

Background on Gulf Region Health Outreach Program

The Gulf Region Health Outreach Program (“Outreach Program”) is part of the *Deepwater Horizon* Medical Benefits Class Action Settlement (“Settlement”). That Settlement was reached between BP and the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee (“PSC”) on behalf of members of the Medical Benefits Settlement Class (“Class”), which consists of response workers and certain Gulf Coast residents. The Settlement was filed in the court responsible for handling litigation arising from the *Deepwater Horizon* Incident: the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Judge Carl Barbier of that Court, after holding a Fairness Hearing on November 8, 2012, granted final approval to the Settlement on January 11, 2013. His order approving the Settlement is subject to appeal, and certain objectors have filed an appeal.

The Settlement Agreement filed with (and approved by) the Court is the document that governs the scope of work for each of the four Projects of the Outreach Program, how much money each Project will receive and when the funding will be distributed, and how that money will be divided among the Projects. Section IX.C.2 of the Settlement Agreement provides that a total of \$105 million will be paid over five years to the Projects as follows:

- Primary Care Capacity Project \$50 million
- Mental and Behavioral Health Capacity Project \$36 million
- Community Health Workers Training Project \$4 million
- Environmental Health Capacity and Literacy Project \$15 million



To date, approximately \$20 million in funding has been provided to these Projects; funding for the remainder of the five years will continue unless the Court's approval of the Settlement is reversed on appeal.

Each Project submitted a Grant Proposal, which can be found at Exhibits 13, 14, 15 and 16 to the Settlement Agreement, and signed a Grant Agreement (a model of which is Exhibit 2 to the Settlement Agreement). The Settlement Agreement provides that funding will be paid to each Project in accordance with its Grant Agreement and Grant Proposal and sets forth a schedule of payments over the five year period. See Settlement Agreement, Section IX.E.

The Court-approved Grantees for the Projects are as follows:

- Primary Care: Louisiana Public Health Institute
- Mental and Behavioral Health: LSU, University of South Alabama, University of South Mississippi, University of West Florida
- Community Health Worker Training: University of South Alabama
- Environmental Health Capacity and Literacy: Tulane University

The Alliance Institute is also a Grantee; it is responsible for working with each of the Projects to obtain community input as local programs are planned and executed.

In general, the budgets provided by the Projects as part of their Grant Proposals do not allocate funding by state, but rather budget according to task. Exceptions include (i) the Mental and Behavioral Health Capacity Project which allocates certain amounts per year to the Leadership Teams in each of the four states (see Table 2 to Ex. 13 of the Settlement Agreement) and (ii) that portion of the Primary Care Capacity Project funding that is budgeted for distribution to health clinics and others in the community to improve the quality of and access to



health care, which allocation is by state and is proportional to the state allocations of the Mental and Behavioral Health Capacity Project.

The Outreach Program is directed by a Coordinating Committee consisting of representatives of each Project and three individuals who are not affiliated with any Project: Dr. Bernard Goldstein (Committee Chair), Dr. Ayanna Buckner, and Dr. Les Beitsch. The duties of the Coordinating Committee are set forth in Section IX.G.3 and 4 of the Settlement Agreement. Those duties include evaluating the implementation of the Projects, assuring that benchmarks set forth in the Grant Agreements are met, identifying ways to enhance cooperation and integration of the Projects, and making recommendations regarding adjustments needed to improve the Outreach Program generally. The Settlement Agreement provides that the Committee cannot change the goals of the Outreach Program or reallocate funding unless those changes are approved by the Court upon a joint motion by BP and the PSC. Section IX.G.5.

In general, under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, it is the duty of the Project Leaders to determine which specific activities and/or services will be funded under the Outreach Program, including the extent to which grants will be made to other entities. Community input is one factor in shaping those decisions, but ultimately the decisions rest with the Grantees, subject to the terms of their Grant Agreement and review by the Coordinating Committee.

The Coordinating Committee has received some inquiries that relate to activities not encompassed by the Outreach Program. For example, the Outreach Program does not provide direct compensation to individuals who allege to have been injured by the oil spill, nor does the Outreach Program reimburse health care professionals for their care of those alleging such injury. Further, the Outreach Program does not fund research projects. The Outreach Program also does not develop or take advocacy positions, or join with other organizations in doing so.