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Women's Health Services

**Women's Health Services, Tewa Women United and Young Women United Receive
HHS Office of Women's Health Federal Grant**

Women's Health Services (WHS), Tewa Women United, and Young Women United have received a one-year planning grant from the DHHS Office on Women's Health (OWH) to establish a **New Mexico Coalition for a Healthier Community** that reflects the diversity of women in the state. The Coalition is based on the NM Governor's Women Health Council and will expand its membership to mirror the grantee communities. The Coalition will apply for a five-year continuation DHHS grant mid-2011 and is working closely with other partners to build financial and structural sustainability.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office on Women's Health (OWH) launched a new gender-based national initiative entitled the *Coalition for a Healthier Community (CHC)*. It builds upon previous programs developed by OWH: the 48 Multidisciplinary Health Models for Women Sites throughout the US (1996-2007) and Advancing System Improvements to Support Targets for Healthy People 2010. The NM CHC was one of 16 selected organizations throughout various regions of the United States to begin the planning phase of the grant. This initiative will encourage collaborative efforts to help improve overall community health policies and gender-based health care programs for women.

For Phase I of this cooperative agreement, a total of \$1.6 million dollars was awarded nationally to organizations that use a collaborative approach with existing local coalitions. The selected coalitions across United States were each awarded \$100,000 for one year to support the planning of gender-based health interventions targeting women, girls, or both. During this phase, each coalition will work on two activities: to identify the health condition having the most adverse effect on the health and well-being of these populations in their community and to subsequently develop a strategy that will address the health condition.

These awards will help communities determine which chronic health conditions are most prevalent among their female residents, how to address the health needs of this population, and then implement a plan to improve health outcomes," said Frances Ashe-Goins, Acting Director for the Office on Women's Health.

About the funder and the NM grantees

Women's Health Services was established in 1973 in the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico and is a nationally recognized model for best practices in promoting the health and well-being of women. WHS specializes in translating cutting edge research into quality care for women and families. **Tewa Women United** is a collective intertribal women's voice in the Tewa homelands of Northern New Mexico and works to provide safe spaces for women to uncover the power, strength and skills they possess to become positive forces for change by addressing the complex issues facing their families and communities including but not limited to substance abuse, suicide, and domestic and sexual violence. **Young Women United** is an organization of young women of color and allies focused on changing the relations of power in Albuquerque. The group comes together to support each other, educate communities and selves and take action to reduce the violence, improve the health, and build the power of communities.

The Office on Women's Health (OWH) was established in 1991. OWH coordinates the efforts of all the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' agencies and offices involved in women's health. The office works to improve the health and well-being of women and girls in the U.S. through its programs, by educating health professionals, and motivating behavior change in consumers through the dissemination of health information.