



**NIAGARA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Contact: Claudia Kurtzworth, 278-8596  
Program Coordinator  
Cancer Services Program of Niagara County

The Cancer Services Program of Niagara County is reaching out to the community and offering county residents 40-64 cancer screenings. These screenings are free of charge. The Cancer Services Program has a surplus of funds that need to be used before the end of the grant period in March. Residents are eligible for mammograms, pap tests and colorectal cancer tests if they are uninsured or have a high deductible. The Cancer Services Program is a grant program through the New York State Department of Health Cancer Services and is coordinated through the Niagara County Department of Health. The program oversees the delivery of a comprehensive cancer screening by partnering with Niagara County Hospitals, health care clinics and physicians.

Claudia Kurtzworth, Coordinator of the Niagara County Cancer Services Program stated that in April of 2009 a policy change, eliminating the eligibility of people 18-39 in qualifying for the program, has caused a surplus in monies allocated by the state for cancer screening tests. "Since we no longer can pay for services for the younger clients, this has caused a surplus of monies for this contract year. The monies must be expended by March 31<sup>st</sup> or we risk losing the money. If the money is not utilized it will appear that the program does not need the funding therefore our ability to provide cancer screening for all eligible residents may be affected", said Ms. Kurtzworth.

According to statistics there are over 21,000 Niagara County adults who have no health insurance. "With our unemployment rates climbing in the past year I am sure more people are without health insurance or have a high co pay or deductible that may cause them to put these important screenings off. Early detection is key. We can help these individuals", said Kurtzworth. "There are many people out there who qualify for our program so we are encouraging people to give us a call."

The Cancer Service Program of Niagara County can be reached at 278-8285.