

S. Elizabeth Ford, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.A.P.

**District Health Director and CEO
District 3, Unit 5
DeKalb County Board of Health**

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Dr. S. Elizabeth Ford has served as the District Health Director and Chief Executive Officer of the DeKalb County Board of Health since February 2005. She manages a diverse array of public health programs that serve over 730,000 people who live in the county. Dr. Ford was asked to serve as the Acting Director of the Georgia Department of Community Health's Division of Public Health during the agency's reorganization in 2008, where she helped to develop statewide policies and legislation and enforce public health laws and regulations.

Dr. Ford, a board-certified pediatrician, received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Stanford University, a medical degree from Howard University's College of Medicine and a Master's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Health Services Administration from Howard University's Graduate School of Business. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Under Dr. Ford's leadership, the DeKalb County Board of Health has successfully applied for more than \$15 million in federal funds to address health disparities, including \$5.6 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to promote smoke-free environments, physical fitness and improved nutrition. More recently the agency received a Minority Youth Violence Prevention: Integrating Public Health and Community Policing Approaches grant from DHHS and the U.S. Department of Justice aimed at curbing violence and improving the health and well-being of underserved and distressed communities. The agency also recently received a Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Just as hospitals and schools are expected to be accredited, public health departments now have the opportunity to obtain accreditation. The DeKalb County Board of Health is seeking accreditation. Public health accreditation involves developing a set of national standards and measuring each public health department against those standards. Ultimately, accreditation seeks to advance quality and performance within public health departments. Accreditation will strengthen trust and communication between the DeKalb County Board of Health and the community. Accreditation's focus on continuous improvement will benefit those who live, work and play in DeKalb County. Furthermore, accreditation may make the DeKalb County Board of Health more competitive when applying for grants to improve services and programs.

Dr. Ford's dedication to minority health and health disparities has led to appearances on CNN, CNN International and local Atlanta stations, including FOX, ABC, CBS, NBC, and Public Broadcasting radio.

Dr. Ford has received many awards in recognition of her commitment to public health. She received the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority's 2012 Healthcare Hero award and a Dominique Wilkins Foundation's 2012 Legendary Humanitarian Award. She was recognized in 2012 by Black Health Magazine as one of Atlanta's 25 Most Influential African American Doctors, by the Atlanta Tribune as one of 2007 Superwomen and by el Club de Comerciantes and the Black Latino Council as a 2010 Power Player of the Year.