

# SCGOVHEALTHNEWS

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**Media Note:** A schedule of upcoming events can be found below, and also on the [Interactive website](#).

## Community Health Projects and “Action Forums” underway

During the recent Community Health Interactive over 100 people representing diverse interests throughout the county generated an inventory of ideas on how Sarasota County can become a healthy community along with a list of resources that are in place or could be aligned through collaborations to transform these ideas into action. “Action forums” will begin next month. The goal is to enable people to reconnect, continue the conversations and develop action-oriented strategies around the seven themes identified at the Interactive to create a healthier Sarasota County. Some of the themes include making communities more pedestrian-friendly and increasing walkability, increasing farmers' markets and local foods, and promoting health and wellness in schools.

There are many active groups in Sarasota County working on similar issues with common goals to improve health in our community. “When groups collaborate, that work has the potential to make a greater impact, while being more innovative, and more responsive to the needs of the community,” said Kari Ellingstad, MPH, research coordinator with the Community Health Improvement Partnership who has continued to work with sponsors and community leaders on this project.

To promote collaboration, mini grants totaling \$6,000 were recently awarded to eight local projects. [Click here](#) to learn about the pizza garden, the healthcare access expo, and the other projects receiving funding. This mini-grant program as well as The Community Health Collaborative was supported by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice.

Other organizations supporting the effort include The Community Alliance of Sarasota County, the Sarasota County Health Department, The Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) Sarasota County Wellness Coalition, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, SCOPE, the South County Family YMCA and the University of South Florida College of Public Health.

The Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) is a community-led effort to improve the health of Sarasota County residents. CHIP also works with Charlotte and DeSoto counties to foster change in health systems across the region. CHIP is funded by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, the Sarasota County Health Department, Sarasota County Government, Doctors Hospital, DeSoto County Health Department, DeSoto Memorial Hospital, Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System, Venice Regional Medical Center, Peace River Regional Medical Center, Fawcett Memorial Hospital, and Englewood Community Hospital and Charlotte Regional Medical Center.

For more information, call Kari Ellingstad, MPH, at 941-861-2867 or visit the CHIP website at [www.CHIP4health.org](http://www.CHIP4health.org).

“more”

## Seven “Action Forums” – Meeting Schedule

### Make communities more pedestrian-friendly and increase walkability

#### Wednesday, July 16

8:30 a.m. to Noon

School Board of Sarasota County

1960 Landings Blvd, Room 221 (Blue Awning), Sarasota 34231

Schedule: 8:30 a.m. - Presentation: "Smart Growth & Walkability"

10:30 a.m. - Action planning process

### Educate the community about existing health resources

#### Monday, August 18

9 to 11 a.m.

Institute for Advanced Medicine

5880 Rand Blvd. Sarasota (classroom) 34238

### Promote health & wellness in schools

#### Monday, September 15

9 to 11 a.m.

Institute for Advanced Medicine

5880 Rand Blvd. Sarasota (classroom) 34238

### Increase farmers' markets & local foods

#### Monday, October 20

9 to 11 a.m.

Institute for Advanced Medicine

5880 Rand Blvd. Sarasota (classroom) 34238

### Organize wellness activities in communities

#### Monday, November 17

9 to 11 a.m.

Institute for Advanced Medicine

5880 Rand Blvd. Sarasota (classroom) 34238

### Expand transportation services

#### Monday, January 21

9 to 11 a.m.

Institute for Advanced Medicine

5880 Rand Blvd. Sarasota (classroom) 34238

### Expand mental health services

#### To Be Announced

Contact Pam Meunier for details. [Click to email.](#)

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