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APPLICATION WINDOW OPEN FOR HEALTHY WEIGHT RECOGNITION



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Tallahassee, Fla. —The Florida Department of Health is accepting submissions for the third annual Healthy Weight Community Champion Recognition Program. Last year, 65 cities and counties were recognized by the Florida Department of Health for their efforts to increase physical activity and improve nutrition as part of the Healthiest Weight Florida Initiative.

“I am encouraged to see Florida’s local governments become ambassadors of health in their communities,” said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. “The department is proud to recognize innovative health efforts by county and municipal governments that will help to achieve the goal of becoming the healthiest state in the nation.”

Local governments can implement a variety of policies that help people become more physically active and encourage better nutrition. The Healthy Weight Community Champion Recognition Program recognizes these best practices. Examples of criteria for the recognition include whether a jurisdiction maintains a system of parks, provides incentive programs to attract grocery stores to underserved neighborhoods and prioritizes personal safety in areas where people can increase physical activity.

All of Florida’s 411 active municipalities (cities, towns and villages) and 67 counties are eligible to submit best practices. Submissions will be accepted through Nov. 13, 2015. The best practices will be posted and communities will be recognized on Jan. 4, 2015. Information for submissions can be found on the Healthiest Weight [website](#).

About the Florida Department of Health

The department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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About Healthiest Weight Florida

Healthiest Weight Florida is a public-private collaboration bringing together state agencies, not-for-profit organizations, businesses and entire communities to help

Florida's children and adults make consistent, informed choices about healthy eating and active living. To learn more about how to be active and make nutritious food choices, visit www.healthiestweightflorida.com.