

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County Accepting Proposals for Healthy Communities Grant Program

The Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County (HWFPC) is now accepting applications for its 2011 Healthy Communities Grant Funding Cycle. The Healthy Communities Grant was established to fund health and wellness programs, services, resources and educational opportunities to Pike County, Illinois residents and those seeking services within health Pike County.

The Foundation's 2011 grant cycle will begin June 01, 2011 and will culminate September 2011 when grantee selections will be announced. Grant awardees are selected by the Foundation's Board of Directors on the basis of projects addressing the most urgent health needs identified in Pike County or projects best meeting HWFPC's funding priorities. There is no funding cap on the grant request and multiple year proposals will be considered.

Focus Areas

HWFPC will focus its grant making and initiatives in three strategic areas:

- **Improving lives through better healthcare.** HWFPC supports organizations engaged in disease prevention, treatment, therapy and patient education.
- **Enriching lives through healthier communities.** HWFPC supports organizations in Pike County that are working toward providing health and

human services to those in need, particularly: at-risk children and youth, senior citizens, and underserved populations.

- **Empowering lives through better health education.** The foundation supports improving access to comprehensive and accurate health educational resources and learning opportunities.

Program Guidelines

Proposals that addressing health and wellness needs and that exhibit values consistent with the goals and mission of the Foundation will be accepted. Among the program areas that will be considered for funding include: direct delivery of health/wellness services, health education programs, screenings and evaluations, technical assistance, public awareness activities, capacity building including training and staff development. Priorities for grant consideration include: addressing identified critical needs within Pike County's population, projects that have a high level of impact on health and wellness within the county, initiatives that demonstrate a high level of collaboration among organizations, and/or those proposals that match a donor's intent or meet a specific Foundation priority.

To be eligible for the Healthy Communities Grant an organization must be a tax-exempt not-for-profit entity which benefits residents of or those seeking services with in Pike County, Illinois. All submissions will be reviewed by Foundation's Board of Directors to assure proposals are consistent with the mission of the Foundation and adhere to Foundation guidelines. Individuals serving on the current Board of Directors include: Dr. James Grote - Chairman, Mike Kinscherff - Vice Chair, Walker Filbert – Secretary/Treasurer, Trustees: William E. Shotts, Jonas Petty, Amy Gay and Sean Rennecker.

The Deadline for applications submission is August 31, 2011. Proposals that have been selected for grant funding will be announced September 2011. Not-for-profit health organizations may pick up applications by contacting Patricia McIntosh at the Foundation office in Pittsfield at 217-285-6080 or by email at ichcf@aol.com

Previous Grant Awardees

Since the foundations inception in 2003, they have awarded over \$500,000 in grant funding to projects solely benefitting Pike County. Among the projects previously funded by the Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County are: Operation Safe Kids, Rotary Anti-Drinking and Drug Program, Pike County Health and Resource Fair, Pike County Arthritis Walk, Barry Food Pantry, Pike County UnMet Needs, Pike County Drug Court, Mental Health Center of Western Illinois, Senior Expo, Pike County Food Pantry, Pittsfield High School Health Occupations Class, Access Illinois Food Project, Pittsfield Skate Park, Meals Plus for Seniors, County Community Health Partnership, and the Illini Community Hospital Expansion Program.

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