

Creating Healthy Schools and Communities

Funded by the New York State Department of Health, SUNY Cobleskill will lead a partnership of communities and agencies in identified communities in Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties to implement and evaluate a series of strategic initiatives to increase access and opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity. This will take place in school districts and their associated communities that were identified as being in need due to high numbers of low income population, greater rates of obesity, greater use of free/reduced prices meals in schools, by New York State Department of Health including: Walton, Charlotte Valley, Sidney, Otego-Unadilla, and Richfield Springs.

We are subcontracting work with the schools to Bassett Hospital who has experience in this area from the Healthy Schools New York grant. We will also work with Laberge Group from Albany to assist with Complete Street Policy work with some communities

Other partners will include:

- County Health Departments
- School districts
- County Planning agencies
- Local elected officials
- Local, County and State Department of Transportation
- Civic organizations
- County Chamber of Commerce
- Local hospitals in identified communities
- Food distributors
- Community members interested in promoting healthy changes

Community Initiatives will include:

- Complete Street Policies
- Complete Street Implementation
- Increased access to healthy foods at local convenience stores
- Reduce purchasing of sugar sweetened beverages
- Food standards or procurement policies in local organizations serving foods
- Increasing fruit and vegetables being served through local organizations serving meals

School initiatives will include

- Assessment of School Wellness Policy with work to strengthen them and make them usable documents
- Improve the quality of foods being served in schools
- Reduce food marketing to students
- Increase Physical Activity through Comprehensive School Physical Activity Programs

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