

RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AWARDED

The Florida Office of Rural Health recently awarded grants to five rural county health departments to conduct community needs assessment and development activities. The grants were provided by the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program to promote local awareness and involvement in identifying and addressing priority health needs in rural communities using the Mobilizing Action Through Planning & Partnership (MAPP) process. Over the past four years, a total of 21 of Florida's 33 rural counties have received funding under this program to identify local needs and priorities, and develop strategies to address community priorities.

Those rural county health departments awarded a grant in the 2008-09 funding cycle were Bradford, Glades, Hardee, Jefferson, and Union counties. Grants previously awarded in 2007-08 to four counties (Baker, Desoto, Highlands, and Levy,) were extended to allow them additional time to complete their MAPP activities.