



Quick Reads

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Your input needed for funding opportunity by Tuesday, July 27

As is often the case with funding opportunities, IDPH is moving swiftly to meet the deadline for a grant that recently became available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And, we need your help.

In our application for the [Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure for Improved Health Outcomes](#) grant, IDPH is proposing to provide money to local public health departments to build infrastructure. If you have any suggestions about what needs there are at the local level, please take a few minutes to tell us about them. To make it easy for you, we have set up an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/6N65DFM. Please reply by close of business Tuesday July 27. I know this is short notice, but the survey is made up of only one question; spend as much or as little time as you like. *Note: please do not include your name or contact information in your suggestions.* This will ensure that you are able to apply for these funds should we receive funding.

State accreditation site visit goes well

This week, IDPH welcomed a team of three site visitors from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) to conduct a beta test of the national public health accreditation process. Similar to the recent site visits by IDPH staff to six counties across Iowa, these site reviewers conducted a "mock" accreditation review in order to evaluate their processes while assisting IDPH in preparing for a formal accreditation review at some point in the future. Iowa is one of only eight states selected to participate in the beta test, so this was quite an honor for the department.

I am very proud to report that the review was a great success. While there were certainly some things identified that the department needs to work on, the site reviewers were generally very complimentary. In particular, they were impressed by some of the innovative things that have been done around [Iowa Public Health Modernization](#) and the [contracting process quality improvement project](#). They also commented on the strong relationships between state and local public health and the shared passion to do what is best for Iowans.

Although this review does not mean IDPH is officially accredited by PHAB, it does mean that we are well positioned once the final accreditation process is established. For now, let me just say that I could not be more proud of the IDPH team and public health in Iowa in general. To learn more about Iowa's efforts toward accreditation, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/mphi.

Second Healthy Communities magazine now available

I am happy to tell you about a new publication available from IDPH. Told in rich language by more than a dozen authors, including nationally recognized walking enthusiast and health advocate Mark Fenton, the free Healthy Communities magazine is the collective story of more than 25 towns, cities, and neighborhoods across Iowa that have taken steps to make their communities healthy places to live, work, and play. With more than 50 photographs taken by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and other contributors, the 68-page publication is the second such magazine produced by IDPH. The first appeared in 2007 and coincided with the "Barn Raising" Governor's Conference on Public Health.

By the end of this month, each local public health agency will have received a copy of Healthy Communities to place in their client waiting area, share with board of health members, or use in inspiring local coalitions to pursue projects that contribute to a healthy community. Additional copies are available by calling 515-281-0917. In addition, IDPH staff and other partners are encouraged to obtain copies of the free publication for distribution among their partners or at events in their local communities. For more information contact Jane Schadle at jschadle@idph.state.ia.us.

Summit addresses meaningful use of health IT

It may seem like everywhere you turn, you hear about health information technology and how it's changing the course of medicine. Health care professionals are expected to use HIT in daily practice - and to ensure that they're using it *meaningfully*. The road to HIT implementation and understanding meaningful use can be bumpy, but [IFMC](#), Iowa's Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center, is here to smooth the way. Attend the 2010 Iowa e-Health Summit and learn how you can be a part of this incredible journey.

The sixth annual [summit](#) for e-health in Iowa will be held on Thursday, August 5, 2010 at the Meadows Events and Conference Center in Altoona, Iowa. Come hear cutting edge updates on meaningful use, electronic health records and health information exchange in Iowa.

Vital stats document released

IDPH has just published the [2009 Vital Statistics of Iowa in Brief](#). Among the data included in this “pocket guide to the health status of Iowans” is provisional data on the number of live births and top ten causes of death in the state and individual counties in 2009. The full report should appear in late 2010. The brief can be accessed and printed from the IDPH homepage under “Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates” in the “Quick Links” section. Briefs and full reports from previous years are also available online. For more information, write to Josh Jungling at jjunglin@idph.state.ia.us or call (515) 281-4945.

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To get *Quick Reads* directly in your inbox, please send a blank e-mail to join-quick_reads@lists.ia.gov. To contribute a news item or smart practice, please write to Don McCormick at dmccormi@idph.state.ia.us.

To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!

— Tom