



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH RECEIVES GRANT AWARD FROM NC MARCH OF DIMES

HICKORY, NC – Catawba County Public Health has received a North Carolina March of Dimes Grant Award to help encourage pregnant women to quit or abstain from smoking.

Educational materials purchased with grant funds will be made available to all women of childbearing age who receive care in the Prenatal and Women’s Health clinics and to Lamaze participants at Catawba County Public Health. Available in English and Spanish, the materials contain information about the harmful effects of smoking while pregnant and provide resources to help women quit smoking.

The March of Dimes cites that babies born to mothers who smoke are more likely to have complications such as birth defects and low birth weight. They also have a greater chance of being born prematurely, which can cause lifelong disabilities such as learning problems, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and even death.

“We are grateful to the March of Dimes for partnering with Catawba County Public Health to help improve birth outcomes,” said Sarah Lawson, Clinical Health Services Nursing Supervisor at Catawba County Public Health. “These materials will be especially helpful to women in Catawba County, because our percentage of babies born to mothers who smoke is higher than the North Carolina state average. We hope to change those statistics by helping women eliminate smoking’s harmful effects on themselves and their babies.”

For more information about this and other smoking cessation resources and programs in Catawba County, please contact Jennifer Shomaker, CHES, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator for Catawba County Public Health, at (828) 695-5843 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth.

The March of Dimes is a national nonprofit organization aimed at helping moms have full term babies and researching the problems that threaten the health of babies. For more information, please visit www.marchofdimes.com.



“Leading the Way to a Healthier Community”
www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth

