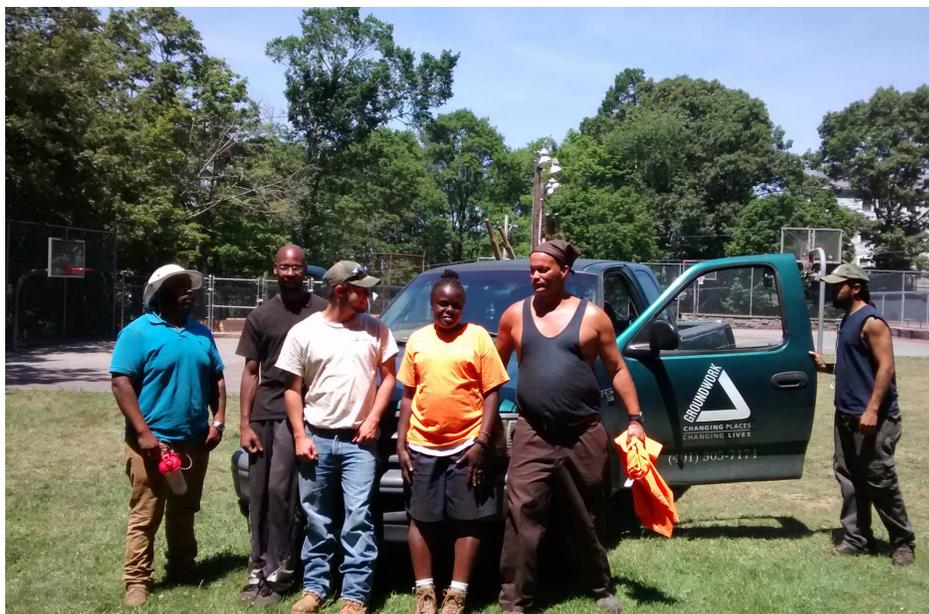


Plan4Health: Mount Hope Coalition to Increase Food Security

SUMMARY

Plan4Health connects communities across the country, funding work at the intersection of planning and public health. Anchored by American Planning Association (APA) chapters and American Public Health Association (APHA) affiliates, Plan4Health supports creative partnerships to build sustainable, cross-sector coalitions. The Mount Hope Coalition to Increase Food Security aims to educate the residents of Providence on the health and economic benefits of producing locally grown food and options for securing fresh, healthy food.



CHALLENGE

Of the 152,000 food insecure individuals within Rhode Island, nearly 100,000 live in Providence County. Within the City of Providence, Mount Hope is a diverse neighborhood that faces many issues and concerns that affect impoverished communities. Data from 2012 found that the residents identified health and the affordability and accessibility of healthcare as major concerns. Grocery stores are available throughout Providence, but prices are

high and healthy food is inaccessible for those with limited income. Nearly 44 percent of Mount Hope residents live below the 200 percent Federal Poverty Line and 23 percent live below the 100 percent Federal Poverty Line. Food insecure people are especially vulnerable to obesity. Data show that between 62 percent and 72 percent of residents were classified as either obese or overweight.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS KEY

To learn more about the Mount Hope Coalition to Increase Food Security and all coalitions participating in Plan4Health, check out the project website (www.plan4health.us). Join the national conversation at the intersection of planning and public health on social media by using and following #plan4health.

"This is fantastic. We [the office] work with folks all over the city to see how they can develop health from within and how to build a neighborhood that encourages health among its residents"

- Healthy Communities Office

SOLUTION

The Mount Hope Coalition to Increase Food Security will work to build capacity, expand the coalition and increase access to healthy food throughout the community. The coalition will identify existing resources, including gardens, and evaluate the feasibility of establishing additional gardens, greenhouses and urban farms. Through this expansion and development of new food sources, the coalition can help to manage produce production and allow for community members to get involved through hands-on experience while increasing access to healthy food.

RESULTS

The project hosted a successful celebration for new and existing coalition partners, community members, and friends to mark a community garden installation. A luncheon was hosted at the garden for thirty nine people representing a cross-section of the project coalition and community. The community health worker team led a walking tour of the community, visiting key garden sites and potential new sites, demonstrating community assets. The day concluded with a Food Coalition Meeting and visioning session.

Quotes from the luncheon highlight that the coalition's work fulfills the ideals of many community members. The impact of community organizing that proceeded the program set the stage for the Plan4Health project and demonstrates other spill-over effects such as creating employment opportunities for a good number of community members

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