



Cowlitz County Health Department

County Health Department
1952 9th Avenue
Longview, WA 98632-4045
TEL (360) 414-5599
FAX (360)425-7531
www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/health

News Release

For Immediate Release: October 3, 2011
Longview, WA 98632

Contact:
Janis Housden, PIO – 360-501-1213

Cowlitz County Health Department Receives Federal Grant Funds

Community Transformation Grant will support local chronic disease prevention

The Washington State Department of Health has been awarded \$3.2 million from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to reduce chronic disease and control health care costs. Cowlitz County is one of eleven Washington State counties that will receive a portion of these funds over a five-year period, through a federal “Community Transformation” grant to support community-level efforts to reduce chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes.

“This grant will strengthen our current efforts to address critical health issues facing Cowlitz County, including obesity, heart disease, cancer and diabetes” stated Carlos Carreon, Director of Cowlitz County Health and Human Services Departments. This funding represents an opportunity for the County to continue its public health-behavioral health integrated approach to local health issues and health care delivery.

“This funding provides our community a key opportunity to emphasize positive initiatives that support healthy eating, physical activity and emotional well being” reports Paul Youmans, Director of Pathways 2020, a sponsor of *Cowlitz on the Move* along with Cowlitz County Health and Human Services Departments.

Cowlitz County will partner closely with Clark County to coordinate with existing programs that are working to demonstrate changes in weight, proper nutrition, physical activity, tobacco use, and emotional wellbeing and overall mental health. These programs support access to physical activity, which includes supporting our Trails plans, healthy eating initiatives, and continuing work to establish “tobacco-free parks”. The work plan will focus on these areas with the addition of use of preventive screenings — primarily those that help prevent or control high blood pressure and high cholesterol. For more information about local health issues, see the community report card, “Cowlitz County Community Report Card 2010” on our webpage, www.cowlitz.wa.us/health/.

###