

Carolina Population Center awarded \$22.5 million grant

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The Carolina Population Center received \$22.5 million to help evaluate a government agency's health and nutrition programs.

The CPC is a research center devoted to helping members of the UNC faculty with research on various aspects of the population.

The CPC had an earlier contract with the United States Agency for International Development for six years to evaluate family planning. CPC director Amy O. Tsui said.

"We actually did very well with our preceding contract and competed for this one and we won it," she said.

The project's deputy director, David Guilkey, chairman of the department of economics, said, "The purpose of that contract was to help USAID evaluate family planning projects."

With the new cooperative agreement, CPC is looking at health and nutrition programs in addition to looking at population programs, he said.

The CPC will work in family planning, maternal health, child health and

STD/HIV programs, Tsui said.

"The grant is for us to assist developing countries and improve their performance with stronger monitoring and evaluation systems."

The CPC will develop and evaluate new techniques to assess the effectiveness of existing USAID programs, Guilkey said.

"USAID has around 14 priority countries around the world to work with."

The grant is an important resource for UNC because of global trends in health reform, Tsui said.

"We think this grant on campus, reflects one of the scientific strengths of UNC," Tsui said.

Guilkey said, "Most USAID programs are not going to universities but to contracting companies."

The program has a research focus which is which makes it acceptable to go to a university, he said.

Edward Brooks, associate vice provost, said, "It's a real tribute to all these faculty across the campus, because it recognizes their really first-rate expertise in doing program evaluation research."