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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **WASHTENAW COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH WINS KRESGE FOUNDATION GRANT** *Funding Expands “Prescription for Health”*

Ypsilanti, Michigan, January 20, 2011 – Washtenaw County Public Health has been awarded a two-year, \$294,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation. The award will expand the “Prescription for Health” program, which connects low-income patients at local medical clinics to farmers’ markets, ensuring greater access to healthy foods.

“We are thrilled that this grant award will allow us to take this successful program to additional clinics throughout the county and greatly enhance the nutrition education element of the program,” says Sharon P. Sheldon, Program Administrator for the Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Division. The aim of the program is twofold: to increase consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables among populations at higher risk for chronic disease, and to train staff at local clinics about the local food system and how to connect their patients to healthy food resources.

The Kresge Foundation is a \$3.1 billion private, national foundation that seeks to influence the quality of life for future generations through its support of nonprofit organizations in six fields of interest: health, the environment, community development, arts and culture, education and human services.

In 2009, the Michigan Department of Community Health, Cardiovascular Health, Nutrition and Physical Activity Division funded a pilot program of Prescription for Health – which led to the successful Kresge Foundation grant application.

Washtenaw County Public Health works to promote health and prevent disease. More information is available at <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org> or by calling 734-544-6700.

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