

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

APRIL/MAY 2015

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The 2015 National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Site Application Cycle

The [National Health Service Corps \(NHSC\) Site Application cycle](#) is open from March 31, 2015 - June 2, 2015, for health care sites that have never been approved as a NHSC site. NHSC-approved sites are health care facilities that provide comprehensive outpatient, ambulatory, primary health care services to populations residing in health professional shortage areas. The benefits of becoming an approved NHSC-site include access to [NHSC Loan Repayment](#) and [Scholarship Program](#) providers who are currently seeking employment at NHSC-approved sites. Until June 2, 2015, facilities may submit a NHSC site application through the [Bureau of Health Workforce Program Portal](#). For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Health Planning, ([Primary Care Office](#)) at 717-772-5298 or GetHelp@hrsa.gov, or contact the customer care center at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at 1-800-221-9393.

2015 Pennsylvania Farm Show Immunization Project

The DOH, Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Division of Immunization, made the influenza vaccine available to visitors at the 2015 Pennsylvania Farm Show. This effort was coordinated with the Penn State Hershey Medical Center. The influenza vaccine was offered to anyone 6 months and older, based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. The partnership resulted in a total of 966 doses of vaccine being administered during the week. Of those doses administered, 120 were administered to children 6 months to 17 years, and 846 doses were administered to adults 18 and older. For more information about availability of vaccines and immunization education in Pennsylvania, go to the [DOH website](#).



Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness Month

April is Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Awareness Month and you can make a difference by sharing helpful, factual information with your friends, family, colleagues, patients, and community members. STDs affect people of all ages, yet these diseases take a particularly heavy toll on young people. Get Yourself Tested (GYT) is a youthful, empowering, social movement to encourage young people to get tested and treated for STDs and HIV, as needed. The CDC encourages everyone to take advantage of the resources available to help increase awareness about STD prevention and testing; order GYT campaign materials for your school, clinic, or organization. For more information, or to order GYT campaign materials, go to [CDC/STD](#).



National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month and you can help someone with a disability get physically fit. The President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition recently announced the next phase of I Can Do It, You Can Do It (ICDI). ICDI facilitates and encourages opportunities for all Americans, regardless of ability, to lead a healthy lifestyle that includes regular physical activity and good nutrition. ICDI includes children and now adults with disabilities. According to the President's Council, the obesity rate for children with disabilities in the U.S. is 38 percent higher than for children without disabilities. The adult obesity rate is 57 percent higher than for adults without disabilities. According to the [Disability and Health Data System](#), in 2012 in Pennsylvania, 38 percent of adults with disabilities were obese compared to 27 percent of adults without disabilities. The President's Council encourages organizations to join the ICDI team to help improve the health and fitness of people with disabilities. To learn more or to sign up to be an ICDI advocate, go to [ICDI](#).



May Is National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month

Osteoporosis is a disease of the bones in which they become weak, leading to an increased risk of fractures, or broken bones. In the United States, more than 40 million people either already have osteoporosis or are at high risk due to low bone mass. People with osteoporosis will most commonly break hip, spine, and wrist bones. While osteoporosis is the most common bone-related disease, it is often called a “silent disease” because it can progress without any symptoms until a fracture or similar injury occurs. To prevent or slow down bone loss a person can eat a diet rich in calcium and vitamin D, exercise, and not drink in excess or smoke. For more information about osteoporosis risk factors and prevention, visit [National Institutes of Health](http://www.bones.nih.gov).

OTHER NEWS



2015 County Health Rankings

The County Health Rankings and Roadmaps in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) announced the release of the [2015 County Health Rankings](#). All of the measures have been updated with new data, and income inequality has been updated as a new measure. The website has a new look and feel with improved ways of getting to county data, enhanced functionality, and more. New tools and resources have been introduced. New ways have been added to interact with [What Works for Health](#), a searchable database of strategies and evidence. In addition, new ways have been added to see the inspiring things communities are doing across the country to improve health via the [RWJF Culture of Health Prize](#).



Oral Health Preventive Programs Available

The [Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health](#) (PCOH) is a diverse group of leaders from across the state from schools of public health, philanthropic organizations, businesses, dental organizations, health insurance firms, advocacy organizations, state agencies, and other champions. PCOH supports advancing policies and practices that increase access to oral health services and prevention education, especially for the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians. For more information about PCOH, contact Lisa Schildhorn at paoralhealth@gmail.com. A partner of PCOH is Kids Smiles, Inc., a non-profit organization which provides free screenings and preventive education for children throughout Philadelphia and Philadelphia suburbs. For more information about Kids Smiles, Inc., contact Stacey Benner, Education Director at 215-365-1033, ext. 205.

Cavity Free Kids

The Pennsylvania Head Start Association (PHSA) is educating parents, teachers, and children using the Cavity Free Kids curriculum to prevent dental disease. The trainers of Cavity Free Kids provide evidence-informed and consistent oral health education to parents and adult caregivers of children from birth to 5 years old who are enrolled in early childhood education and child development programs. Cavity Free Kids-eligible programs include Head Start, Early Head Start, infant/toddler programs, child care programs, pre-K programs, home visiting programs, and preschools. For more information contact Amy Requa, PHSA State Oral Health Coordinator at amy.cpnnp@gmail.com.

Healthy Teeth, Healthy Children

Healthy Teeth, Healthy Children (HTHC), an initiative of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PAAAP), provides oral health education for primary care providers in their practice. Medical and dental presenters teach primary care providers and their staff to assess children's teeth for dental caries and the application of fluoride varnish when applicable. The integration of oral health into medical residency programs is also available through this initiative. Contact Bonnie Magliochetti at 484-446-3059 for more information.

EVENTS AND TRAININGS

2015 Community Health Worker Summit

On May 5, 2015, the 2015 Community Health Worker Summit: The Role of Community Health Workers in Strengthening Health Status will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, Pa. The summit is a collaboration of Eastcentral Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center, Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health, Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers, and other partners. The program will define the scope of a community health worker (CHW), offer resources on evidence-based practices, provide information on CHW certification and training programs, and identify models for reimbursement. There will be discussion on whether a statewide professional association should be established for CHWs. Nationally recognized CHW expert Carl Rush has been confirmed as the keynote speaker. [Registration](#) is open.

Public Health 101 Series: Public Health Teaching Tools

The CDC's [Public Health 101 Series](#) provides foundational teaching tools that address the basics of critical sciences essential to public health practice. This series includes instructor-led slide presentations on diverse topics essential to public health practice, including surveillance, epidemiology, prevention effectiveness, informatics, and public health laboratories. In the coming months, the CDC will make e-learning products available on these essential public health topic areas.

Building Understanding of Environmental Health

The FrameWorks Institute recently completed a multi-year, multi-method inquiry into how the American public thinks and talks about environmental health. Sponsored by American Public Health Association (APHA) and funded by the CDC, this research reveals effective strategies for talking with the public about environmental health work and the impacts of our environments on public health. APHA has released a new set of communications tools and resources based on these findings. To introduce the findings' framing strategies, APHA is hosting a three-part webinar series, conducted by the FrameWorks Institute. Each of these interactive webinars will focus on a different set of framing resources and strategies. Participants will learn about the research base that supports these tools and come away with fresh tips and tools they can build into their communications. To view an archived or future webinar, visit [APHA](#).

RESOURCES AND TOOLS



Community Health Status Indicators Tool

The CDC's [Community Health Status Indicators \(CHSI\)](#) is an interactive online tool that provides public health profiles for all 3,143 counties in the United States. Each profile includes key indicators of health outcomes, which describe the population health status of a county and factors that have the potential to influence health outcomes. The factors identified are health care access and quality, health behaviors, social factors, and the physical environment. Community Health Status

Indicators show how social factors and the physical environment are important because they represent the conditions in which people are born, work, and play. Neighborhoods with affordable healthy food, safe and accessible housing, and quality employment opportunities can positively influence behaviors and help to create healthy lifestyles.



Libraries Transforming Communities

[Libraries Transforming Communities \(LTC\)](#), an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA), seeks to strengthen librarians' roles as core community leaders and change-agents. This initiative addresses a critical need within the library field by developing and distributing new tools, resources, and support for librarians to engage with their communities in new ways. LTC will help libraries become more reflective of and connected to their communities and achieve a domino effect of positive results. These results can include stronger relationships with businesses and local organizations. In addition, greater community investment in education, health, and well-being can be achieved.



Tutorials for Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System

New [online tutorials](#) are now available to learn to use the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS™) more effectively. [WISQARS™](#) is an interactive, online database that provides fatal and nonfatal injury data from a variety of sources. Users can search, sort, and view county, state, and national injury data. Also, users can create reports, charts, maps, and slides. The tutorials assist users with navigation, searching, sorting, and report generation through practice questions and sample reports. These tutorials include lessons on fatal injury reports, fatal injury mapping, leading causes of death, and years of potential life lost.

Public Health Improvement Resource Center

[The Public Health Improvement Resource Center](#) from the Public Health Foundation (PHF) is new and improved. The Public Health Improvement Resource Center is a searchable database that now includes additional and updated resources to better help users build and improve public health systems. By using the advanced search engine, users can filter resources by Accreditation Domain, any of the 10 Essential Services, or other improvement topics. In addition, a new Public Health and Healthcare category of materials has been added.

DATA AND STATISTICS



Heroin-Related Deaths on the Rise

A recent report from the [CDC's National Center for Health Statistics](#) found that the rate of heroin overdose deaths among Americans nearly quadrupled between 2000 and 2013. The report, "Drug-poisoning Deaths Involving Heroin: United States, 2000-2013," stated that deaths from heroin overdose increased among all age and race and ethnicity groups. All regions of the country saw an increase in heroin overdose deaths, with the largest increase in the Midwest, and four times more men died from heroin-related overdoses than women.

Mapping the Measure of America

[Measure of America](#), a project of the Social Science Research Council, is an interactive online tool. The mission of Measure of America is to provide easy-to-use tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in America. It provides the American Human Development Index, which is a composite of health, education, and income measures. National, state, and county maps are available showing key health indicators including life expectancy, diabetes, educational attainment, income, and more. County information may be accessed by selecting a county on the map for a brief profile.

National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Reports

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has updated the [AHRQ National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Reports](#) and interactive tool. The interactive tool provides snapshots of health care quality in all 50 states, allowing for comparisons among states and with national benchmarks. Measures are broken down by race and ethnicity and community income. Included is data on effectiveness of care for common clinical conditions, effectiveness of care across the lifespan, patient safety, timeliness, patient centeredness, care coordination, efficiency, health systems infrastructure, and access to health care.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Action for Healthy Kids Announces School Breakfast Program Grants

Application deadline: May 1, 2015

[Action for Healthy Kids](#) combats childhood obesity, undernourishment, and physical inactivity by helping schools become healthier places so kids can live healthier lives. The organization partners with dedicated teachers, students, moms, dads, school wellness experts, and others from its nationwide network of over 80,000 volunteers to create healthful school changes. Action for Healthy Kids has issued a request for proposals for its 2015-2016 Breakfast for Healthy Kids program. The program will award grants of up to \$2,500 to a thousand schools to support school breakfast and physical activity programs. Award amounts will be based on building enrollment, project type, potential impact, and a school's ability to mobilize parents and students around school wellness initiatives. For complete program guidelines and application instructions, visit the [Action for Healthy Kids website](#). **Please contact the funder directly for the most complete and current information, including eligibility criteria.**

Local Roots Program Funding Opportunity

Application deadline: May 6, 2015

The [Aetna Foundation](#) is accepting grant applications for the foundation's [Local Roots program](#) supporting the creation and expansion of community gardens, urban farms, and farmers' markets in underserved, low-income, and minority communities. All projects must include one of the following: 1) nutrition education or cooking classes focused on the health benefits of fresh produce; 2) the growing or distribution of produce that reflects the food traditions of the target area; 3) opportunities to learn job skills or entrepreneurship within the context of community gardens, urban farms, or farmers' markets; and/or 4) opportunities for community service or volunteer work. In 2015, grants of up to \$50,000 over two years will target communities where healthy food can be difficult to buy and where social and environmental factors may limit people's ability to be physically active. To be eligible, applicants must be a nonprofit organization with evidence of 501(c)(3) designation or de facto tax-exempt status. **Please contact the funder directly for the most complete and current information, including eligibility criteria.**

Developing Healthy Places Funding Opportunity

Application deadline: On an ongoing basis.

The [Kresge Foundation](#), through the foundation's Developing Healthy Places is offering organizations funding opportunities to address: healthy housing and neighborhoods; food systems that benefit low-income communities; and equitable transportation and land use. It is the foundation's position that a population's health is determined by its physical, social, and economic environments and their influence on health behaviors. Addressing these conditions begins to promote health equity among people in low-income neighborhoods and foster improved health for entire communities. **Please contact the funder directly for the most complete and current information, including eligibility criteria.**

Substance Abuse Program Grants

Application deadline: On an ongoing basis.

The Hanley Family Foundation's mission is to advance the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of alcoholism, chemical dependency, and addictive behavior, including support for related research and education. The foundation accepts pre-proposals on an ongoing basis. Upon review, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. Grant amounts are determined on a project-by-project basis. For complete program guidelines and applications procedures go to [Hanley Family Foundations](#). **Please contact the funder directly for the most complete and current information, including eligibility criteria.**

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



**PARTNERSHIP
for Better Health**

Not for Profit Institute

The Health Improvement Partnership Program partnership in Cumberland county, [Partnership for Better Health](#), and M & T Bank are proud to announce the 2015 Nonprofit Training Institute. The five trainings will provide information on nonprofit sustainability, effective marketing, using social media for fundraising, financial management, and effective leadership. Experts from the Nonprofit Resource Network at Millersville University will lead the trainings in Carlisle, Pa. The Nonprofit Resource Network is a proven leader in enhancing the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations and providing professional development. Participants can register for just one class or attend them all. Participants who attend five trainings will receive a Certificate in Nonprofit Excellence from the Nonprofit Resource Network at Millersville University.

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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