



Trust for America's Health Receives Nearly \$725,000 Grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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WASHINGTON, January 21, 2004 – Trust for America's Health (TFAH) announced today that it received a \$724,737 grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to support an educational campaign on public health preparedness in 2004. The new grant follows a similar \$500,000 grant made by RWJF to TFAH in 2003.

“This grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will allow TFAH to continue to articulate our vision of a public health system that can respond to health threats ranging from chronic disease to bioterrorism,” said Dr. Shelley Hearne, Executive Director of TFAH. “As we saw in 2003, with surprise outbreaks of SARS and monkeypox, we never know when or where our public health system will be tested. As a result, we need to strengthen the capabilities of the entire system to be vigilant and ever-ready to respond to all types of threats.”

TFAH recommends bolstering the fundamentals of our nation's public health system by investing in communications, workforce and laboratory upgrades so that it can prevent, contain and treat chronic and infectious diseases, defend against bioterrorism and chemical terrorism, and protect the health and safety of every community.

“An all-hazards approach to preparedness is the most effective way to achieve the type of responsive and accountable public health system that every American deserves,” Hearne added.

In addition to RWJF, TFAH receives support from the Bauman Foundation, the Beldon Fund, the Benjamin Spencer Fund, the Homeland Foundation, the Mitchell Kapor Foundation and individual contributors.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, based in Princeton, NJ, is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care. It concentrates its grantmaking in four goal areas: to assure that all Americans have access to quality health care at a reasonable cost; to improve the quality of care and support for people with chronic health conditions; to promote healthy communities and lifestyles; and to reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse—tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs.

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Trust for America's Health is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority.