



CLAY COUNTY

PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Health in Action Award Committee Accepting Nominations

LIBERTY, Mo. – Aug. 2, 2017 – The Community Health in Action (CHIA) Award Committee is accepting award nominations for individuals, community groups, agencies and businesses that are working towards creating a healthier community.

We constantly hear of individuals, groups and organizations who are trying to help others in improving the health of our county and thus, the Community Health in Action award is meant to honor those who are working to improve overall health and create positive outcomes.

Categories for the Community Health in Action Awards include:

- 1) **Health Policy and Advocacy** – related to policy change or advocacy for policy change at an organizational, local/municipal, county or state level in support of:
 - Access to Care** – increase awareness of health and wellness services, increase utilization of primary care services, reduce reliance on emergency rooms and primary health home, increase care for uninsured and underinsured populations, etc.
 - Behavioral Health** – addresses substance use, mental illness, suicide, resilience, etc.
 - Chronic Disease** – addresses nutrition, physical activity, tobacco use, etc.

- 2) **Community Wellness Initiative** – related to activities, services or programs that address prevention or reduction of the impact of access to care issues, unfavorable behavioral health outcomes or chronic disease resulting in improved health outcomes and healthier lifestyles.
 - Access to Care** – increase awareness of health and wellness services, increase utilization of primary care services, reduce reliance on emergency rooms and primary health home, increase care for uninsured and underinsured populations, etc.
 - Behavioral Health** – addresses substance use, mental illness, suicide, resilience, etc.
 - Chronic Disease** – addresses nutrition, physical activity, tobacco use, etc.

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The mission of the Clay County Public Health Center is to deliver the essential public health services of prevention, promotion and protection to the communities of Clay County.

Criteria for nomination of champions:

1. Nominations can come from an individual, business or agency.
2. Must work or live in Clay County.
3. Must be actively working on either health policy and advocacy or community wellness initiatives.

Member organizations include the Clay County Public Health Center, Excelsior Springs Hospital, Liberty Hospital, North Kansas City Hospital, Saint Luke's North Hospital and Tri-County Mental Health.

An awards reception for the nominees and member agencies will be held in the coming months to publicly acknowledge these champions and their activities.

Nomination forms can be sent to droethler@clayhealth.com or completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M9HSSQN>. Nominations are due by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28.

About Clay County Public Health Center

Created in 1953, the Clay County Public Health Center is a nationally accredited local public health department protecting the health of all people in the county by implementing population based prevention programs and services. This community approach to wellness not only prevents the spread of disease but also provides wellness education to empower people to make healthy choices. To learn more, visit www.clayhealth.com.

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