

# Grant will allow agency to help area Hispanics cope with AIDS/HIV

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD  
THE CHRONICLE

Imagine moving to a country where you didn't speak the native language. How would you land a job? How would your children adapt in school? What happens if you get sick? Even worse, what happens when you or a family member develops a terminal illness and you aren't aware that you are ill until it's too late? You are not yet a legal citizen of this country and there are laws to learn and insurance to obtain in spite of the language barrier. What would you do?

AIDS Care Service in Winston-Salem has decided to address this problem that is a reality for the local Latino community, where AIDS is rapidly on the rise. The Duke Endowment, the largest philanthropic foundation in the state, will allot \$42,000 to the Forsyth Medical Center Foundation to give to a Spanish-speaking outreach project of AIDS Care Service so that Hispanic residents will have access to medical and social services.

The outreach project was proposed by AIDS Care Service because, according to statistics from the medical community, Spanish speakers rarely get tested for HIV or diagnosed as HIV-positive until serious symptoms have developed. If diagnosed and treated in early enough stages of the disease, HIV-positive patients can add more years to their lives.

Funds from the Duke Endowment will be used to hire a bilingual outreach worker, who will be responsible for contacting local HIV-positive Latino people and their families. AIDS Care Services Executive Director Larry Roth says that although the outreach worker will be faced with quite a challenge in establishing relationships with the Latino community in determining who is at risk for HIV/AIDS infection, which is essentially a secret, the impact of the efforts in saving and prolonging lives for HIV-positive/AIDS patients will be tremendous.

"This person (outreach worker) is going to have a lot of obstacles to overcome. There's a lot of stigma in the Spanish-speaking community that surrounds people with AIDS. People are still not out in the open about having a diagnosis like that," said Roth, who said many people are living with this disease and unaware of their condition.

Factors such as a language barrier, the stigma about AIDS and a common mistrust of the



Jolly



Roth

government, along with secrecy, are what Roth blames for the escalating number of people with AIDS in the Latino community. Many people fear being reported to the government regarding their immigration status once they go to the doctor for routine check-ups.

But that is not the case, according to Roth, who says that 80 percent of the Hispanic population seeking medical attention already has full-blown AIDS after waiting too long to go to a doctor to be tested or treated. When the general population seeks medical attention, 80 percent has not yet developed AIDS, which means the case is very treatable.

Although research and studies on AIDS are ongoing, Roth indicated that the government's statistics cannot be trusted because they reflect numbers of only reported AIDS cases. Not everyone who is diagnosed with AIDS reports his or her case and not everyone who in fact has AIDS gets diagnosed. Roth and agencies such as AIDS Care prefer to rely on statistics from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), which has estimated there are between 900,000 and 1 million (1 out of 280 people) AIDS cases in the country.

"The sole purpose of this grant is to reach out to these people and let them know that they can get services without blowing their whole lives out of the water and let them know we are here to help," Roth said. "Our hope is the outreach worker will have enough of a reputation personally that people will begin to trust us and understand that we are here to help and that is all we want to do."

Whether it's case management, food, medical attention, sick housing or pharmacy needs, AIDS Care is willing to assist the various needs of people in the beginning stages and final days of living with HIV/AIDS.

Roth and the rest of the staff at AIDS Care are very excited

about the opportunity to reach out to members of the local Latino community, particularly those who are at risk for HIV/AIDS infection.

Christine Jolly, associate director for programs and personnel for AIDS Care Service, is busy reviewing resumes of potential candidates to fill the outreach worker position. Jolly hopes to develop a solid and well-rounded description of services that will be needed from this future outreach worker by working closely with HIV/AIDS care-givers and social workers in the community.

"We're hearing that a lot of the Latino population in the community are very uneducated about HIV. They need somebody to walk them through the systems and say, 'You need to go down to this clinic and get a doctor's appointment or get this medication.' They need introduction to the services that are already available," said Jolly, who explained that a good portion of the outreach worker's time may be initially spent educating the community about the disease and lifestyle prevention tactics.

"It's a very uncharted area that we are getting ready to go into but it's very exciting because we have a lot of support, especially from the hospitals, care-givers and the Hispanic community and Hispanic coalition because they realize that it's a service that they need."

Once the outreach worker is hired and the Latino AIDS project continues to develop, Jolly says bilingual volunteers will be much needed at AIDS Care Service to follow up and make sure they are in fact getting the services they need as well as to provide support to people in their final days.

For more information on AIDS Care Service Inc. or becoming a bilingual volunteer, call 777-0116.

## NOTICE MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED FIRMS

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is seeking minority and women-owned firms (M/WBE) to bid on upcoming highway projects throughout the State. The Locations of the projects are:

Project No.	County/Route	Type	Location	Metric/English	GOALS BY PERCENT		
					DBE	MBE	WBE
7.1621100	Carteret Jones Pamlico	Resurfacing and pavement markings	4 sections of NC-55 and 30 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
8.1360901	Franklin	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over Red Bud Creek and approaches on NC-58 near Nash County Line	Metric	10%		
6.402042T	Wake	Resurfacing, shoulder reconstruction and pavement markings	15 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.3511333	Durham	Resurfacing, shoulder reconstruction and pavement markings	1 section of NC-157 and 7 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.3611330	Franklin	Resurfacing, shoulder reconstruction and pavement markings	1 section of NC-56, 2 sections of NC-39 and 5 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.3711329	Granville	Resurfacing, shoulder reconstruction and pavement markings	2 sections of NC-96 and 2 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.3811332	Person	Resurfacing, shoulder reconstruction and pavement markings	1 section of NC-57, 1 section of US-158 and 6 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.3921327	Vance	Resurfacing, shoulder reconstruction and pavement markings	1 section of US-158 business and 6 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.4111328	Warren	Resurfacing, shoulder reconstruction and pavement markings	2 sections of US-1 and 6 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.4221177	Bladen Columbus Robeson	Shoulder widening, resurfacing and pavement markings	14 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.4411178	Cumberland Hamett	Shoulder widening, milling, resurfacing and pavement markings	1 section of NC-210, 2 sections of NC-27, 1 section of US-301 and 24 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
8.2481102	Caswell	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over Country Line Creek and approaches on SR-1597 near Yanceyville	Metric	10%		
8.7349050	Guilford	Pedestrian bridge	US-29 at SR-2835	English	10%		
8.7358003	Richmond	Widening, grading, drainage and paving	US-74 (Broad Street) from US-1 to US-220 and US-220 from US-74 to Green Street	English	10%		
7.5211048	Hoke	Resurfacing and pavement markings	7 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.5421049	Lee	Resurfacing and pavement markings	4 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.5511047	Montgomery	Resurfacing shoulder reconstruction and pavement markings	1 section of NC-73, 1 section of NC-109 Bypass and 6 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.5611050	Moore	Resurfacing shoulder reconstruction and pavement markings	2 sections of NC-73, 2 sections of NC-2427, 1 section of US-220 and 38 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.5711059	Randolph	Milling and resurfacing	1 section of NC-42, 5 sections of NC-22, 3 sections of US-220 and 38 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.5811050	Richmond	Milling, resurfacing, shoulder reconstruction and pavement markings	2 sections of US-220, 1 section of US-74 business, 1 section of NC-73 and 9 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.5911042	Scotland	Milling, resurfacing, shoulder reconstruction and pavement markings	4 sections of US-74 and 12 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
8.2610502	Davie	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over Bear Creek and approaches on SR-1147	English	8%		
8.2640701	Stokes	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	RC box culvert at Big Creek and approaches SR-1400	English	9%		
7.6011197	Davidson	Milling, resurfacing and pavement markings	2 sections of NC-109, 5 sections of NC-68, 1 section of NC-47, 2 sections of US-29 Business and 23 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.6221198	Forsyth	Shoulder widening, milling, resurfacing and pavement markings	1 section of NC-67 and 32 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.6311199	Rowan	Milling, resurfacing and pavement markings	1 section of NC-801, 2 sections of US-52, 5 sections of US-29 and 25 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.6411200	Stokes	Resurfacing and pavement markings	1 section of NC-704 and 4 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
6.691003R	Union	Resurfacing and guardrail	US-601 from South Carolina state line to 1.6 miles south of US-74 in Monroe	English		5%	3%
7.6611235	Cabarrus	Milling, shoulder reconstruction, resurfacing and pavement markings	4 sections of NC-73, 3 sections of NC-136 and 9 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
7.6811237	Stanly	Shoulder reconstruction, resurfacing and pavement markings	1 section of NC-740, 1 section of US-52 South and 10 sections of secondary roads	English		8%	4%
5.702112M	Surry Watauga Ashe, Avery, Wilkes Caldwell	Resurfacing (AST, triple seal)	93 sections of secondary roads	English		5%	3%
7.7011240	Alleghany Ashe	Resurfacing	1 section of NC-18, 1 section of US-21, 3 sections of US-221, 1 section of NC-194, 1 section of US-221 Business and 8 sections of secondary roads	English		5%	3%
7.7021245	Ashe, Surry Yadkin	Resurfacing	63 sections of secondary roads	English		0%	0%
7.7211241	Avery Watauga	Resurfacing	3 sections of US-19E and NC-194, 1 section of NC-181 and NC-221 and US-421, 2 sections of NC-105 and 8 sections of secondary roads	English		5%	3%
7.7411243	Surry Yadkin	Milling and resurfacing	1 section of US-52 SBL, NC-89, US-21 Business/US-21 and NC-67, 2 sections of US-601, 4 sections of US-21 Business and 20 sections of secondary roads	English		5%	3%

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7.7311242	Caldwell Watauga Wilkes	Milling and resurfacing	Various sections of US-321, NC-268, US-64/NC-90, NC-18, US-421 Business, NC-16 and 20 sections of secondary roads	English		5%	3%
8.1801401	Cleveland	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over first Broad River and approaches on NC-10 near Polkville	Metric	10%		

\*\*\* MONDAY, February 18, 2002 6 PM - MIDNIGHT \*\*\*

North Raleigh Hilton - 3415 Wake Forest Road - Raleigh, N.C.

LETTING DATE: February 19, 2002

Prime contractors will be available to receive quotes for trucking, sub-contracting and materials. M/WBE's needing more information and/or technical assistance may come to Room 522 to meet with representatives from the Bennington Corp., NCDOT's Supportive Services Provider. (919)832-6027

NCDOT Office of Civil Rights & Business Development 1-800-522-0453

Certification of highway contracting firms: Richard Chrisawn  
 Certification of supply/service/engineering firms: Robert Mathes  
 Comments or concerns: Delano Rackard: Director



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