



HEALTHY FAYETTE COUNTY

HEALTH EQUITY PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Health Determinants Rural Learning Collaborative increased awareness of health determinants and equipped participating communities with an action plan to address areas identified in the needs assessment phase of this project.

Over the last 9 months, four rural communities were selected with the goals of:

- 1 increasing their knowledge about health determinants,
- 2 assessing the needs in their community,
- 3 prioritizing the needs they identify, and
- 4 developing an obtainable action plan to develop programs to address health disparities.

Within each of the grantee communities, a community team or coalition was established to guide the grant objectives. When creating these community teams, IRHA worked with grantees to identify potential cross-sector partnerships and ensure all members of the community were being considered in the work. The result of the Health Determinants Rural Learning Collaborative is four successful health equity projects across the state of Iowa. While the projects vary in many ways, each project increased community partnerships, infrastructure, and community knowledge of the social determinants of health.

The overarching goal of Healthy Fayette County is to provide a comprehensive approach to improving the quality of life for all Fayette County residents through cross-sector collaboration, capacity building, and increased education and awareness.

Leadership of this coalition includes representation from Fayette County Public Health, Gunderson Palmer Lutheran Hospital and Clinics, Helping Services for Youth and Families, ISU Extension & Outreach, Mercy One: Oelwein Medical Center, and Parent Share and Support.

After completing a county-wide health needs survey the coalition chose to focus on three main priorities: Nutrition, Mental Health, and Prevention, creating a workgroup for each priority area. The coalition leveraged multiple streams of funding, including the IRHA Health Equity grant, to work closely with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services to build a solid foundation for the coalition. They knew creating this solid foundation would be essential for sustainability and success of each of the three workgroups.

Healthy Fayette County utilized the IRHA grant funding to jumpstart a couple main projects that were identified as a need by the coalition and their workgroups. The first need identified was a centralized website for the coalition and all the partners. The creation of a website for Healthy Fayette County allows the coalition to promote the work they are doing within each of the workgroups, have a platform to showcase the partnerships they have developed, and have a county-wide events calendar in a central location. Secondly, Fayette county utilized the grant to kick-off a county-wide marketing effort to educate the community on when to access 2-1-1 versus 9-8-8 versus 9-1-1.

Mental health and access to mental health care is a large concern for Fayette County and understanding what resources are available is part of their solution. The coalition partnered with the United Way of Central Iowa to utilize a graphic that visually explains when to use each number. The graphics were then turned into magnets distributed to schools, libraries, and at community events. Since the partnership with the United Way, 2-1-1 Wisconsin has also adopted this graphic, and the coalition has distributed the original 5,000 magnets to community members. More information about Healthy Fayette County and their workgroups can be found at their website.

Healthy Fayette County Coalition has been an opportunity to unite the many organizations diligently working on addressing food insecurity, prevention, and mental health into a powerful resource.”

— Deb Kahler, Healthy Fayette County Leadership, Nutrition Team Lead, Fayette County Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

HEALTHY FAYETTE COUNTY

CONTACT HEALTHY FAYETTE COUNTY

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Being a part of the Healthy Fayette County team has been impactful for not only me as an individual but also overall for Parent Share and Support! It has been a great experience being able to learn from one another during the workgroups as well as having the extra support of ideas, connections, and resources that many individuals bring to the team.”

— *Kim Puls, Healthy Fayette County Leadership, Executive Director Parent Share and Support*

BEST PRACTICES

- Create a strong foundation. Healthy Fayette County did this through a systems development process with IHHS and it was paramount to the success of the group.
- Utilize an online platform that is accessible for all coalition members to access all internal documents, contribute information, and upload additional internal and external documents.
- Utilize the partnerships you develop wisely to help move your initiatives forward. Use their strengths and develop additional partnerships in areas of weakness for current partners.
- Find the commonalities with other organizations and potential partners to layer the messaging.
- Allow for partner sharing time at coalition meetings. This creates another layer of buy-in and allows for all partners to understand each organization's work.
- Don't try to reinvent the wheel. If you see another group utilizing a tool you think would be beneficial for your community, see if there is opportunity to partner and expand their current reach.

38

**38 PARTNERSHIPS
CREATED, EXPANDED,
OR MAINTAINED AS
A RESULT OF THE
HEALTH EQUITY GRANT**

5K

**5,000
INFORMATIONAL
MAGNETS
WERE
DISTRIBUTED**

12+

**12+ COMMUNITY
TRAININGS AND
EVENTS TO INCREASE
AWARENESS AROUND
MENTAL HEALTH AND
FOOD INSECURITY
IN FAYETTE COUNTY**

**A NEW ROBUST WEBSITE WAS CREATED TO SHARE THE WORK OF
THE COALITION: www.HealthyFayetteCountyIA.com**

ABOUT IRHA

The Iowa Rural Health Association aims to provide leadership on factors that influence healthy living in rural Iowa. The Health Equity grant has been instrumental in allowing IRHA to imagine new and creative ways to facilitate health improvement for rural Iowans by allowing each community to prioritize their own needs and approaches. Throughout this process, IRHA has been able to foster unique strategies for health improvement in rural areas.

We've learned so much from the creative programs, projects, and processes our partner communities have implemented to address their community's needs and are excited to share their successes to aid leaders across rural Iowa improve the lives of those they serve. We look forward to continuing to play the role as convener and cohort-facilitator for more communities in the years to come!

*Audrey Tran Lam,
IRHA Board President*



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