



Appendix A:
***We Choose Health* Letter of Intent**

General Instructions

If you intend to submit a grant application under the *We Choose Health* program, you must first submit this Letter of Intent (LOI). Organizations failing to submit the LOI form by the deadline are ineligible to apply for funding. Note that submitting this form does not obligate you to submit a completed application.

Please fill out **all three** pages completely using Adobe Reader and submit by email to DPH.WeChooseHealth@Illinois.gov, no later than 5 p.m. CDT on Friday, May 18, 2012. You will receive a confirmation via e-mail within two business days. If you do not receive a confirmation, IDPH has not received your Letter of Intent.

Section I: Contact Information

Organization Name	Mercer County Health Department
Street Address	305 NW 7th Street
City, State, Zip Code	Aledo, IL 61231
Phone Number	(309) 582-3759
Website	
Primary Contact	
Name	Jennifer Hamerlinck
Title	Project Coordinator
Phone Number	(309) 582-3759
Email Address	jhamerlinck65@hotmail.com
Secondary Contact	
Name	Julie VanMelkebeke
Title	Project Liaison
Phone Number	(309) 582-3759
Email Address	julie92rn@hotmail.com

Type of applicant (check for primary applicant only; may check more than one if applicable)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Health Department | <input type="checkbox"/> Public School System | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-profit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Private School System | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Government | <input type="checkbox"/> University | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith-based Organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Government | | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Organization |
- Specify: _____
- Hospital or Hospital System
 Health Care Foundation
 Community Health Care Centers

Section II: About Your Potential Application

1. The proposed project takes place and impacts communities in Illinois *excluding* Cook, DuPage, Will, Lake, and Kane counties

Yes No

Note: If you answered "no," your project is ineligible for this funding opportunity.

2. Please indicate which strategies you are considering for your application. Each menu option applies to one or more categories: Healthy Eating and Active Living; Smoke-free Living; Healthy and Safe Built Environments and Social and Emotional Wellness. Applicants must choose at least one strategy addressing Healthy Eating and Active Living and at least one strategy addressing Smoke-Free Living.

Healthy Eating and Active Living
(must choose at least one)

Smoke-free Living
(must choose at least one)

Healthy and Safe Built Environments

Coordinated School Health

(includes Social & Emotional Wellness)

Smoke-free Multi-unit Housing

Smoke-free Public Places

Safe Routes to School

Complete Streets

Baby Friendly Hospitals

Joint Use Agreements

Worksite Wellness

3. Briefly describe the geographic area your proposed project will impact.

The Tri-County We Choose Health Program will be conducted in the counties of Mercer, Henderson, and Warren in western Illinois with a total population of 41,472 people. Bordered by the Mississippi in two of the counties, the population represents a 76% rural, largely agricultural and industrial area. Many families represent low income working poor groups. The population faces unique challenges in regard to wellness and health care including no public transportation, travel times of up to 45-60 minutes to see doctors or receive medical attention, lack of available health care providers, and hazardous travel due to inclement weather.

All three counties are federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas. The Tri-County has a 9.8% unemployment rate according to City-data April 2010, and 11.3% of the persons are below poverty (US Census 2010). The median household income is only \$45,331.00 compared to the state rate of \$55,735.00 (US Census 2010). The Tri-County also has an alarming Medicaid Enrollee to Medicaid Physician Vendors Ratio of 428.8:1 compared to the state rate of 82.3:1, with a remarkable ratio of 651:1 in Henderson County, further challenging access to health services for low income families.

The Tri-County has 9.2% rate of Diabetes, 20.9% smokers, and a 27.1% rate of obesity. The Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System reports that the Tri-County area has a rate of 30.5% some or no official policy in place for smoke free public places. County employees do not have a worksite wellness program in place.

Tri-County We Choose Health will focus on three components including Coordinated School Health Program, Smoke Free Public Places, and Worksite Wellness.


4. IDPH is encouraging applications reflecting broad-based regional collaboration, and will post information about received Letters of Intent on the *We Choose Health* website to help potential partners identify each other. Check this box ONLY if you DO NOT wish information about your Letter of Intent posted:

Note: Even if you check this box, IDPH reserves the right to privately contact you and potential collaborators to encourage joint proposals.

Section III: Authorization

Please include a signature by a member of the applicant organization's executive staff. Electronic signatures are acceptable.

"I hereby authorize my organization to submit this Letter of Intent. I understand that this Letter of Intent in no way obligates my organization to submit a completed proposal."

Name (printed)	Jennifer Hamerlinck
Title	Program Administration
Organization	Mercer County Health Department
Signature	
Date	5/17/2012