

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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VILLAGE BOARD

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Frank Soto

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Morris Bartlett
Susan V. Janowiak
Robert "Bob" Jarecki
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JoEllen Ridder
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Village Manager
Michael J. Cassady

B-Well Bensenville Plan4Health Coalition Receives Grant Funding from the American Planning Association to Combat Chronic Disease

Bensenville, IL – The *B-Well Bensenville Plan4Health Coalition* has received a \$120,000 grant from the American Planning Association (APA) through its Plan4Health program to combat two determinants of chronic disease—lack of physical activity and lack of access to nutritious foods.

Plan4Health is a 15-month program that strengthens the connection between planning and public health. Seventy-five percent of the program's funding supports local and state coalitions working to advance public health through better planning and partnerships. The program is implemented in partnership with the American Public Health Association (APHA) and represents a major new collaboration between planners and public health professionals. Funding for Plan4Health was provided through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"This is an exciting new opportunity to improve the health of our communities through diverse partnerships," said Anna Ricklin, AICP, manager of APA's Planning and Community Health Center. "Collaboration is key if we want to continue to create communities of lasting value that are equitable and healthy for all residents."

Eighteen coalitions were selected for the Plan4Health program after a competitive review process. The program is being administered through APA's Planning and Community Health Center that is dedicated to integrating community health issues into local and regional planning practices by advancing research, outreach, education and policy.

B-Well Bensenville Plan4Health Coalition

The B-Well Bensenville Initiative will address physical inactivity, with a focus on the needs of low-income and Hispanic residents. Efforts will include short-term solutions like raising awareness about new physical activity opportunities within the community and longer-term policy and environmental changes to promote active and healthy lifestyles in the community.

About Bensenville: Bensenville, Illinois is a friendly village of more than 18,000 residents that provides exceptional benefits whether you live here, work here or play here. In 2011 Bensenville was named the #2 "Best Place to Raise Kids" in Illinois by MSN Real Estate & Bloomberg BusinessWeek. Bensenville is conveniently located just 20 miles west of downtown Chicago in DuPage County, adjacent to O'Hare International Airport, surrounded by major expressways, and boasts several public transportation options including a Metra train station. Residents enjoy a thriving Downtown and commercial corridors with a variety of shopping and dining options, and beautiful parks such as the Redmond Recreational Complex featuring The Edge Ice Arenas. Our over 1,000-acre Northern Business District includes many top companies. In addition, Bensenville is home to Robert Morris University, White Pines Golf Course, Fenton High School, an outstanding public library, water park with new splash pad and two newly constructed elementary schools. With plenty to offer both families and businesses, Bensenville really is the "Gateway to Opportunity". Please visit our website at www.bensenville.il.us.

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"The B-Well Bensenville Initiative is about putting families on the path to a healthy future for years to come," said Bensenville Community Youth Services Coalition President JoEllen Ridder, "We are very honored to be awarded this grant and look to set the standard by which other villages and towns follow in order to make a difference in the health of their community."

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B-Well Bensenville Plan4Health Coalition partners include:
Bensenville Community Youth Services Coalition
Village of Bensenville
Bensenville Community Public Library
Bensenville Park District
Bensenville Elementary School District 2
Fenton High School District 100
American Planning Association-Illinois Chapter
DuPage County Health Department

"This important work is only possible through partnerships; we are grateful for the passion and dedication of local governments and community organizations," stated President Ridder.

In addition to *B-Well Bensenville* being selected, the following 17 coalitions also received funding:

1. *Eastern Highlands Health District Community Health Response Team*; Eastern Highlands, Connecticut
 2. *Healthy Savannah, Inc.*; Chatham County, Georgia
 3. *Health Transformers*; Vista Neighborhood, Boise, Idaho
 4. *Kane County Planning Cooperative*; Kane County, Illinois
 5. *Reach Healthy Communities*; Columbus, Indiana
 6. *Health by Design*; Indianapolis/Marion County, Indiana
 7. *Planning Healthy Iowa Communities*; Linn County, Iowa
 8. *Kenton County Plan4Health Coalition*; Kenton County, Kentucky
 9. *Inner Core Community Health Improvement Coalition*; Metro Boston, Massachusetts
 10. *Healthy Eating, Active Living Partnership – Active Living Workgroup*; St. Louis, Missouri
 11. *Plan4Health – Nashua, an initiative of the Greater Nashua Public Health Network*; Nashua, New Hampshire
 12. *Trenton Healthy Communities Initiative*; Trenton, New Jersey
 13. *Live Well Kingston*; Kingston, New York
 14. *Columbus Public Health – Chronic Disease Prevention Advisory Board*; Columbus, Ohio
 15. *Plan 4 Health Summit County*; Summit County, Ohio
 16. *Austin-Vámonos Rundberg Coalition*; Rundberg Neighborhood, Austin, Texas
 17. *Capital Region Healthy Communities*, Dane County, Wisconsin
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