**

Nationwide, the Community Transformation Grants will focus on three priority areas: tobacco-free living; active living and healthy eating; and evidence-based quality clinical and other

preventive services, specifically prevention and control of high blood pressure and high cholesterol. There are two types of grants for states and communities: capacity building and implementation.

- 35 grantees will implement evidence-based and practice-based programs to achieve changes by running programs designed to help improve health and wellness. For these grants, funding amounts range from \$500,000 to \$10 million.
- 26 grantees will work to build capacity to implement changes by laying a solid foundation for community prevention efforts to ensure long-term success. Funding amounts range from \$147,000 to \$500,000 depending on population size and scope of project.

This grant is a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS's) Community Transformation Grants to support public health efforts to reduce chronic diseases, promote healthier lifestyles, reduce health disparities, and control health care spending.

Overall, HHS awarded approximately \$103 million in prevention grants to 61 states and communities, reaching more than 120 million Americans. The Community Transformation Grants will support the planning and implementation of state and community projects proven to reduce chronic diseases—such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and cancer.

Funding awards are distributed among state and local government agencies, tribes and territories, and state and local non-profit organizations. Awards went to grantees in 36 states, including seven tribal organizations, and the Republic of Palau.

Over 20 percent of grant funds will be directed to rural and frontier areas. The grants are expected to run for five years, with projects expanding their scope and reach over time as resources permit.