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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONGRATULATES 2016 HEALTHY WEIGHT COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Contact:
Communications Office
NewsMedia@flhealth.gov
850-245-4111

Tallahassee, Fla.— The Florida Department of Health is recognizing 80 communities as 2016 Healthy Weight Community Champions for their model practices which affect more than 41 percent of Floridians. This year's Champions are working to reshape environments in their communities through a variety of evidence-based policies that increase physical activity and improve nutrition.

"By working toward creating healthy environments, these local governments have shown their commitment to improving the health of all Floridians," said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. "We are proud to see the number of recognized communities growing steadily each year."

Between October and December 2015, local governments were invited to submit best practices and policies they have implemented in their jurisdictions related to health and wellness. The work highlighted on the applications demonstrates local government commitment to making Florida the healthiest state in the nation.

The Community Champions program is part of the department's Healthiest Weight Florida initiative. 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.

2016 Healthy Weight Community Champions:

Counties
Alachua County
Bradford County
Broward County
Citrus County
Flagler County
Gadsden County

Glades County
Gulf County
Hamilton County
Hendry County
Jefferson County
Lee County
Leon County
Manatee County
Marion County
Polk County
Putnam County
Sarasota County
St. Johns County
Suwannee County
Union County

Cities
City of Apalachicola
City of Belleview
City of Bradenton
City of Cedar Key
City of Clearwater
City of Clermont
City of Coconut Creek
City of Crescent City
City of Deerfield Beach
City of Delray Beach
City of Doral
City of Fort Lauderdale
City of Fort Myers
City of Fort Walton Beach
City of Hallandale Beach
City of Hollywood
City of Jacksonville
City of Key West
City of Lake Butler
City of Lakeland
City of Largo
City of Madison
City of Marco Island
City of Marianna
City of Monticello
City of New Smyrna Beach
City of Newberry
City of Orlando
City of Ormond Beach

City of Oviedo
City of Palatka
City of Palm Bay
City of Panama City
City of Pensacola
City of Pinellas Park
City of Port St. Joe
City of Port St. Lucie
City of Safety Harbor
City of Sanford
City of Sanibel
City of St. Cloud
City of St. Marks
City of St. Petersburg
City of Starke
City of Stuart
City of Tallahassee
City of Tamarac
City of Vero Beach
City of Weston
City of Wilton Manors
City of Winter Haven
City of Winter Park

Towns
Town of Cutler Bay
Town of Indialantic
Town of Miami Lakes
Town of Penney Farms
Town of Pomona Park
Town of Ponce Inlet
Town of Welaka

For more information about Healthiest Weight Florida and the Healthiest Weight Community Champions Recognition, visit: HealthiestWeightFlorida.com/recognition.

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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