

# COUNTY OF HYDE

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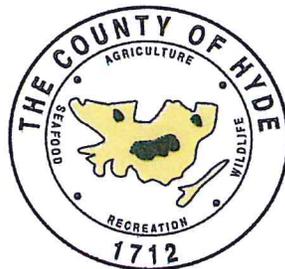
## Board of Commissioners

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April 24, 2013

Albemarle Regional Health Services  
Attn: Jill Jordan  
711 Roanoke Ave.  
P.O. Box 189  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909-0189

Dear Ms. Jordan,

Hyde County does intend on applying to the Community Transformation Grant Project under the Region 9 NCALHD Collaborative/ Cycle III. Hyde County is one of the oldest counties in North Carolina. Hyde County is located in the extreme east-central coastal plain of NC and includes mainland Hyde and Ocracoke Island. There are no incorporated townships in Hyde County, thus the county government serves as the sole local government entity of all Hyde County citizens. Hyde County is a rural Tier One economically disadvantage county with primary industries including farming and fishing.

The Hyde County Office of Planning and Economic Development will be preparing the grant application and carrying out all grant funded activities in conjunction with the Hyde County Recreation Committee. The Office of Planning and Economic Development consists of a Director and Planning Assistant. Auxiliary support will be provided by the Manager's Office, Finance Office and other offices under the Hyde County government umbrella.

The Hyde County Recreation Committee consists of two representatives from each of the five townships/villages located in Hyde County. The Recreation Committee was formed in 2000. The group worked with East Carolina University to create a Recreation and Parks Master Plan for Hyde County in 2002 and worked to build the Ponzer Community Building and Engelhard Community Park. Both community areas are still in use and have created opportunity for physical activity in both communities. The Recreation Committee is continuing to work diligently to create more physical activity opportunities across the county.

One of the Hyde County Recreation Committee's primary goals is to increase access to physical activity and recreational opportunities for community members throughout Hyde County. Our resources are present yet inadequate and unorganized. The Recreation Committee plans to use The Community Transformation Grant, if awarded, to update the 2002 Recreation and Parks Master Plan, identifying current opportunities through asset mapping and then setting goals where opportunities are deficient creating healthy and safe physical environments that promote active living. The group plans to focus on Joint Use Agreements for existing physical resources and collaboration with existing entities offering programs identified through the asset mapping process.

According to the Hyde Partners for Health 2012 State of the County Health Report, the leading causes of death in Hyde County are heart disease, cancer, cerebrovascular disease and diabetes mellitus. The County rate is substantially higher in all stated areas than the state rates. The 2011 Hyde County Community Health Assessment identifies areas of concern with the top five issues of highest priority including physical activity and obesity. Also the CHA states that lack of recreational facilities is an important community social issue. Finally the CHA identifies a top unhealthy behavior as physical inactivity. According to a research brief published in February 2012 by Bridging the Gap entitled, *Joint Use Agreements, Creating Opportunities for Physical Activity*, "Today, two thirds of adults and nearly one-third of children and teens in the US are overweight or obese – and lack of physical activity is a leading contributor to the epidemic. Providing access to recreational facilities is a critical strategy for helping people of all ages be more active."

It is hoped that the Community Transformation Grant could be a seed that helps organize Hyde County's efforts to create opportunities for recreation and active living by revising our 2002 Master Plan in a comprehensive manner that includes health considerations and ultimately transforms our communities into healthier environments.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, comments or suggestions. I hope to work with the Community Transformation Grant Project Region 9 NCALHD Collaborative to make healthy living easier in Hyde County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kris Cahoon Noble". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kris Cahoon Noble, Director  
Office of Planning & Economic Development