



Healthy People Healthy Places Website information

More About the Program

The Healthy People Healthy Places recognition program is a statewide recognition of communities that showcase a commitment to supporting healthy choices through policy, environment, community-clinical linkages and systems changes. These entities are working to

improve the health of West Virginians by implementing policies, and programs that will help West Virginians eat better, move more, and be tobacco free.

What's the Benefit of Becoming a Recognized Community?

Healthy People Healthy Places recipients are recognized as leaders in their communities for going “above and beyond” to make health and wellness a priority. Recipients will be invited to a special recognition event and receive widespread acknowledgement for their commitment to the health of West Virginians.

Healthy People Healthy Places recipients can use their recognition as a recruitment strategy or to advertise their dedication to a healthy lifestyle. Most importantly, Healthy People Healthy Places can give recipients a sense of pride in their passion for improving not only individual health, but West Virginia’s future for generations to come.

Why Does Recognition Matter?

The major causes of death and disability in West Virginia are chronic conditions such as heart disease, cancer, stroke and Type 2 diabetes; and a significant proportion of these conditions are preventable. Becoming a Healthy People Healthy Places Recognized Community shows you are providing a healthy environment for your residents, thereby supporting better choices and an overall healthier West Virginia.

By meeting most, or all, of the benchmarks to become recognized, communities provide an established environment to foster behavior modification, in addition to ordinance adoption and implementation.

Healthy People Healthy Places encourages the implementation of ordinances, policies, programs, and procedures that touch not only community residents, but also employees and visitors to the community.

By providing a community environment rooted in evidence-based health and wellness principles, you are contributing to West Virginia's future.

How do I Apply to be a Healthy People Healthy Places recognized community?

The Healthy People Healthy Places recognition program has 4 levels of recognition: Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

There are different benchmarks listed within the application for each category (Nutrition, Physical Activity and Tobacco), and the applicant will use a check mark to denote the benchmarks in each section (Policy, Environmental and Community-Clinical Linkages/System Changes) that are currently being implemented within the community.

Need help or have questions?

The team behind the West Virginia Healthy People Healthy Places recognition program are able to provide assistance and consultation regarding Healthy People Healthy Places. The team can provide the following:

- Resources on how to implement and accomplish the required elements within each category
- Resources on how to adopt policies related to physical activity, nutrition, and tobacco and community clinical linkages
- Content expertise and information regarding best practices
- Information and technical assistance - trends, data, and best practices for physical activity, nutrition, and tobacco
- Training materials and tool kits
- Data related to physical activity, nutrition, and tobacco
- Resources on how to implement a worksite wellness program – including the adoption of policies related to physical activity, nutrition, and tobacco
- Information or technical assistance regarding Healthy People Healthy Places process
- Best practices being implemented and/or suggested by the State of West Virginia



- How to establish partnerships, utilize these partnerships, and collaborate using existing resources

Eligibility

Current proposed guidelines for eligibility for Healthy People Healthy Places Recognition:

- Towns, cities, and counties throughout the state are eligible to apply. There are 4 population size categories for



cities/towns and 3 for communities will not be as the larger ones.

- Community that have a letter of support from any level of government (local or county) can apply for assistance in the application process. Community partner/organization does not have to be non-profit.
- Unincorporated communities that have a letter of support/recommendation from their county commission can apply and will be evaluated on their county level policies.



counties. Small communities are held to the same standard

as larger communities. Community partners/organizations support/recommendation from local or their local jurisdiction and process. Community does not have to be non-

profit.

Resources

For each category, there are specific benchmarks that are required for an applicant to be considered for Healthy People Healthy Places Recognition. The team can also assist and provide additional information around these elements.

Healthy People Healthy Places requires certain policies to be in place. The team has sample policies on file to assist applicants in meeting the benchmarks listed within each category.

For more assistance on Healthy People Healthy Places you can contact James Vance at james.a.vance@wv.gov You can also visit our website, <https://dhhr.wv.gov/hpcd/Pages/default.aspx>