



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NH CCC to Support Local Organizations for Cancer Prevention and Treatment Programs in NH

CONCORD - The New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration (NH CCC) has awarded contracts to three local organizations to support projects that further key priorities for the Collaboration.

The recipients include:

- New Hampshire Colorectal Cancer Screening Program;
- Community Health Institute/John Snow Inc. (JSI), and;
- New Hampshire Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

“We are pleased to support three innovative projects addressing important areas for cancer prevention and treatment in New Hampshire,” said Nancy Kane, board chair for the NH CCC. “We believe that by coming together to coordinate our efforts, we can better reach our goal of eliminating the incidence and suffering due to cancer in our state.”

“Grandparents, Let’s Get Screened,” is the working title of the New Hampshire Colorectal Cancer Screening Program’s drive to increase screening in adults aged 65 and over in the state. Data shows that 62 percent of late-stage colorectal cancer in New Hampshire is diagnosed in those 65 and older. According to Dr. Stefan Holubar, a colorectal cancer surgeon at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, “It can be frustrating to remove what could have been potentially preventable advanced colon cancers in older patients who have never had their colonoscopy.”

According to state surveys, one of the primary reasons NH residents do not get screened is lack of knowledge about colorectal cancer. With the grant from the NH CCC, brochures, posters and letters will be developed and made available to New Hampshire organizations to inform and motivate people to be screened.

The award to the Community Health Institute/JSI of Bow will be used to help reduce smoking among participants in the Women Infant Children (WIC) program at Southern New Hampshire Services, Inc., in the Hillsborough and Rockingham county clinics. The program will be conducted in accordance with the U.S. Public Health Services' Clinical Practice Guideline on Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence.

In 2010, more than 20 percent of WIC participants in those counties continued to smoke during their pregnancy, compared to 13 percent of participants nationally. Studies show that a brief intervention by healthcare providers can increase tobacco cessation.

The Concord-based New Hampshire Hospice and Palliative Care Organization – through a program called “Promoting Earlier Access to End-of-Life Care” – hopes to improve access to better pain and symptom management in settings serving cancer patients. Among other tools, an educational video produced by the NH CCC and NHHPCO will be used to educate patients, families and healthcare providers on the availability of palliative care and hospice services.

The New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration, a program managed by the Foundation for Healthy Communities, was established in 2004 to address one of the leading causes of death in NH. The NH CCC developed the New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan to address the following priorities: preventing cancer by creating environments that support a healthy lifestyle, increasing early detection of cancer through screening, improving the treatment of cancer and quality of life for people living with cancer, and reporting on the latest cancer research. For more information about the NH CCC and the NH Cancer Plan, visit www.NHCancerPlan.org.

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