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ODH SEEKING VENDOR TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION PLAN FOR STIMULUS ACTIVITIES

Will provide additional transparency and oversight to Recovery Act funded programs

Columbus-The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) today announced that it is seeking Requests for Proposal for a certified minority business enterprise to develop and implement a comprehensive evaluation plan covering the physical activity, nutrition and tobacco-free programs implemented by ODH as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act *Communities Putting Prevention to Work* grant.

The selected vendor will receive \$200,000 in ARRA funding for this evaluation plan.

“In these tough economic times, we must be prudent and assess our spending habits to ensure we are getting the most out of every dollar,” said ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson M.D. “These recovery dollars are funding vital health improvement programs across the state and we are committed to making sure they are used appropriately.”

The selected vendor must be recognized as a certified minority business enterprise and will be expected to:

- Design and implement a comprehensive two-year evaluation plan following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *Six Step Evaluation Framework* for the selected intervention focus areas covered by ODH’s activities.
- Assist in the development of evaluation measures for all programs (physical activity, nutrition and tobacco) covered by the ARRA grant.
- Assist in the development of evaluation components for quarterly and final end-of-grant reports to assist in writing the final end of grant report.
- Conduct in-person meetings with ODH staff working on programs funded by the grant.

ODH is using the *Communities Putting Prevention to Work* funds to support physical activity, nutrition and tobacco-free initiatives across the state. These initiatives include promoting policies and strategies that will increase the amount of time children are physically active, implementing policies addressing breastfeeding-friendly initiatives and promoting access to healthy food choices in cafeterias and vending machines. The funds will also be used for tobacco-use prevention initiatives in Ohio schools and on college and university campuses.

Potential applicants are required to submit an “expression of interest” in applying for recovery funds on at www.recovery.ohio.gov by selecting the program category “Healthcare” and the subprogram “Physical Activity, Nutrition and Tobacco.” Applications are available for download at: <http://procure.ohio.gov/proc/viewProcOpps.asp?oppID=7648>. Only projects that have submitted both an initial summary and an application will be considered for funding.

Additional information on Ohio’s ARRA programs can be found on Ohio’s recovery act Web site www.recovery.ohio.gov.