



## FY 2012-2013 State Budget Request - DHEC

### \$2 Million for the Best Chance Network \$3.6 Million for Colorectal Cancer Screenings

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#### South Carolina Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program (Best Chance Network)

- Since inception in 1991, the Best Chance Network (BCN) has provided screenings to over 90,000 uninsured women who are not eligible for Medicaid. Among those women, the program diagnosed 4,078 cancers and pre-cancers (1,233 breast cancers and 2,845 invasive cervical cancers and premalignant cervical lesions), helping to ensure that a lost job and lost insurance did not result in a lost life. It is important to note that many of these women would have no other way of accessing these services.
- State funds in the amount of \$2 million dollars were approved in 2008 – 2010 and allowed for an additional 9,000 women to be screened in South Carolina. The loss of these funds has resulted in half of the number women who will receive breast and pelvic exams, mammograms and Pap smears. Women call the program on a daily basis requesting services, but the program is nearing capacity.
- South Carolina women with breast cancer diagnosed at the earliest stage have a 95% chance of survival for five years. Early detection is the key (BCN women 66% have been diagnosed with early stage breast cancer and 98% for cervical cancer). Women who do not have access to these services delay screening which can lead to a late stage diagnosis.

#### Colorectal Cancer Screening for Underserved and Uninsured

- Colorectal cancer is the most preventable and treatable cancer if detected early; conversely, colon cancer is one of the deadliest cancers if diagnosed in late stage disease.
- Colorectal cancer is one of the few cancers that can be PREVENTED through screening because precancerous polyps can be identified and removed. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths in South Carolina. Each year more than 800 persons die from this preventable disease, and the approval of state funds would help save lives.
- State funds in the amount of \$1 million dollars were approved in 2008 - 2010 to create a colorectal cancer screening program under the Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCOPE/SC). The program was successfully piloted in four South Carolina communities and expanded to serve more South Carolinians in 2010.

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