



NEWS RELEASE

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LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS AWARDED MINORITY HEALTH GRANT

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) has been awarded \$938,625 for a two year project from the Nebraska Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity. The project is a continuation of a Minority Health Initiative that began in 2005. The Minority Health Community Collaborative involves LLCHD, People's Health Center, Lancaster County Medical Society, Clinic With A Heart, Asian Community & Cultural Center, Clyde Malone Community Center, El Centro de Las Americas, and the Health Hub who partner to provide outreach to the medically underserved in the community and helps them receive health care.

“The ultimate goal of the project is to reduce health disparities from cardiovascular disease and diabetes with appropriate medical and dental care. A priority is to help the medically underserved establish a medical home at People's Health Center and a dental home at LLCHD or People's Health Center,” said David Humm, Chronic Disease Prevention Coordinator and project manager with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a leading public health problem in this country. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the cost of cardiovascular diseases in the United States, including health care expenditures and lost productivity from death and disability, is estimated to be more than \$503 billion in 2010. CVD encompasses all diseases of the heart and blood vessels, including heart disease, stroke, congestive heart failure, hypertension, and atherosclerosis. These conditions develop slowly through lifelong exposure to behavioral risk factors, tobacco use, physical inactivity and unhealthy diet.

Mr. Humm went on to say, “To reduce these risk factors, our collaborating partners work closely together to provide outreach to medically underserved minorities and ensure they receive culturally appropriate care, receive vital health screening, adopt healthy lifestyle behaviors, and help them establish a medical and dental home.” Having a regular doctor and dentist has a marked effect on increasing the likelihood that individuals will receive certain preventive services and have clinical follow-up for their health problems.