

**For Immediate Release
March 3, 2004**

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Attention Washtenaw County Businesses – as part of the celebration of National Public Health week, April 5th – April 11th, the Washtenaw County Public Health Department will recognize both large and small businesses that are striving for a healthier workplace for their employees with the first annual **Healthy Workplace Award, to be presented at the Board of Commissioners meeting on April 7th, 2004.**

Less than half of Washtenaw County adult residents (43%) exercise at least 30 minutes a day, and are at a healthy weight (41.5%) according to the 2000 Washtenaw County Health Improvement Plan (HIP) survey. The Washtenaw County Public Health Department is acknowledging businesses that are taking action to overcome unhealthy behaviors and reduce chronic disease. The Award is based on several criteria: Employee Participation Initiatives, Worksite Based Initiatives, Worksite Communications, and Worksite Environment.

Washtenaw County Businesses can find the application on the Washtenaw County Public Health website, <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org> . The application deadline is Friday, March 19, 2004. For more information, please contact Sharon Sheldon, 734.544.6781, or Jenna Bacolor, 734.544.2969.