

August 12, 2002

On August 7th, Governor Huckabee authorized the release of \$1,000,000 for the emergency control of mosquitoes to prevent the further spread of West Nile Virus. These funds are being made available to Intergovernmental Cooperative Councils through Requests for Proposals. Attached is a description of the program and the mechanism for application.

Funds are to be used specifically for chemicals to control mosquito larvae.

We are not sure if additional funds will be available in 2003. It is essential for counties to develop on-going mosquito abatement programs and use any unexpended funds from this program to purchase larvicide for next year. As you develop these plans, it is important that you partner with the State Plant Board, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, and the Arkansas Department of Health.

We appreciate your interest and cooperation in this important health matter. Over the next several months the Department of Health will be presenting mosquito abatement workshops that can assist your county in its continuing efforts. We look forward to working with your county to protect the health of your citizens.

Sincerely,

W. R. "Bud" Harper
Director, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management

Fay Boozman
Director, Arkansas Department of Health