

## 2017-2018 Bright Spot Award Nomination Form

The Bright Spot Awards are an effort to recognize examples of meaningful Primary Prevention initiatives taking place across our state. Here are the steps to nominate your initiative:

- 1.) All nominations must be submitted by July 1, 2018. One nomination form must be completed per initiative nominated. Email completed nominations to Matt Coleman ([Matthew.Coleman@TN.gov](mailto:Matthew.Coleman@TN.gov))
- 2.) All nominations received are redacted so that the review committee will not know the exact location and persons involved with the initiative. The review committee is made up of individuals from each region of the state. They will review, score, and discuss each submission. An average of the final scores given by the review committee will be used to determine the award level earned.
- 3.) Award levels include Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Honorable Mention.
- 4.) Awardees will be announced in the fall of 2018.
- 5.) Each nomination will be presented with a comprehensive feedback report from the committee, which will include strengths of the initiative and opportunities for improvement.

### **Application:**

**County:** Henderson

**Initiative Name:** Summer Food Program

**Primary Prevention Focus Area(s):** Healthy Weight

**Primary Contact Name, Email, Phone:** Janna Beth Shaull, [Janna.B.Shaull@tn.gov](mailto:Janna.B.Shaull@tn.gov), 731-421-6704

## Bright Spot Award Questions

**Please explain why you think this initiative should be considered for the TDH Bright Spot Awards.**

(150 words max); (10 points available)

Henderson County's child food insecurity rate is 26.4% compared to the state of Tennessee's rate of 21.1%, according to the 2017 Map the Meal Gap data (Source: <http://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-the-map-data.html>). Child food insecurity, especially among low-income families, can be the root cause of several physical and mental health disparities. Children who have adequate food to eat are more engaged in daily activities, perform better within the school environment, and are less likely to participate in disruptive behaviors. The Summer Food Program uses the *Collective Impact Model* to engage multiple community partners to provide an immediate impact for children living in Henderson County.

**Is this initiative contributing to a policy, systems, and/or environmental change<sup>1</sup> in the community?** (300 words max); (75 points available)

While this project does not overtly contribute to any policy, systems, and/or environmental changes, it does modify the environmental landscape by bringing free, healthy, balanced meals to minor children at their place of residence.

**What are the SMART objective goals and major purpose(s) of this initiative? (SMART objectives are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time Bound. Example: By May 2019; all soft drink machines in Lauderdale County Schools will be turned off during the school day, per school board policy.)** (300 words max); (10 points available)

By September 30, 2018, the Henderson County Health Department staff will implement the Southwest Human Resource Agency (SWHRA) Summer Food Program within communities of Henderson County to increase the access to healthy foods among youth ages 0-18 years.

**What is the annual budget and funding source for this initiative? If no funding is available, how have you implemented or sustained the initiative?** (150 words max); (5 points available)

There is a very low budget for this project. All human resource is supplied through volunteers. Administration of this project is financially supported by grant funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Southwest Human Resource Agency provides the meals needed. Concerning funding from the Health Department, staff used \$150 of county primary prevention money to purchase a tent and some supplies such as tarps, garbage bags, paper towels, notebooks, etc., needed regarding volunteer trainings and community events. Those community partners that agree to monitor meal distribution are responsible for absorbing their own costs when providing or facilitating any presentation and/or activities that week for the youth.

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<sup>1</sup> Policy, systems and environmental change is a way of modifying the environment to make healthy choices practical and available to all community members. By changing laws and shaping physical landscapes, a big impact can be made with little time and resources. By changing policies, systems and/or environments, communities can help tackle health issues like obesity, diabetes, cancer and other chronic diseases (<http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/files/PPW/PSE%20Change.pdf>)

**Have community partners helped with the initiative? What are the roles of these partners?** (300 words max); (20 points available)

Community partners play a vital role within the organization and monitoring of the distribution and meals at the various neighborhood sites. Each organization signs up to be the weekly lead volunteer agency and distributes lunches to the youth at the designated community sites. On the days an organization has agreed to serve the lunches, it receives the opportunity to share education and/or facilitate recreational activities among the youth. Community partners include: area churches, local law enforcement, local fire departments, county and city schools, local government, chamber of commerce, and other community groups. The participation of community partners assists to expand youth's positive exposure to the important community organizations and professionals within the county, an exposure which the youth might not have experienced prior to receiving lunches in the Summer Food Program.

**What is the timeline for the initiative? (When does planning occur? When is/was the initiative implemented? When is the initiative evaluated?)** (250 words max); (5 points available)

Planning for the Summer Food Program began in July 2017 when project lead, Regional Nursing Director Janna B. Shaull, RN, began reaching out to the Southwest Human Resource Agency to learn about the program. The primary prevention team began reaching out to community partners who might be interested in helping with this project in September 2017. In November 2017, Janna reached out to the Lexington Housing Authority, which manages three apartment complexes, to see if using the common areas at these complexes would be ideal locations at where to distribute lunches. Community partners were invited to participate in monthly meetings beginning in February 2018, and training from Southwest Human Resource Agency on meal distribution procedures was required for at least one person in each organization in May 2018. Distribution of the meals will take place Monday through Friday, June 1 through July 31, 2018, with the exception the Fourth of July holiday. Evaluation will occur weekly via a Survey Gizmo for each organization, as well as with an in-person hot wash meeting in August 2018. As a part of the evaluation piece, a total of the number of lunches served will be recorded.

**In what way is this initiative especially innovative? How is this initiative different from other similar programs? Is there a specific idea tested with this approach? Is this work informed by relevant literature or research studies?** (400 words max); (20 points available)

This project uses an already available resource which makes it more available to the community. The existence of this initiative is not new to Henderson County, for in previous years a church attempted to organize the summer food program for the housing authority. However, this current initiative has created an established collaboration of several community partners to use as an available resource in a more efficient and sustainable way. The PPI team has transformed the organization of the administration of the Summer Food Program. Rather than one organization carrying the weight of a summer-long food program, several organizations team up to share the delivery of the meals in order to prevent burn-out and fatigue of the food distribution. Also, the organization presentations and/or facilitation of recreational activities among the youth is a new aspect to this project, and this activity promotes what Sieving et al (2017)<sup>2</sup> call positive "Youth-Adult Connectedness", a social relationship among young people and adults which promotes positive development and a foundation for adolescent health and well-being. One can observe that this initiative goes beyond feeding children healthy meals to ensure their physical well-being; that there is a

comprehensive approach to expand youth's health on a social and emotional level. Thus, the initiative embodies the TDH mission to "protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee."

2 – Sieving et al. Youth-adult connectedness: A key protective factor for adolescent health. *American Journal of Prevention Medicine*. 2017; 52(3S3):S275-S278

**Are the measures clearly listed describing what makes the program effective? Is data provided or referenced that supports the conclusion? What makes this program effective? How is the program evaluated? Does this initiative achieve its stated goals?** (350 words max); (20 points available)

Weekly surveys will be distributed electronically to the contact person of the community organization that provided monitoring and activities for that week. These surveys are to elicit immediate feedback on the process and make changes along the way as necessary. Currently, at the end of the second full week of the program, a total of 209 lunches have been served.

Additionally, daily meal counts will be kept to keep track of the number of meals provided each day at each location. A hot wash meeting will be held in August 2018 for all community partners and the health department planning PPI team will gather comments and suggestions.

**What limitations or obstacles might be expected if others wished to replicate this initiative?** (300 words max); (50 points available)

A key to being successful with this project is to start early and devote plenty of time to planning. It is important to find out what resources are available in the proposed community, and familiarize yourself with the policies and procedures of those resources. For example, the Southwest Human Resource Agency has strict criteria for the summer food program grant. If program procedures are not followed, the result could be a loss in grant funding, which is vitally important to the continuation of the summer food program. Finding the right community partners could also be an obstacle, but with the health department's previous PPI and health promotion engagement in the community there is an increased likelihood that community partnerships have already been established. What an initiative like this does is that it strengthens the bonds and increases cooperation towards community goals and health outcomes.

**Is this initiative sustainable without the resources of the local health department being involved?** (250 words max); (20 points available)

The summer food program could be sustained with or without the help of health department staff. The health department staff primarily has the responsibility for planning and marketing of the program in the community. Any one organization could take the lead role in those two areas. Since the meals are provided through a community resource at no cost, and community partners are providing other materials needed during their week of monitoring, there is little to no cost associated with this project.