

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Public Health 3.0: Moving Health Forward

Our health is largely dictated by where we live, eat, play, worship and attend school – commonly referred to as the social determinants of health. In the spring of 2016, the Pennsylvania Department of Health embarked on an innovative effort to bring an intersectoral approach to improve the health of the most vulnerable communities in the commonwealth, many of which are in rural Pennsylvania. Communities that do not have a robust transportation system, that have lower education attainment, a lack of medical care and reduced opportunities to eat right and exercise, suffer worse health outcomes. Urban pockets of Pennsylvania share some of these same traits. Public Health 3.0 brings together key staff from education, housing, transportation, government and health to address key priorities including obesity, tobacco and substance abuse, oral health, and diabetes management. Look [here](#) for regular updates on our efforts. We will share best practices, lessons learned and training opportunities that can empower your communities to increase health equity and improve health outcomes.

**Counties served:**

Central: Dauphin and Perry counties

Northeast: Carbon, Columbia, Northumberland and Schuylkill counties

West: Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Greene and Indiana counties

Southeast: Philadelphia County

Pennsylvania Healthy Corner Store Initiative: Increasing Access to Healthier Food Retail

The benefits of eating fruits and vegetables are substantial, yet most of us don't get the recommended daily amount. Even with an intention to eat healthier, many Pennsylvania residents live in "food deserts" and don't have healthy options close to home. Some communities don't have a full-service grocery store, while others require transportation that makes getting to the store difficult. The [Pennsylvania Healthy Corner Store Initiative](#) (PA HCSI) increases access to healthier food retail, including fruits and vegetables, in the commonwealth's most populated cities. The Pennsylvania Department of Health partners with The Food Trust, the Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control's Regional Primary Contractors, and other community partners to implement the program. Community partners work with store owners who commit to increasing healthy food options. Store owners receive free training, and some stores receive conversion equipment, such as large refrigerators, shelving or baskets. PA HCSI aims to make it easier for Pennsylvanians to make healthier choices. Contact [Kim Mehaffey](#), Public Health program administrator, for more information.



School Immunizations

The Department of Health's [final regulations](#) on school immunizations will be effective for the 2017-18 school year. The regulations are intended to ensure that children attending school in the commonwealth are adequately protected against potential outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases. The specific changes include:

Clarifying existing vaccine requirements:

- Requiring the combination form for diphtheria and tetanus
- Adding pertussis to the required list to address the need to fight the resurgence of a vaccine-preventable disease
- Requiring the combination form for measles, mumps and rubella
- Adding a Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine for entry into the 12th grade or, in an ungraded school, in the school year the child turns 18 years of age

Replacing the eight-month provisional period:

- A child must have a single dose vaccine on the first day of school or risk exclusion. A child must have at least one dose of a multidose vaccine on the first day of school or risk exclusion.
- If additional doses of a multidose vaccine are necessary and are medically appropriate within the first five days of school, the child may be excluded unless he or she has:
 - The final dose during that five-day period; or
 - The next scheduled dose during that five-day period and also provides a medical certificate setting out the schedule for the remaining doses.
- If additional doses are not medically appropriate during that five-day period, a child may provide a medical certificate setting out the schedule for the remaining doses on or before the fifth school day.

Other points in the regulations:

- A child may still obtain a religious or medical exemption from meeting the immunization requirements.
- School administrators or their designees are required to review the medical certificate and the child's compliance at least every 30 days.
- School administrators or their designees may exclude a child who does not comply with the dates in the submitted medical certificate.
- A child who is homeless may be exempted from exclusion.
- A child who is transferring from a school or country outside the commonwealth and cannot provide records may be exempted from exclusion for 30 days.
- In the event of a disaster impacting the ability of children transferring into a school to provide records, or in the event of a nationally recognized vaccine shortage, a limited waiver of vaccine requirements may be provided.
- Reporting times are changing from Oct. 15 of each school year to Dec. 31, and schools are required to report electronically unless they are unable to complete the report electronically.



Head Injury Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Health [Head Injury Program](#) (HIP) serves individuals who have sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI). The goal of the program is to help individuals with a TBI live independently in their homes and communities. Services include pre-enrollment assistance, pre-admission assessment, service plan development, rehabilitation services and case management. Services may be provided in residential facilities, outpatient, or home and community settings. To be eligible for the HIP, an individual must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Pennsylvania at the time of injury and application, have sustained a TBI after July 2, 1985, be 21 years of age or older, meet income guidelines, complete an application and have needs that can be addressed through rehabilitation. To obtain more information or an application, please contact the HIP at 717-772-2763 or 1-866-412-4755.

School Vision Screening Program

The purpose of a [school vision screening program](#) is to identify students with visual impairments. According to Prevent Blindness America, "Vision problems affect one in 20 preschoolers and one in four school-age children." Visual problems can and do affect the educational, social and emotional development of children. Impaired vision is most damaging in primary grades, because it is at these grade levels that the foundations for learning are taught. Those children with vision loss severe enough to require special educational opportunities must be identified early if they are to be helped.



Far and near vision screens are conducted in all grades annually. Convex lens screens are performed in grade one. Color and depth perception screens are performed in grades one or two and for new students not previously screened. The parents/guardians of students identified as having a visual impairment are notified of the screening results and are recommended to have further evaluation of the student's vision by their personal health care provider. Early detection of vision problems assures the child of the opportunity of taking the best advantage of educational programs.

Vision screenings have been mandated for Pennsylvania school age children since 1957. As attendance at school is mandated for all children in Pennsylvania, the school setting provides an accessible place where children may have their vision screened. For the 2015-16 school year, that equates to nearly two million students screened, including both public and private school students in grades K-12.

OTHER NEWS

Blair County Community Resources Fair

A community resource fair will be held on Oct. 17, 2017, from noon-3 p.m. at the Jaffa Shrine in Altoona. The event is free to attend, and exhibit tables are available to agencies. Agencies can [register](#) for a free exhibit table by July 31. Advertising opportunities in the program booklet are also available to sponsor the event.

August and September are ...

[Children's Eye Health and Safety Month](#) (August)

[National Breastfeeding Month](#) (August)

National Immunization Awareness Month (August) – [Adults, Adolescents and Children](#)

[National Health Center Week](#) (Aug. 7-13)

[Childhood Cancer Awareness Month](#) (September)

[Fruits & Veggies—More Matters® Month](#) (September)

National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month (September) – [Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child](#)

[National Preparedness Month](#) (September)

National Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month (September)

National Suicide Prevention Week – [PAYSPI](#) (Sept. 10-16)

National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day (Sept. 18) – Special Pharmaceutical Benefits [Program Get Ready Day](#) (Sept. 19)

[RAINN Day](#) (Sept. 21)

National Women's Health and Fitness Day (Sept. 27)



EVENTS AND TRAININGS

Dementia Resource Day



[Dementia Resource Day](#) will be hosted in Harrisburg by the Pennsylvania Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition on Aug. 3 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The Dementia Live experience will be presented for staff, family caregivers, health care professionals, college students or anyone working with individuals with dementia to give participants a real-life simulation of what it must be like to live with dementia. Information will be provided on upcoming trainings to support the behavioral health needs and values of older Pennsylvanians and their caregivers and how agencies can become Dementia Live Certified Providers.

Question, Persuade, Refer: Gatekeeper Training

[Question, Persuade, and Refer](#) (QPR) training is being offered at no cost at WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital on Aug. 31, 2017. QPR covers learning how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade and refer someone to help. The course is a peer-reviewed, evidence-based program recognized by SAMHSA. It is targeted to primary care professionals, employers and business leaders, faith communities, school personnel and educators, police and corrections officers, nursing home staff, mental health authorities, families, friends, and others who are positioned to recognize and refer someone at risk of suicide.



LGBT Aging Cultural Competency Trainings



Online and in-person Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) training is available from the [National Resource Center on LGBT Aging](#). Topics include the basics about what LGBT means, stories of real LGBT older adults, skills to work with LGBT older adults, suggested improvements across multiple issues (including programming, policy and procedures, marketing, facilities and staff and board recruitment), and other specialized topics. Organizations that receive funding from the Administration for Community Living or the Administration on Aging may be eligible to participate in SAGECare webinar trainings at no cost. Qualifying agencies may receive a national credential to highlight the percentage of staff trained.

RESOURCES AND TOOLS

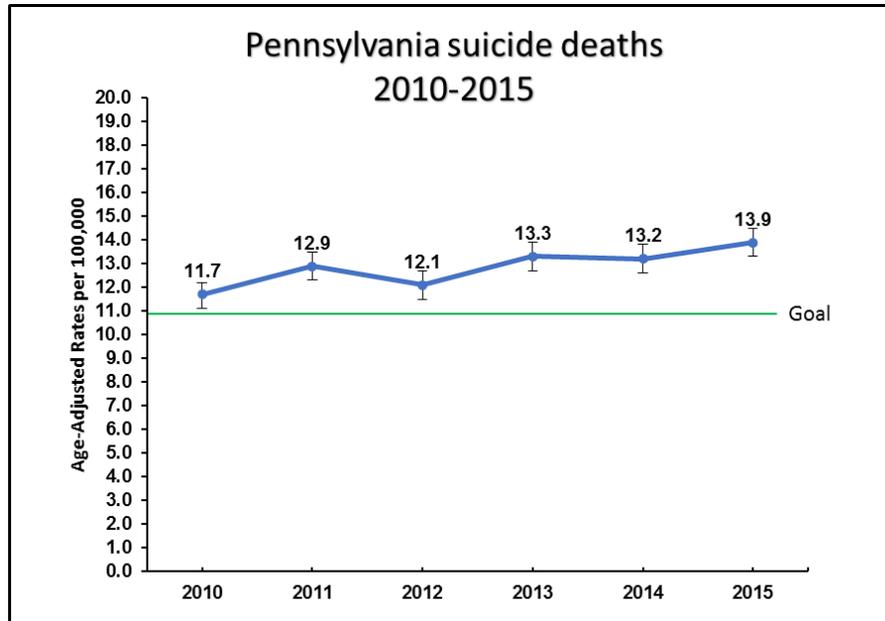
Solicitation for Written Comments on the Development of Healthy People 2030

The federal [Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is accepting written comments on the “Healthy People 2030” proposed framework, including the vision, mission, overarching goals, plan of action and foundational principles. The proposed framework may be viewed and comments may be submitted by Sept. 29, 2017, at www.HealthyPeople.gov.



DATA AND STATISTICS

SHIP Mental Health and Substance Use Objective 1.4: Reduce the rate of suicides from 12.1 per 100,000 in 2012 to 10.9 per 100,000 in Dec. 2020 (age-adjusted rate).



Source: [Pennsylvania Vital Statistics](#) (Pennsylvania Death Certificate Dataset, 2010-2015)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Commonwealth Fund



The [Commonwealth Fund](#) provides ongoing grant opportunities for funding research on health and social issues and grants to improve health care practice and policy. Topics for funding include the elderly, low-income families, minorities and the uninsured. The grant process begins with an online letter of inquiry. In addition to grants, fellowships are available

to people developing minority health policy, master's students conducting policy research, health policy journalists, and fellowships bringing policy researchers and practitioners to the U.S. from certain other countries.

Health Workforce Education

Grants are available from the [Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation](#) to support domestic health professional education. Priorities include primary care education for the care of underserved populations, curriculum content for health professional education, new models for clinical education and faculty skills with emphasis on underrepresented minorities. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.



Lead Poisoning Awareness



Community mini-grants of up to \$5,000 are available from the [National Center for Healthy Housing](#) to support a local event focusing on lead poisoning prevention and response. Examples of eligible events include coalition-building meetings, press conferences or events, school or child care center awareness events, town hall meetings, workshops, and roundtables. Eligible organizations include government, education, public housing and nonprofits. Applications are due by July 28, 2017.

CATCH Grants

Grants of \$2,000 or \$10,000 from the Community Access To Child Health (CATCH) program of the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) are available to individual pediatricians and fellowship trainees.

American Academy
of Pediatrics



Areas of interest are innovative community-based child health initiatives that will ensure all children have medical homes, are properly immunized and have access to health care services not otherwise available in their community. Applications are due by July 31, 2017.

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act



Funding from \$250,000 to \$800,000 per year for up to four years is available from [SAMHSA](#) for programs implementing First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA) Cooperative Agreements. Funds are

available to states and local governmental entities to train and provide resources to first responders and members of other community sectors. Projects may include administration of a drug or device for emergency treatment for known or suspected opioid overdose and to establish processes, protocols and mechanisms for referral to appropriate treatment and recovery communities. Applications are due by July 31, 2017.

Empowered Communities for a Healthier Nation

Grants of up to \$350,000 per year for the [Empowered Communities for a Healthier Nation Initiative](#) are available in three focus areas: opioid abuse, childhood/adolescent obesity or serious mental illness. Eligible communities are those with racial and ethnic minorities and/or disadvantaged populations affected by these diseases and conditions. Applications are due by Aug. 1, 2017.



Grief Reach Grants



Grants for childhood bereavement are available from the [National Alliance for Grieving Children](#). Grant opportunities are available for agencies that provide bereavement support services to children and teenagers for community expansion grants. Programs funded include expansion to include bereaved children and teens not currently served by existing services and capacity building grants for organizational development. Applications are due by Aug. 7, 2017.

Quality of Life Grants

The [Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation](#) provides grants for individuals and their families who live with paralysis. The topics of "actively achieving," "bridging barriers," and "caring and coping" are their focus. Projects and initiatives should foster community engagement, inclusion and involvement, and promote health and wellness. Applications are due by Aug. 31, 2017.



Capital Magnet Fund



Grants for community revitalization to develop affordable housing solutions are available from the [Community Development Financial Institutions Fund](#) of the U.S. Treasury Department. Available to qualified non-profit housing organizations, these grants can be used to finance affordable housing, for economic development and community service facilities. The next round of applications is due by Aug. 31, 2017.

Oral Health Programs

The Wrigley Company Foundation provides funding up to \$5,000 to dental hygienists for projects to improve oral health or provide oral health education. Grants are available to members of the [American Dental Hygienists' Association](#) who are involved in community health projects that improve the public's oral health. Projects should also promote oral health education. Applications are due by Oct. 1, 2017.



Domestic Violence Safe Housing Grants



Grants up to \$6,000 are available from [RedRover Domestic Violence Safe Housing](#) to pay for building materials and supplies to create on-site housing for pets at emergency shelters for victims of domestic violence, where little to no pet housing was previously available.

Applications are due by Oct. 15, 2017.

Please contact the funders directly for the most complete and current information, including eligibility criteria.

COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?

Please send any comments or suggestions for this and future newsletters to ra-dhhipp@pa.gov. Your input is valued and appreciated.

Disclaimer:

The information provided in this newsletter is intended to be of general information to Pennsylvania's HIPP partnerships. It is not intended as an endorsement or recommendation of any specific process, service, product, company or funding source outside of the Department of Health auspices. Further examination and research of information is recommended.

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