

Cook County Department of Public Health

Cook County Health & Hospitals System

(formerly Cook County Bureau of Health Services)

Todd H. Stroger • President
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Warren L. Batts • Chairman
Cook County Health & Hospitals System

Jorge Ramirez • Vice Chairman
Cook County Health & Hospitals System

William T. Foley • CEO
Cook County Health & Hospitals System



Health System Board Members

Dr. David A. Ansell
Commissioner Jerry Butler
David N. Carvalho
Quin R. Golden
Benn Greenspan
Sr. Sheila Lyne
Dr. Luis R. Muñoz
Heather E. O'Donnell
Andrea L. Zopp

1010 Lake Street, Suite 300
Oak Park, Illinois 60301

Telephone (708) 492-2000
TDD (708) 492-2002

Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Chief Operating Officer

For Immediate Release: March 19, 2010
Media Contact: Amy Poore 708-492-2015

Cook County Department of Public Health Awarded \$16 Million as Part of Recovery Act Prevention and Wellness Initiative, *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*

Today, the **Cook County Department of Public Health** was awarded a grant of \$16 Million for obesity prevention in suburban Cook County.

This grant award is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' *Communities Putting Prevention to Work* initiative to support public health efforts to reduce obesity, increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and decrease smoking—four critical actions for combating chronic diseases and promoting health.

The \$372.8 million, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, was awarded to 44 communities, including cities, towns, and tribes. These communities are receiving awards to implement policy, systems and environmental change strategies over the next two years as one of several initiatives of HHS *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*.

“This grant award is vital to our communities in suburban Cook County where Obesity is the largest epidemic facing our residents today,” said CCDPH chief operating officer, Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H. “We will use the CPPW funding to promote policy changes in school, workplace and community environments to support individuals and families in their efforts to lead healthy, active lifestyles and reduce obesity and chronic disease.”

Health department efforts will include, campaigns to raise awareness about issues impacting nutrition and physical activity. Through a competitive grant process, we will provide grants to communities, schools and organizations interested in laying the groundwork to become model places to live, work and play. In addition, we will be working with our partners to provide trainings to communities so that they may effectively advocate for policy change at the local, county and state levels.

“This Recovery Act Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant reflects the commitment of the Obama Administration to invest in the health and well-being of Americans,” said U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region V Director, Cristal Thomas. “With this new funding, communities across the country are creating a renewed focus on prevention that will be felt nationwide.”

For more information about the Cook County Department of Public Health chronic disease prevention and wellness projects, visit www.cookcountypublichealth.org.

To learn more about *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*, visit www.hhs.gov/recovery and www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/recovery.

Disclaimer: This press release was produced using a template prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

###

We Bring HealthCARE to Your Community