

# Grant to help North Carolina improve public health service quality nationwide

NORTH CAROLINA RECEIVED A \$449,590 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to improve the quality of public health and prepare for national public health accreditation. The three-year grant, which became effective April 15, 2008, will be administered by the School's service arm—the N.C. Institute for Public Health.

The grant is part of a national program managed by the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) and the Public Health Leadership Society (PHLS).

North Carolina is one of 16 states chosen to participate in the program. The grant will support projects aimed at specific health out-

comes such as decreasing the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases or reducing the burden of illness due to tobacco or alcohol use.

“North Carolina is a leader in this national movement in public health known as accreditation,” says Dr. Edward L. Baker, NCIPH director and UNC professor of health policy and management, who will lead the project. “We are lucky in our state to have a strong partnership of the Institute, the state Division of Public Health and the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors working together in what is now known as the North Carolina Accreditation Learning Collaborative.”

To date, 34 counties and the state itself have passed strict performance standards to be accredited.

“North Carolina has demonstrated a commitment to improving the quality of its public health services and programs. North Carolina's work will lead the way as other local and state public health agencies across the nation prepare for accreditation and strive to create healthier communities,” says Dr. James S. Marks, senior vice president and director of the health group at RWJF.

For more information, visit [www.sph.unc.edu/nciphnews/servicequality.html](http://www.sph.unc.edu/nciphnews/servicequality.html). ■



Dr. Edward L. Baker