

King County Food and Fitness Initiative Updates on Community Site Selection and Leadership Council Formation

Community Site Selection Process

The King County Food and Fitness Initiative will work at three distinct and nested geographic levels: 1) the food production region (primarily Washington State), 2) King County, and 3) two local communities. In order to produce measurable changes in behavioral and health outcomes, the Collaborative will focus on two smaller communities affected by health disparities that will benefit from improving access to healthy food and opportunities for physical activity.

A decision was made by Collaborative Partners on November 14, 2007 to uncouple the site selection process from the leadership council. This decision included agreement to adhere to the guidelines below to the extent possible.

The Site Selection Committee will be temporary with the sole function of selecting two focus communities, and will not make any longer-term decisions about change actions, membership, or resources. The formation of the site selection committee and the process to oversee and facilitate selecting the two focus communities will begin in November 2007. The Site Selection Committee will work through February 2008. Participation on the Site Selection Committee by Collaborative Partners from the eight geographic areas, community based organizations, and members of the Assessment Team is intended to provide a holistic assessment of applications based on agreed upon criteria.

Site Selection Committee Responsibilities

- Develop selection criteria, review applications from each site, (eight potential focus communities) and make the final site selections.
- Develop and finalize the Request for Application (RFA) that will be sent to representatives of the eight potential communities of focus.
- Work with all eight communities to help ensure that they successfully prepare their application and form a community group to participate in the Collaborative. This may include making presentations to the communities, helping to identify community leaders, and responding to emerging issues.
- Attend two to three meetings

Selection will be based on criteria such as demonstrated commitment of the communities, ability to do the work effectively, and alignment of the work with KCFFI objectives (e.g. policy and systems change; capacity to have an impact; serving diverse populations; and focus on systems vs. programs).

Guidelines for Forming the Site Selection Committee

The Site Selection Committee will comprise up to 16 volunteer members including the following:

- Eight members: One member from each of the eight potential focus communities: 1) Beacon Hill/SE Seattle, 2) Central/Downtown Seattle, 3) Delridge (West Seattle), 4) White Center, 5) Federal Way, 6) Kent, 7) Seatac, and 8) Tukwila. Members may be

municipal staff from the local government, representatives from community based organizations, or residents.

- Two members: Youth perspective.
- Three members: Sector representation – members from other sectors/areas of expertise (e.g. farming, food, nutrition, built environment, etc.) not from a specific geographic area.
- Three members: Assessment Team participants from UW, WSU KCE, and PHSKC.

Collaborative members interested in being on the Site Selection Committee should email Erin MacDougall (erin.macdougall@kingcounty.gov). The co-conveners will make the final decision to achieve the balance as outlined above.

Leadership Council

Application Process

On November 14, 2007, Collaborative Partners made a decision to extend the deadline for leadership council applications and make a targeted effort to recruit applicants of diverse backgrounds and experience. Examples of diversity include but are not limited to: culture/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, sector of expertise, organization type, geography.

Voting

Collaborative Partners agreed that the voting process to fill seats on the Leadership Council will be by ranked voting where “Each Collaborative Partner organization votes on 8 Leadership Council applicants in order of 1 to 8 with 1 being the most preferred and 8 the least. Points are assigned accordingly to the rank. The eight applicants with the greatest number of points are elected to LC.”

Timeline

The goal is to recruit applicants, vote, and have the Leadership Council in place by mid-January (or as close to that date as the co-conveners can reasonable accommodate).

Interested applicants can download the application from:
www.king.wsu.edu/foodandfarms/KCFFILeadership.html