Plan4Health: Plan4Health Lake County
Lake County, OH

Summary

Plan4Health connects communities across the country, funding work at the intersection of planning and public health. Anchored by American Planning Association (APA) chapters and American Public Health Association (APHA) affiliates, Plan4Health supports creative partnerships to build sustainable, cross-sector coalitions. Plan4Health Lake County aims to develop a framework for comprehensive Community Health Action Plans for Lake County communities lacking access to healthy food and opportunities for physical activity.

Challenge

The 13 target communities in Lake County, OH have a population of more than 190,000 residents. Combined, 10 percent of the population lives below the poverty line and this rate increases significantly for minority populations: more than 26 percent of African Americans and 23 percent of Hispanic or Latino residents live below the poverty line. Data revealed that 28 percent of residents did not exercise at all. Residents felt that the lack of sidewalks and bike trails made it unsafe for kids to walk or bike to school. 74 percent of residents eat fruits and vegetables each day, but the amounts fall below daily recommendations. Throughout this project, community representatives also have identified that the growing senior populations in some Lake County communities are experiencing health disparities due to lack of access to opportunities for physical activity and nutritious food.

Your Involvement is Key

To learn more about Plan4Health Lake County and all coalitions participating in Plan4Health, check out the project website (www.plan4health.us).

Join the national conversation at the intersection of planning and public health on social media by using and following #plan4health.

Solution

Plan4Health Lake County seeks to enable each target community to create and to implement a personalized Community Health Action Plan, with a primary focus on land use planning for the promotion of healthy communities. The coalition will develop a framework that will serve as the shared foundation for all communities. The coalition will also create and distribute resources, including a plan model, which will outline best planning practices to promote access to healthy foods and increased opportunities for physical activity.

Results

An early success of this project occurred at the Plan4Health Lake County Kick-Off meeting, where the Leadership Team, key partners, and representatives from each of the 13 Plan4Health Lake County communities discussed potential policy, systems, and environmental approaches to be addressed by the Community Health Action Plans. Through engaged discussion, communities were able to determine common themes in regard to the types of planning approaches they need to implement for public health improvements. Communities voiced the desire to collaborate with one another and to share resources, best practices, and support. Plan4Health Lake County is facilitating collaboration between communities that, until now, have had limited contact with one another, further exemplifying the importance of this coalition.

Contact
David Radachy, Director
Lake County Planning & Community Development
125 East Erie Street
Painesville, OH 44077
440-350-2740 phone

"This project has provided Lake County communities the ability to come together and collaborate to integrate planning into health-based initiatives. It has been a valuable, as well as educational, experience to learn how planning approaches can be implemented to improve upon public health. I look forward to seeing the impact the Community Health Action Plans will have on my community."
- Plan4Health Lake County Community Member

PLAN4Health
An American Planning Association Project