



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Public Health

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Health Department Receives \$350,000 FDA Food Safety Grant

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The Food and Drug Administration awarded the Cumberland County Department of Public Health a \$350,000 grant to fund the Environmental Health Division’s efforts to advance food safety and regulatory standards.

The FDA will distribute \$70,000 annually for the next five years to fund the Food and Lodging Section’s progress and review of program standards. The intended outcome is to advance efforts for an integrated food safety system and to conform to the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards, which define what constitutes a highly effective and responsive program for the regulation of foodservice and retail food establishments.

“We look forward to implementing the new FDA standards. Food safety is a priority to the citizens of Cumberland County and all visitors who dine here,” Environmental Health Director Daniel Ortiz said. “We are extremely excited to be selected as the first county in North Carolina awarded this prestigious grant from the FDA.”

The Retail Program Standards encourage regulatory agencies to improve and build upon existing programs and will apply to the Food and Lodging Section’s operation and management as it focuses on reducing risk factors known to cause or contribute to foodborne illness and promoting active managerial control of these factors.

The funding will support a new position focused on implementing the Retail Program Standards, specialized training of Environmental Health staff, as well as outreach and education to consumers and the retail food industry.

In December 2014, the Environmental Health Division received a \$10,000 grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials for the Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program, which ended in August.

For more information, contact Environmental Health Director Daniel Ortiz at 910-433-3688.

If you would like more information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health’s programs and services, health-related data, or community resources, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk, or visit our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health/commentsform.aspx. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. Fayetteville.

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