



PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

Central Michigan District Health Department
"Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities"

For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 8440
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To: Local News Media

From: Central Michigan District Health Department

RE: Central Michigan District Health Department Announces Grant Recipients

Release Date: May 2013

**Central Michigan District Health Department Announces Recipients of Community
Transformation Grant Award Money.**

Local Municipalities Receive Funds to Help Create Master Plans

Today, the Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) announces the 13 local municipalities that will receive awards of up to \$17,500 through CMDHD's Together We Can Transform Communities Initiative. The awards will be used to create master plans that make physical activity through walking and bicycling safer and more accessible. The following 13 recipients will receive awards:

Arenac County - Arenac Heritage Authority and The City Omer.

Clare County – The City of Clare; The City of Harrison; and Hayes Township.

Gladwin County – The City of Beaverton; Grout Township; The City of Gladwin; and Tobacco Township.

Roscommon County – Denton Township, Markey Township; Lake Township partnering with Roscommon Township; and The Village of Roscommon partnering with Higgins Township.

Municipalities in all six counties served by Central Michigan District Health Department, which are Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon counties, were initially contacted and advised of the opportunity to fill out a Request for Proposal (RFP) available through the CMDHD. In all, 20 proposals were received by CMDHD.

The award period runs from May 1, 2013 through September 1, 2014. During this time, each awarded municipality will assess the needs in their community, engage community members, and develop a complete pedestrian and bicycle master plan. The funds allow the communities to

develop reports, conduct surveys and land assessments; create blueprints, and do other policy-based activities. These new bicycle and pedestrian master plans will create new opportunities for physical activity for residents in these communities by enhancing access and increasing land available for these activities.

Funding for these awards is made possible by a \$1.6 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the CMDHD for the Together We Can Transform Communities Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to implement programs that aim to reduce obesity and reduce death and disability due to heart disease, stroke, and tobacco use in the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon. The grant is one of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS's) Community Transformation Grants (CTG) supporting public health efforts aiming to reduce chronic diseases, promote healthier lifestyles, reduce health disparities, and control health care spending in small communities.

The master plan initiative is one way the CMDHD is improving health and promoting wellness in central Michigan. CMDHD is working with schools, local governments, aging agencies, local businesses, and other community partners to implement projects and programs that will improve health in the region.

If you would like an opportunity to get involved with improving weight status among children, adolescents and adults, consider joining Together We Can. Together We Can is a community project aimed at improving health status in the central Michigan counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. For more information, LIKE Together We Can Health Improvement Council on Facebook, visit our website at www.together-we-can.org or email us at TogetherWeCan@cmdhd.org.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org and LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook.

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