



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Council of South Florida Selected by CDC, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and CDC Foundation to Represent Four (4) South Florida Communities in the 500 Cities Project

[Miami, Florida] (January 19, 2017) - The **Health Council of South Florida (HCSF)**, as data stewards for District 11: Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, was invited by the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** to attend the launch of the **500 Cities Project: Local Data for Better Health Conference** in Dallas, TX on December 6 – 7, 2016. This initial launch report includes four (4) cities in our community -- Miami Beach, City of Miami, Hialeah and Miami Gardens.

The **500 Cities Project** is a partnership between the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Population Health**, the **CDC Foundation**, and the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**, with the intent of providing city- and census tract-level small area estimates for chronic disease risk factors, health outcomes, and clinical preventive service use for the 500 largest cities in the United States.

Marisel Losa, HCSF President & CEO, states "The team is honored and humbled to have been selected to participate in this very important initiative. This project represents a first-of-its kind data analysis to release information on a large scale for cities and for small areas within cities. This system would complement existing surveillance data necessary to more fully understand the health issues affecting the residents of that city or census tract. The data will be available through a public, interactive "500 Cities" website that will allow users to view, explore, and download city- and tract-level data. In addition, access to the 500 cities data is available through our **Miami Matters** web platform as of February 2017. We look forward to engaging and informing the community on this important resource."

The HCSF will continue to provide updates on this project as more cities are added from our community. Click here to learn more about the **500 Cities Project**.

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The HCSF is one of eleven local health councils created by S 408.033 to coordinate health services planning across the state. Insofar as the Health Council of South Florida has determined that health services are and must be based on a foundation of ethics, our strategic goals emphasize reducing disparities in access to care, improving health promotion, and minimizing the effects of HIV/AIDS, with an emphasis on Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

For over 47 years, the Council has set the standard for excellence in health planning by serving as an objective source of healthcare information, fostering community dialogue on contemporary health issues and developing solutions for emerging health needs. As the preferred partner for strategic and community-based planning, the HCSF provides substantial benefits to the residents and health care providers in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. For more information, please visit www.healthcouncil.org.



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