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STEARNS COUNTY

# Press Release

Date: September 12, 2014

Contact: Barb Corson, Contracts Coordinator, 320-656-6020

## Stearns County Looking for Providers to Help Create Healthier Communities

Stearns County Human Services received a grant from the Minnesota Department of Health to implement the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) in Stearns County. The County is looking for businesses or organizations that want to get involved with this initiative and exercise creativity.

Interested companies or agencies need to implement policy, system or environmental changes to further SHIP goals. Providers would deliver services in one or more of the following areas:

- Healthy school food – implementation of healthy food policies or strategies
- Active school day
  - Safe Routes to School
  - Active School Day policies
- Healthy food in the community
  - Farmers Markets
  - Vending
  - Concessions, including mobile food trucks
  - Emergency food programs
  - Senior dining programs
  - Community support agriculture
  - Community gardens
  - Restaurant menus

- Active living
  - Safe and convenient pedestrian street crossing features
  - Speed reduction or non-aggressive driving measures
  - Street landscaping and pedestrian street lighting
  - Bike parking
  - Land use and transportation systems planning
  - Signage for pedestrians and bicyclists
  - Walkable and bikeable community workshops
  - “Complete streets”
  - Safe Routes to Schools
- Smoke-free housing in rental units
- Child Care – implementation of healthy food and physical activity policies
- Worksite wellness – implementation of healthy eating, active living, breastfeeding and decreased tobacco use worksite policies

Collaboration on policy changes, infrastructure planning and sustainability are important components of SHIP. They make healthy choices more workable for entire communities.

Providers must serve Stearns County residents. More information about the SHIP program and grant, along with vendor applications and due dates can be found on the Stearns County website at [StearnsCountyMN.gov](http://StearnsCountyMN.gov).

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