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**GOVERNOR JEB BUSH ANNOUNCES \$757,000 FOR  
STATEWIDE HEALTH TRACKING SYSTEM**

*~ Funding will be used to build on efforts to better understand the link between environment and health ~*

**TALLAHASSEE** – Governor Jeb Bush today announced the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently awarded \$757,402 to the Florida Department of Health to continue development of a state-level, web-based, health tracking system. When complete, Florida’s Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Program will track environmental hazards, chronic diseases and adverse health risks to better understand the link between the environment and health.

“Public health surveillance or tracking systems are critical in preventing and controlling disease,” said Governor Bush. “This funding will be used to further develop a statewide network of health and environmental data that will drive actions to improve the health of our communities.”

Florida’s EPHT program will coordinate with the CDC to ensure the system’s compatibility with a national EPHT network, currently being developed. Ultimately, these efforts will expand the ability of federal, state and local agencies to develop effective interventions that can be used to guide public health policy and practices.

“This award represents a monumental step in our efforts to leverage technological advances and data-gathering methods to address public health issues,” said Deputy State Health Officer Bonita Sorenson, M.D., M.B.A. “The State of Florida is an enthusiastic partner in the national movement to prevent and control diseases that can be linked to hazards in our environment.”

Florida is one of sixteen states funded by the CDC to develop plans for the creation of the electronic computerized tracking network. The CDC is establishing the network by drawing on a wide range of expertise from federal agencies, state and local health and environmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, state public health and environmental laboratories, and schools of public health. Once the National EPHT Network is complete, health care providers and the public will be able to access vital information that can be used to strengthen both public health and preventive services for Floridians.

For more information on the Florida Department of Health, please visit [www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us).