



CLAY COUNTY

# PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Community Health in Action Award Committee Accepting Nominations

**LIBERTY, Mo. – Aug. 22, 2017** – The Community Health in Action (CHIA) Award Committee continues to accept award nominations for individuals, community groups, agencies and businesses that are working towards creating a healthier community.

In Clay County, many individuals, groups and organizations work to improve the health of our county. The Community Health in Action award is meant to honor those who are working to improve overall health and create positive outcomes. The awards committee has been accepting nominations throughout the month of August and will continue to accept nominations until Aug. 31.

### 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.

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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](mailto:droethler@clayhealth.com) or completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M9HSSQN>. Nominations are due by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 31.

***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](http://www.clayhealth.com).*

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