



## **ESPHL Team Project Descriptions**

### **ARKANSAS**

The Arkansas team aims to identify policies that will increase the availability of sports for female students and increase their participation in them. Their goal is to establish a commission responsible for promoting and monitoring girl's athletics and implementing procedures for improving transparency and reporting of relevant data. Any policy changes will not only increase those opportunities for female students in order to improve health outcomes, but also increase transparency and reporting requirements.

### **CONNECTICUT**

The Connecticut team's project is a collaborative effort to regionalize local health departments (LHD) or essential public health services (EPHS), in order to improve the ability of LHDs to provide all EPHS and better serve all of Connecticut's residents. In Connecticut, LHDs vary widely in human and fiscal resources, and the Connecticut team seeks to increase the ability of LHDs to equitably serve all of Connecticut's residents, by regionalizing LHDs or the provision of the ten EPHS, and/or by providing incentives for LHDs to create economies of scale in the provision of EPHS.

### **HAWAII**

The Hawaii team aims to promote cost-effective policies to expand access to dental care and ensure more children receive the oral health care necessary to grow, learn, and lead healthy lives. Among their primary goals are addressing barriers to sealant/varnish applications for underserved children, identifying strategies to improve access to dental care, and enrolling 80% of children under the age of 19 in a dental home by 2015.

### **LOUISIANA**

The Louisiana team seeks to improve population health and reduce disparities in health outcomes by advancing policy and environmental change. Its first goal is to offer healthy food option in Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) vending machines in the DHH Bienville Building by early 2014, with the ultimate goal of improving access to healthy food options for all individuals within DHH-run facilities. The team is also conducting a literature review of other states' efforts to provide the public with restaurant information, and will then modify the Eat Safe/Eat Well website to recognize restaurants that post nutritional information and to include additional educational materials on food safety issues.

## **MINNESOTA**

The Minnesota team aims to reduce binge drinking and its negative consequences in Minnesota using policies that impact cost, availability, regulation of marketing, drinking and driving, and treatment. The team is reviewing current policy efforts and statutes in Minnesota and other states, as well as conducting polling and research to assess citizen support for various policy options.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

The Rhode Island Primary Care Trust, and the Neighborhood Health Stations it will create and fund, will focus on the public health of all Rhode Islanders. Beyond the standard capitated rate, these stations will receive incentive payments based on how well they perform. Each Station will provide services to at least 90% of the members of its respective community—the higher the community penetration, the higher the payment. In addition to doctors and nurses, Station staff will consist of a mix of additional health professionals appropriate for the community in which each Station exists. As more services are offered, the incentive payments increase. Finally, via their direct community connection, each Station will be able to identify and facilitate community health solutions such as the installation of bike paths, the screening of houses, or the creation of community gardens.

## **VIRGINIA**

The Virginia team's objective is to create and refine a model process for developing public health law and policy in the state. It also seeks to enhance relationships among agency and Administration officials, legislators, and external stakeholder organizations, in order to develop a common level of understanding of both Virginia's public health system and public health policy approaches to chronic disease prevention. The team is currently working on a model policy development process to promote reduction of chronic disease risk factors through increased physical activity and healthy nutrition.

## **WASHINGTON**

The Washington team's goal is to have all birthing hospitals in Washington achieve the Baby Friendly™ designation. It seeks to raise awareness among decision-makers about the impact of breastfeeding on health and healthcare costs, and the relationship between hospital policies and breastfeeding rates. The team's project will provide clear action steps to hospitals and birthing centers throughout the state via media/communications strategies.