

# APPLICATION INSIGHTS: DELAWARE COUNTY, IN

## 2018 RWJF CULTURE OF HEALTH PRIZE

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### *Purpose*

Thank you very much for applying for the 2018 RWJF Culture of Health Prize. It was a privilege to learn more about the great strides your community is making toward building a Culture of Health. This was a highly competitive process. In 2018, we received and reviewed 190 applications from across the country. Your community was among the 36 invited to advance to the second phase of the competition. This alone is a notable accomplishment and you and your community partners should be very proud!

More than 30 leaders in health, community development, policy, leadership, and coalition building from across the nation reviewed the Phase II applications and met for an all-day meeting to discuss their reviews. From that discussion, the 10 finalists were selected for site visits.

While your community was not selected as a finalist in this year's competition, we hope that you found the process of applying to be valuable. We know you and your community partners invested a lot of time and energy in putting together your Prize application. In return, we want to share with you the strengths and potential opportunities for improvement that reviewers identified based on what they gleaned from your application.

This document will also point your community to some helpful tools and guidance available through the collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

We encourage you to share this document with your partners and hope it will prompt additional discussion about how your community can continue to build a Culture of Health.

### *RWJF Culture of Health Prize criteria*

- Defining health in the broadest possible terms.
- Committing to sustainable systems changes and policy-oriented long-term solutions.
- Creating conditions that give everyone a fair and just opportunity to reach their best possible health.
- Harnessing the collective power of leaders, partners, and community members.
- Securing and making the most of available resources.
- Measuring and sharing progress and results.

## ***Prize criteria and community's application***

Your application was read by a team of reviewers. This section is based on the reviewers' findings from your application specifically related to the six Prize criteria. Below you will find the criteria that judges found most strongly reflected in your application as well as those criteria not as strongly reflected.

Please see the [2018 Call for Applications](#) document for greater detail on the six criteria.

### **Criteria more strongly reflected**

- Harnessing the collective power of leaders, partners, and community members.

### **Criteria with mixed reviews**

- Defining health in the broadest possible terms.
- Committing to sustainable systems changes and policy-oriented long-term solutions.
- Creating conditions that give everyone a fair and just opportunity to reach their best possible health.
- Securing and making the most of available resources.

### **Criteria not as strongly reflected**

- Measuring and sharing progress and results.

## ***Brief comments on strengths***

- Your list of accomplishments, including improving transportation, innovative learning, food strategies, enhancing and strengthening healthy beginnings for the youngest citizens, provide a strong foundation to move toward a healthier community.
- The positive partnerships in your community involving government, academia, business, and the extension program seem to be helping Delaware County residents. The commitment to active transportation is an important factor in your success which directly and indirectly affects many aspects of the basic necessities of residents and leads to improving their economic and social development.
- You have done a good job of describing your programs, policies, and systems changes that you have already made and the ones you want to put in place in such as: getting SNAP benefits into two farmers' markets; using a mixed use land policy and creating low income housing; and advocating for green space, walking and biking trails. Your work with many community agencies to create systemic changes for long term outcomes contributes to your success.
- Your application is inspiring and it shows how the community is actively engaged. Muncie being ranked second for civic engagement out of the ten largest cities in the state is a great accomplishment.
- The community's civic involvement along with the local and regional foundations is worth noting. It appears that there are strong collaborations happening.
- I appreciated reading about the ways that your community has been fostering dialogue about race and equity and was excited to know how these conversations are starting to foster change.

### *Brief comments on potential opportunities*

- Your community's application showcases some positive accomplishments in a few health factors in the County Health Rankings model. In what ways are you improving clinical care and focusing intentionally on social and economic factors?
- Your application included discussion of policy and systems changes throughout and a few accomplishments that really pushed long-term change, while other efforts were more programmatic in nature. How might you take your work on policy, systems, and environmental change to the next level and consider ways to scale it for even greater impact?
- There are some good examples of community engagement in your work; and, I am curious how you see it translating to leadership and shared decision-making. While it is clear that you are invested in meeting the needs of those facing the greatest health disparities, how are you engaging them in priority setting, decision making, and implementing solutions outside of the neighborhood associations?
- There are two separate plans mentioned in the application, the Muncie Action Plan and the Muncie-Delaware County Economic Development Alliance's strategic plan. In what ways are your action plans integrated and coordinated, and how do the programs that you featured in your application draw on the goals outlined in those plans?
- Related, in what ways are you measuring progress and sharing results across your programs and efforts? For example, knowing more about the role of the economic development alliance or the Food Hub Partners would have helped me understand the impact of your work better. Were the goals (increase policy participation, decrease barriers to food access, increase urban gardens) met?
- You have a variety of partners and ways in which you are collaborating across sectors. The 100+ member Healthy Community Alliance is impressive! What people, organizations or sectors have been more difficult to engage? How might you continue to work to ensure that the voices and perspectives of those most typically not at the table are heard?
- In what ways are you leveraging major institutions in the region, beyond the role of philanthropic giving? It would also be helpful to have a sense of how much of all your efforts permeate the entire county.
- I enjoyed reading about your recent community dialogues around race. How might your community look, act, and be different in five years as a result of these conversations?

**Delaware County is clearly moving toward a healthier community! Your work is on a strong path, and we look forward to seeing what continues to evolve in your community and following your future successes!**

### *Select resources for communities building a Culture of Health ...*

As you continue on your journey toward better health, we would like to point you to the many resources offered by [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#) (CHR&R), a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute:

- The [County Health Rankings](#) provide a data snapshot of a community's health and a starting point for investigating and discussing ways to improve health. Be sure to review [your state's 2018 report](#) that focuses on persistent gaps in opportunity that contribute to poor health outcomes. Building on the many factors that influence health, these reports highlight data on social and economic disparities based on place and on race and ethnicity, in addition to providing evidence-informed strategies and examples of communities taking action to address equity. These reports illustrate:
  - What health equity is and why it matters.
  - Differences in health outcomes within states by place and racial/ethnic groups.
  - Differences in health factors within states by place and racial/ethnic groups.
  - What communities can do to create opportunity and health for all.
- The [Roadmaps to Health Action Center](#) provides multiple tools to help communities improve their health factors and outcomes, based on steps and processes included in the Take Action Cycle, and offers regular [webinars](#) on a variety of topics.
- [What Works for Health](#) is a comprehensive database of evidence-informed policies, programs, and system changes that communities can use to help select and implement strategies known to work. The What Works for Health tool will help you find policies and programs that are a good fit for your community's priorities.
- Thanks to funding from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps team at the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute is able to provide community guidance at no cost. **If the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps team hasn't been in touch with the person who is the lead contact for your Prize application in the past, we will reach out to answer any questions they may have about the tools and resources available at [countyhealthrankings.org](#).**

Community partners may also seek personalized attention at [countyhealthrankings.org](#) when visiting this website one may simply click on the [Contact Us](#) link and a member of our Rapid Response team will respond.

### *Additional Ways to Keep Connected ...*

- Go to [rwjf.org/prize](#) on September 18, 2018 when the 2018 RWJF Culture of Health Prize winners will be announced.
- [Subscribe](#) to the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps eNewsletter for important updates and announcements including the 2019 RWJF Culture of Health Prize call for applications and the 2019 County Health Rankings release.
- To stay in touch with RWJF, [sign up here](#) for news and updates and view funding opportunities [here](#). The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation supports research and programs throughout the nation which are working to build a Culture of Health.