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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Florida Department of Health Awards \$72,455 for Breast Cancer and Mammography Education Grants

TALLAHASSEE - The Florida Department of Health (DOH) Division of Family Health Services awarded a total of \$72,455 to community demonstration projects focused on enhancing breast cancer awareness, informing women about availability of mammography services and assisting with the coordination of breast cancer treatment services. The following projects are being funded by the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant for the project period of March 2007 through June 30, 2007:

- Leon County Health Department
- Marion County Health Department
- **Pinellas County Health Department**

“On behalf of the Florida Department of Health, I congratulate the counties on receiving these grants and compliment them on their efforts to educate women about breast cancer,” said DOH Deputy Secretary for Health, State Public Health Nursing Director and State Women’s Health Officer Jean Kline, R.N., M.P.H. “Through the efforts of these organizations, I am optimistic that these projects will influence women to identify their level of risk, conduct frequent self breast exams, get yearly clinical breast exams and mammograms and seek treatment if diagnosed with breast cancer.”

The need for these projects is demonstrated from data found in the Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, which indicates that Black and Hispanic women have a significantly lower rate of ever having a mammogram compared to their white counterparts. These projects will focus on women ages 40-49 and/or racial and ethnic minorities affected disproportionately by breast cancer.

DOH recommends women have a mammogram screening every one to two years, beginning at age 40.

DOH promotes and protects the health and safety of all people in Florida through the delivery of quality public health services and promotion of health care standards. For more information, please visit the Florida Department of Health at www.doh.state.fl.us.

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