

## LINCOLN HEALTH FOUNDATION

<b>Initiative:</b>	Healthier Outcomes & Access to Health Care
<b>Project Name:</b>	Health Enterprise to Assist Lincoln's Students (HEALS I)
<b>Funding Period:</b>	October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009
<b>Date of Funding:</b>	October 1, 2008
<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	Sonja Cardwell, RN, Lincoln Parish School Board
<b>Project Administration:</b>	Lincoln Parish School Board
<b>Total Funding Approved:</b>	\$ 84,000.
<b>Project Status:</b>	Completed

### Program Summary

Lincoln Parish School Board **HEALS** is a health initiative designed to meet basic safety needs of indigent students in Lincoln Parish. Indigent students are defined in the proposal as those whose family income level qualifies them to receive free or reduced lunches, as defined by the State of Louisiana. Because of the high poverty rate in Lincoln Parish, many students meet these qualifications. Many of these students and their families have health issues which are not addressed by government programs. These issues include poor personal hygiene habits, dental problems, and difficulties accessing health care facilities and providers due to lack of transportation. The Lincoln Parish School Board **HEALS** initiative addresses these problems by bringing the following resources to bear in the two Lincoln Parish elementary schools with the highest poverty levels (94% and 92% of the children meet the definition of indigent):

- (a) **Equipping School Nurses Stations** with needed materials to treat minor injuries that commonly occur in elementary schools and potentially have greater negative impact on indigent students. In addition, equipment will be purchased for school nurses to use to detect head lice and ear infections. **(\$ 2,310. Approved)**
- (b) **Improving Personal Hygiene in Indigent Students** by providing personal hygiene kits for students whose families are unable to afford basic hygiene items. Indigent students who are identified as having lice would be provided with lice kits; and, those students who have a soiling accident at school would be provided with an extra uniform. **(\$ 35,650. Approved)**
- (c) **Providing Dental Screenings** for all third graders in all Lincoln Parish Schools and **Dental Treatment Vouchers** to those indigent students who have been identified as needing dental treatment. **(\$ 36,520. Approved)**
- (d) **Providing Transportation Vouchers** for those indigent students who have been identified as needing treatment at a healthcare facility, but do not have means of transportation by a family member or guardian. **(\$ 2,250. Approved)**
- (e) **Providing a Notification System (Home Visit) by a School Discipline Coordinator** when the parent or guardian of an indigent student does not respond

to attempted contacts by the HEALS coordinator to inform them about any of the problems addressed in this funding proposal. (**\$ 7,270. Approved**)