



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Department of Public Health

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## **Health Department Receives \$12,000 In Grants To Train Staff And Enhance Environmental Health Inspection Standards**

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health’s Environmental Health Division received two separate grants to help fund projects to enhance the department’s ability to meet the Food and Drug Administration’s Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards through staff development and mentorship programs.

Environmental Health was awarded \$2,000 from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) to pay for County Environmental Health staff to attend the Southeast Region Annual Food Safety Seminar Dec. 9-11 in Savannah, Ga. The training provided staff with information relative to the FDA’s Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards. The purpose of the training was to provide staff with information to conduct an assessment of the Health Department’s current status relative to the Program Standards and to begin implementing the standards.

Environmental Health also received a \$10,000 grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to go toward the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Retail Program Standards) Mentorship Program from December 2014 through August 2015. The County’s Environmental Health Division is one of 25 sites selected to collaborate and partner directly with NACCHO through support from the Food and Drug Administration. Cumberland’s Health Department has been matched with mentor Chatham County Health Department. Chatham County will provide guidance to conduct the self-assessment of Cumberland’s current status and standards. The funding will be used to purchase equipment to be used by the Food and Lodging section staff in conducting inspections, investigating complaints and performing surveillance. These job tasks will help staff reduce the risk of foodborne illness in the county. In addition, funding will be used to support operations and travel costs associated with participation in the mentorship program.

“This is a great opportunity for our environmental health section and the citizens of Cumberland County,” said Cumberland County Environmental Health Director Daniel Ortiz.

For more information, call 910-433-3660.

For additional information about NACCHO and FDA, go to [nacho.org/topics/environment/foodsafety/retail](http://nacho.org/topics/environment/foodsafety/retail) and [fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/RetailFoodProtection/ProgramStandards/default.htm](http://fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/RetailFoodProtection/ProgramStandards/default.htm)

*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#](http://co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#). Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at [co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment\\_form.aspx](http://co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx). The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.*