



PRESS RELEASE

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VFHY Awards \$1.25 Million in Childhood Obesity Grants

Grants will fund local community coalitions to prevent/reduce childhood obesity

RICHMOND- The [Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth \(VFHY\)](#) has awarded more than \$1.25 million in grants to establish and/or support 22 local community coalitions across Virginia to fight childhood obesity.

VFHY's new Healthy Communities Action Team (HCAT) grants will provide funds to implement identified promising practices in childhood-obesity prevention suggested by the national Institute of Medicine and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). VFHY will also provide training and other assistance to HCAT grantees.

The FY 2010-12 HCAT recipients are:

- Appalachian Community Action Agency (Gate City)
- Boys & Girls Club of Central Virginia (Charlottesville)
- Carilion Clinic (Roanoke)
- Cora Kelly Parent Teacher Association (Alexandria)
- Eastern Virginia Medical School, Office of Sponsored Programs (Norfolk)
- Floyd County Multidisciplinary Team (Floyd)
- Healthy Hearts Plus II (Richmond)
- Historic Triangle Substance Abuse Coalition (Williamsburg)
- Lenowisco Health District (Wise)
- MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness (Martinsville)
- Peninsula Metropolitan YMCA (Yorktown)
- Rappahannock Area YMCA (Fredericksburg)
- Suffolk Partnership for a Healthy Community (Suffolk)
- TurnKey KB & Associates, LLC (Galax)
- Virginia Department of Health (Hampton)
- Valley Community Services Board (Staunton)
- Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (Richmond)
- Virginia Organizing - Community Obesity Task Force (Charlottesville)
- Virginia Tech (Blacksburg)
- YMCA at Virginia Tech (Blacksburg)
- Youth Apostles Institute - Don Bosco Center (McLean)

VFHY's new HCAT grantees will implement a variety of childhood obesity prevention strategies, including: working with farmers' markets to increase accessibility to fresh produce; increasing physical activity in after-school programs; developing community gardens; and creating safe neighborhood playgrounds.

"The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth wants to help communities take a more active role in stemming the tide of the childhood obesity epidemic," says VFHY Executive Director Marty Kilgore. "Our Healthy Communities Action Teams grants will help forge new coalitions between local governments, nonprofits, school systems and other organizations that are concerned with creating a healthier tomorrow for Virginia's young people." It is VFHY's hope, Kilgore adds, that these coalitions will go on to become self-sustaining and continue their important prevention work on the local level long after their VFHY funding ends.

Earlier this year, VFHY released the results of the first Virginia Childhood Obesity Survey, which found that one out of five young people in Virginia between the ages of 10 and 17 is obese or overweight. The highest percentages of childhood obesity were found in Southwest Virginia, where nearly one in three children is obese or overweight.

Obesity remains the second leading cause of preventable deaths in the United States, behind tobacco use. More than 60 percent of Virginia adults are obese or overweight. Childhood obesity can lead to serious health problems once only seen in adults, including Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and sleep apnea.

About the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth:

Established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1999, the **Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY)** is responsible for leading statewide efforts to prevent and reduce youth tobacco use and childhood obesity.

VFHY directly reaches more than 141,000 children through classroom-based prevention programs in hundreds of public schools, after-school programs, community centers, daycares and prevention programs statewide. The Foundation's award-winning "Y do u think" marketing campaign delivers prevention messages to 600,000 children annually through TV and radio ads and Internet content. VFHY's creative advertising campaigns have received national attention, including AdWeek magazine's Best Commercial of the Month awards.

Formerly known as the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation, VFHY is funded through a portion of Virginia's share of the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement (MSA).

For more information about the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, please visit our website at www.HealthyYouthVa.org.

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