

Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children Fact Sheet

Mission

The Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC) confronts the childhood obesity epidemic by promoting healthy and active lifestyles for children throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Its work fosters and facilitates connections between childhood obesity prevention researchers, public health advocates and practitioners, and the children, families, and communities of Chicagoland.

Goals

- Improve the science and practice of childhood obesity prevention by building a community of practitioners, scientists and policy makers
- Develop a research-supported public education campaign to shift the local culture toward one that supports lifestyle measures that will reduce in childhood obesity in Chicago
- Cultivate a broad base of government, philanthropic and industry funding to sustain this work in the long term
- Identify culturally sensitive childhood obesity reduction approaches that work and are appropriate to disseminate nationally

History

The effort that launched CLOCC began in the summer of 2002 with a community of people looking for ways to tackle the childhood obesity epidemic in Chicago. Challenged by the Otho S.A. Sprague Memorial Institute to build a consortium, CLOCC defined their mission and secured a three-year grant from Sprague. CLOCC quickly completed the first-ever study on obesity prevalence in Chicago children which was released in December, 2003. The study got the attention of politicians, leading them to introduce more than 40 related pieces of legislation. CLOCC officially sponsored the passage of the 2004 Illinois state bill that called for schools to collect data relating to obesity when performing annual health examinations on students. Today, CLOCC is comprised of more than 1,700 individuals from over 500 organizations. It has participated in and developed a number of programs to fight obesity in Chicago children and hopes to share successful program elements nationally.

Examples of CLOCC-led Programs

- Healthy Foods, Healthy Moves: InForm Chicago: Builds healthier communities by promoting the importance of good nutrition and physical activity to Chicago youth of all ages in both school and community settings.
- TASK (Transportation that is Active and Safe for Kids): Fosters safe walking and biking in the Uptown/Edgewater, West Town/East Humboldt Park, West Garfield Park, and Ashburn neighborhoods.
- CO-OP: Humboldt Park (Community Organizing for Obesity Prevention): Seeks to build a network of community groups and individuals, medical facilities and elected officials to create awareness of obesity, related illnesses and create community based solutions to this epidemic.
- Faith Leadership Project: Worked at the community level to replicate the CDC's Heart, Body and Soul Program via a developing network of faith-based institutions eager to take on the challenge of childhood obesity prevention.
- Continuing Education and Local Support for Schools (CELSS): Provided continuing education and local support to teachers and administrative staff in six specific public schools to help them improve student nutrition and physical activity.