



**MISSISSIPPI  
HEALTH ADVOCACY  
PROGRAM**

A Member of  
Sisters of Mercy Ministries

**For Immediate Release  
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**Press Release**

**Program to Strengthen Health Care Reform in Mississippi**

**JACKSON, Miss** – The Mississippi Health Advocacy Program (MHAP) of Jackson, MS has been awarded a 3 year, \$1.5 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to expand the dialogue around health care reform and strengthen its implementation in Mississippi.

“In order for the health care reform to succeed in our state, Mississippi needs the engagement of both policy makers and the public,” said Corey Wiggins, program manager at the Mississippi Health Advocacy Program. “As consumer advocates, we recognize that transparency in government, public input and consumer education are the only ways to ensure that health care reform will be implemented in the spirit in which it was intended.”

This project will focus on convening statewide dialogues to gather consumer knowledge, views and ideas on health care reform implementation. The information gathered will be used to inform policymaking conversations around health care reform in Mississippi. MHAP also plans to work with other non-profit organizations around the state to assist them in carrying the message of health care reform to their communities.

“We need a plan for Mississippians designed by Mississippians,” said Wiggins, “but for that to become a reality, Mississippians need to truly have a voice in how health care reform is implemented in our state. Our project will allow Mississippians to have that voice.”

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*The Mississippi Health Advocacy Program (MHAP), founded in 1992, is a non-profit, consumer advocacy program dedicated to improving health policy in Mississippi. MHAP combines research, public education and community engagement to improve health policies, practices and funding in Mississippi, especially in support of the state’s poor and underserved people. For more information, visit the program’s website at [www.mhap.org](http://www.mhap.org).*

*The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, established in 1930, supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and southern Africa. For further information on the foundation, please visit [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org).*

**For more information, press only:**

Corey Wiggins, Program Manager  
Mississippi Health Advocacy Program  
601-353-0845