



**McHenry County
Department of Health**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Healthy community study seeks partners

Assessment looks at unmet needs, service gaps

Woodstock IL – The McHenry County Healthy Community Partnership extends an invitation to community organizations to participate in the planning process for a healthy community study, a year-long, county-wide local needs assessment. The focus of the partnership is to assess health status and trends, human services and quality of life for the residents of McHenry County. The last assessment was completed in 2006 and is available online at www.mcdh.info. Local data was used to design community programs and support grant applications.

Four assessment tools used in the previous study will be repeated – interviews from business leaders, a household survey, focus groups and a community analysis. Participating agencies include Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, Centegra Health System, McHenry County Community Foundation, McHenry County Department of Health, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, McHenry County Mental Health Board and United Way of Greater McHenry County. The University of Illinois, School of Medicine at Rockford (*Health Systems Research*) has been contracted to facilitate the planning process.

Interested organizations should contact Debra Quackenbush at McHenry County Department of Health at 815-334-4456 (daquackenbush@co.mchenry.il.us). The Partnership is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, February 25 from 9:30am-11am at Advocate Good Shepherd's Crystal Lake Outpatient Center, 525 Congress Parkway.

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“Working to prevent disease and promote health and safety for all people of McHenry County since 1966.”