

# THE MATCH Project

Mobilizing Against Threats to Community Health

The MATCH Project is a joint initiative of the Arnold School of Public Health and the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities at the University of South Carolina. This project is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The focus of this initiative is to mobilize underserved and disenfranchised communities against the threat of new and emerging infectious diseases-particularly “zoonotic” or animal-borne diseases. The specific purpose of the MATCH Project is to prepare these communities for a possible pandemic.

## GOALS OF THE MATCH PROJECT

- To **better prepare underserved and disenfranchised communities** to respond to and recover from outbreaks of new and emerging infectious diseases
  - To **develop future community leaders** who work with and engage stakeholders to eliminate health disparities in new and emerging infectious disease preparedness
  - To better position Cooperative Extension Programs as **community resources** for new and emerging infectious disease preparedness
- And ultimately:
- To **eliminate differential preparedness** for new and emerging infectious diseases among underserved and disenfranchised communities

## OUR APPROACH

The MATCH Project is partnering with the **Extension Programs of the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions** to enhance public health preparedness at the community level and to address the convergence of animal and human health. This partnership will also foster **increased community preparedness** for new and emerging infectious diseases, **enhance collaboration** among community stakeholders in preparedness activities, and **increase awareness** of the unique needs of underserved and disenfranchised communities.

## PROJECT COMPONENTS

- A **capacity-building training program**, to be held in Atlanta, from October 8-11, 2007 that promotes community involvement and innovation.
- A **community-based project** to be developed by the participants in early 2008.
- A **capstone event** in July 2008 at which the results of the community projects are presented.

## OUR PARTNERS: THE 1890 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS



- Alabama A & M University
- Alcorn State University
- Delaware State University
- Florida A & M University
- Fort Valley State University
- Kentucky State University
- Langston University
- Lincoln University
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- North Carolina A & T State University
- Prairie View A & M University
- South Carolina State University
- Southern University and A & M College System
- Tuskegee University
- Tennessee State University
- University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
- Virginia State University
- West Virginia State University

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