



Champion Providers

***Champion Providers* are volunteer physicians and dentists who are passionate, articulate and committed to making a difference in their communities.**

WHAT:

The *Champion Providers* initiative is an innovative pilot program that harnesses the influence, power and respect of health care providers to build healthier communities. The program trains and supports motivated providers throughout the state to add their professional influence and experiences to mitigate today's unprecedented obesity epidemic through policy, systems and environmental changes. By connecting physicians and dentists with their local health departments, community coalitions and other organizations, *Champion Providers* helps address a range of local health concerns, ranging from access to healthy foods, increased opportunities for physical activity and other obesity prevention efforts.

WHY:

Passionate providers see first-hand the unhealthy results of poor eating and sedentary behavior. Health care providers can be a potent force for positive community change by advocating for community and state-level strategies that can improve physical activity and nutrition resources for their patients and their communities.

WHO:

The California Department of Public Health's Nutrition Education Obesity Prevention Branch (NEOPB) in collaboration with the Public Health Institute and the University of California San Francisco's Center for Vulnerable Populations developed the *Champion Providers* initiative.

WHERE:

Forty-four providers from twenty California counties participated in a two-day training in San Francisco in 2014 with ongoing training and support provided via webinars and teleconferences. These volunteer providers have been actively engaged in their communities around policy, systems and environmental change strategies related to obesity prevention. Their activities include:

- Developing a hospital staff wellness program
- Collaborating with a local affiliate of National Public Radio to create a series about food insecurity called *Hidden Hunger*
- Hosting a Diabetes Day for over 180 health care providers in Los Angeles to improve care, educate providers and improve systems
- Collaborating with a local health department on Safe Routes to School and bike paths

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This material was produced by the California Department of Public Health's Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Branch with funding from USDA SNAP-Ed, known in California as CalFresh. These institutions are equal opportunity providers and employers. CalFresh provides assistance to low-income households and can help buy nutritious food for better health. For CalFresh information, call 1-877-847-3663. For important nutrition information, visit www.CaChampionsForChange.net.



