



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 16, 2015

Department of Public Health

Contact: Daniel Ortiz, Environmental Health Director

Telephone: 910-433-3688

E-mail: dortiz@co.cumberland.nc.us

Health Department Receives \$3,000 Inspector Training Grant

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health’s Environmental Health Division received a \$3,000 grant from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) to help enhance the department’s ability to meet the Food and Drug Administration’s Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards.

The grant paid for County Environmental Health Food and Lodging section staff to attend the Southeast Region Annual Food Safety Seminar held Nov. 30-Dec. 3 in Baton Rouge, La. The training will help staff as they continue to implement the Retail Program Standards. The standards apply to the operation/management of retail food regulatory programs focused on the reduction of risk factors known to cause or contribute to foodborne illness and to promote active managerial control of risk factors.

Staff who attended the seminar had the opportunity to learn about changes to regulations, policies, recommendations that impact retail food safety, and industry initiatives to enhance retail food safety. They also attended a variety of food safety training sessions including “Current Epidemiology of Norovirus Outbreaks and Strategies for Prevention” and “How in the World Can I Implement Active Managerial Control?”

“The additional training in food safety is always beneficial to our department and enhances our staff’s ability to better serve our community,” said Environmental Health Director Daniel Ortiz.

The Environmental Health Division received a \$350,000 grant from the Food and Drug Administration earlier this year to go toward the division’s Food and Lodging Progress and Review of Program Standards.

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, speak with someone at the information desk, or visit our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health/commentsform.aspx. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. Fayetteville.

-end-