



For Release: April 17, 2015 – Contact us at media@occhd.org

OKC-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT NAMED A SCALE AWARDEE BY INSTITUTE FOR HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT

The OKC-County Health Department (OCCHD) along with our partners of the City of OKC, OKC Public Schools, the Boathouse Foundation and the Regional Food Bank today announced it has been named a Mentor Community by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) to support promising community-based work on health improvement, as part of the SCALE (Spreading Community Accelerators through Learning and Evaluation) initiative. Made possible by a \$4.8 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, SCALE will help communities further their capability to improve the health of targeted populations and develop ways to share and spread community-driven approaches across the country.

SCALE is designed to jumpstart an unprecedented community-to-community learning system right out of the gate in that the initiative matches four “mentor communities” – those with a recent track record of achieving better health – with 20 “pacesetter communities” that are seeking to accelerate their pace of change. The OCCHD, through the Wellness Now Coalition, has been steadily working towards development of a culture of health in our community.

Oklahoma City has generated a lot of momentum over the last several years, our recent selection as a member of the National League of Cities Learning Collaborative on Obesity, and our role in the recent United States Chamber Foundation report on business engagement to combat obesity.

The OCCHD will utilize the SCALE initiative to align efforts under the Wellness Now umbrella and capitalize on the current awareness and excitement. We are as a community, poised to “take back our health” a campaign recently launched by the OCCHD, and we anticipate that the SCALE initiative will provide our leaders with additional support in moving successfully from planning into action and implementation.

“Our mission is to improve the health outcomes of all residents and we have a proven track record of doing that on a community-based level,” said Gary Cox, OCCHD Executive Director.

SCALE communities will seek to obtain improved health outcomes, spread effective best practices as quickly as possible in order to realize improvements in health, and become beacons and resources for any community, anywhere, striving to obtain the best health possible – especially those communities most vulnerable to poor health due to poverty, violence, or lack of social supports.

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