National and State Trends in Obesity Prevention

Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity

September 28, 2016
United Way Health Policy Agenda

• United Way supports policies that improve access to affordable healthful food and beverages and create opportunities for physical activity in schools and neighborhoods. United Way advocates for funding to remain adequate to meet the need and for policies to help fight the hunger and obesity epidemic in this country.

• To ensure families and individuals are able to live healthier lives, United Way will:
  • Support access to healthcare by connecting people to affordable, comprehensive health services
  • Combat preventable chronic disease through the promotion of strategies that support wellness and healthy lifestyles
Initiatives to Improve Community Health: 
Advancing Action for Obesity

• Partners
  • United Way of Metro Chicago; Consortium to Lower Obesity In Chicago Children; Cook County Dept. of Public Health

• Activities
  • Convened community partners in Cicero, Chicago Heights And Maywood to examine obesity issues and solutions
  • Discussed health lifestyle strategies on the individual and community level

• Results
  • Community partners integrate anti-obesity strategies in policies and practices throughout their work.
• Partners
  • United Way of Elgin; Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley; Kane County; Regional Office of Education
  • Annual minimum contribution of $10,000 per partner (over $600,000 to date)

• Activities
  • Created a countywide mobilization plan through implementation of 4 strategic action principles
  • Focus on policy, environmental and system change across sectors in Kane County
Making Kane County Fit For Kids: Cont.

• Results
  • Financed healthy lifestyles curriculum at childcare center
  • Initiated indoor instant recess, gardens and enhanced PE at schools
  • Hosted worksite wellness summit
  • More than 1,400 community gardens at churches, schools, municipalities and community locations
  • New and enhanced playgrounds
  • Refrigerators for food pantries and schools increasing access to dairy and fresh produce
In Person Counselor Program

• Partners
  • 10 Chicagoland not-for-profits employing 38 health care navigators

• Activities
  • Educate the public and enroll Chicagoans into quality, affordable health coverage

• Results
  • More than 9,000 people enrolled over 2 year period
Current opportunities for Policy Intervention

• Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
  • Unlike NCLB, explicitly recognizes the link between student health and academic achievement
  • ISBE has opportunity to prioritize the whole child when setting educational standards and directing resources for education in Illinois
  • Federal funding available through Title I, Title II and Title IV to create and implement school health programs, accountability systems that include non-academic metrics and school improvement plans or healthier school environments
Current opportunities for Policy Intervention

• Governor’s Cabinet on Children and Youth
  • Established in February, 2016 by executive order
  • “Will create a strategic vision for education and health and human services by bringing together all state entities that interact with children into a central unit.”
  • Goals and measurement framework being developed for four categories: Healthy, Safe, Well-Educated and Self Sufficient

• Health Indicators
  • Percentage of children and youth ages 0-17 in very good or excellent health
    • % of children and youth who are overweight or obese
Current opportunities for Policy Intervention

• Updated public health agenda designed to ensure that every resident of Chicago has the opportunity to live a healthy life

• Includes over 200 actionable strategies to reduce inequities and improve health and vitality of residents and city

• In order to prevent and control chronic disease Goal # 1 is:
  • Reduce the prevalence of inequities in obesity and obesity-related diseases
Questions?

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