



M. Jodi Rell

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

November 19, 2009

Janet Collins, Ph.D
Director, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Hwy, NE, MS K-40
Atlanta, GA 30341-3717

Dr. Collins:

I write today in support of the Connecticut Department of Public Health's application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the ARRA funding opportunity entitled, *Communities Putting Prevention to Work: State Supplemental Funding for Healthy Communities, Tobacco Diabetes Prevention and Control, and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is the lead agency to request funds promoting sustainable chronic disease interventions that will optimize the health and well being of our residents. Connecticut has a long-standing history in supporting chronic disease prevention efforts. The most effective community health promotion programs are comprehensive and based on multiple intervention strategies that include environment and policy change. The State of Connecticut is committed to effective policy and environmental changes that have a positive impact for our residents.

The DPH proposes the following activities:

- Nutrition: To increase the number of Connecticut hospitals with Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative designation. Ten Connecticut hospitals will implement, at a minimum, five of the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding promoted by Baby-Friendly USA. This includes the training of healthcare staff and the establishment of an outpatient breastfeeding support group. In addition, all birthing facilities in Connecticut will be offered resources to assist them in achieving Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative designation.
- Tobacco Use Prevention and Control: To partner with community stakeholders statewide to promote the benefits of tobacco free communities and limit youth exposure to tobacco advertising. This includes the training of staff and contractors to support the initiative.

- Tobacco Use Prevention and Control: To expand Quitline services to include special interventions for pregnant women, youth, and those with additional underlying chronic conditions. The DPH will expand the Quitline evaluation, as well as conduct a second- and third-hand smoke media campaign.
- Physical Activity and Obesity: To increase physical activity before, during, and after school through a partnership with the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs. Connecticut's YMCAs serve all 169 towns throughout the state with 61 accessible locations. Through this partnership, the DPH will work on a collaborative engagement with state and local leaders to empower communities with proven physical activity and obesity reduction strategies.

I support the Connecticut Department of Public Health's commitment to working to improve the health and well being of Connecticut's residents. I look forward to using this opportunity to promote and sustain healthy lifestyles for our Connecticut residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Jodi Rell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

M. Jodi Rell
Governor