



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE INNOVATIONS

Celebrating 30 Years of Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**CONTACT**

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BRHPC Awarded More than \$89,000 for Farmers Markets Network
One of 130 projects awarded nationwide for farmers, ranchers and new projects

HOLLYWOOD, Florida – September 21, 2012 – The US Department of Agriculture announced more than \$9 million in grants across 39 states for farmer support. The Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC) was awarded \$89,736 to create three new farmers markets and form a network of farmers and corresponding markets in areas within Broward County that have low access to healthy foods and are experiencing health disparities.

BRHPC's Transforming Our Community's Health (TOUCH) initiative works with community Partners, local farmers, urban gardeners, Farmers Markets and corner stores to increase awareness of the importance of having access to affordable, healthy and fresh foods throughout all of Broward.

"This award helps us bolster the "Active Living and Healthy Eating" strategy of the TOUCH initiative as it increases Broward County's ability to strengthen our local food system while expanding economic opportunities and improving access to healthy foods," said Michael De Lucca, President and CEO of BRHPC.

The TOUCH initiative, a 5-year Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Community Transformation Grant awarded in 2011, is working with more than 20 partners and coalitions to improve the health and well being of Broward County residents.

To learn more about the **TOUCH** initiative, strategies, partners and plans, contact: Teina Phillips, MPA (954)561-9681 Program Director TPhillips@brhpc.org. Information about Community Transformation Grants, can be found by visiting: www.cdc.gov/communitytransformation.

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About Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC) - Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc. (BRHPC) is a not-for-profit, established in 1983, under Florida Statute (408.033), as the legislatively designated Broward County local health planning entity. BRHPC is committed to delivering health and human service innovations for the uninsured at the national, state and local level through planning, development, implementation, evaluation and organizational capacity building. During the last several years, BRHPC has led statewide collaborative planning activities in partnership with the other ten Florida Local Health Planning Councils.

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