The Iowa Cooperative Extension Service’s programs and policies are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination. Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients.

Hometown Health: An Overview

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) received a federal grant in 1992 to write and publish a health planning guide for local communities. The grant allowed IDPH to expand current activities by developing written materials to support local planning.

Iowa State University Extension identified health care cost and availability as an issue in 1990-1991, during its program planning process. In each county, the locally-elected extension council and citizen leaders identified priority issues. ISU Extension then set an objective to collaborate with appropriate agencies and organizations, help create a rural health care model, and work with communities to develop the model.


Hometown Health: A Summary

What:
Hometown Health is a step-by-step model for community based health planning.

Who:
The program was initiated by Iowa State University Extension and collaborates with the Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa State University Institute for Social and Behavioral Research in the program’s implementation.

Why:
Communities need help in dealing with their concerns about the cost of, and access to, health care. They need a process and reliable assessment data to help them make sound decisions for building a healthier community.

When:
Materials for the Hometown Health model were first published in 1994 and the curriculum’s revision and update will be completed in January of 1999.

Where:
The model is used throughout Iowa, and numerous other states are exploring it as a model to use in their health planning efforts.

Numbers in Iowa:
- 40 projects initiated
- 120 task forces organized
- 400-500 leaders trained
- 10,000 stakeholders assessed

Results/Outcomes (a few examples):
- Assist rural hospital certification (certificate of need)
- Help procure medical doctors and other health professionals
- Establish on-going county health planning committees
- Increase ability to secure grant monies
- Provide health training for numerous community participants
- Establish anti-smoking clinics; pre-natal classes; cancer awareness; teen parenting; and related projects
- Increase level of leadership

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