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**Kane County Health Department honored for excellence in public health
*One of 38 nationwide to receive "Model Practice Award" in 2013***

The Kane County Health Department was honored at the 2013 annual conference of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), a body of peers, for developing and implementing a program that demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need. "A Collaborative Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan" was one of 38 public health programs developed by a local health department selected from across the nation to receive NACCHO's Model Practice Award.

The Kane County Health Department's innovative Community Health Assessment work was jointly funded and completed with the five hospitals serving Kane County, two of the largest United Way chapters, and a local mental health 708 Board. There were three objectives:

- Leverage funding from various county partners to conduct a truly comprehensive community health assessment.

- Influence partners to align planning and funding decisions to maximize efforts across the county to improve the health of all residents.

- Share the findings of the assessment so it can be utilized by all residents and organizations serving Kane County.

The formal evaluation of the process was conducted by a doctoral student from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

"We are proud to receive NACCHO's Model Practice Award. The award is evidence of our commitment to developing responsive and innovative public health programs that improve the health of local residents," said Barbara Jeffers, Executive Director of the Kane County Health Department.

(MORE)

Each innovative project receiving the award was peer-reviewed (by other local health department professionals) and selected from a group of 101 applications. Since 2003, NACCHO's Model Practice Awards program has honored initiatives—including programs, resources, and tools—that demonstrate how local health departments and their community partners can effectively collaborate to address local public health concerns.

“A Collaborative Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan” is now part of an online, searchable database of successful public health practices in areas ranging from immunization and maternal and child health to infectious diseases and emergency preparedness. The NACCHO Model Practice database allows users to benefit from colleagues' experiences, to learn what works, and to ensure that resources are used wisely on effective programs that have been implemented with good results. It also enables NACCHO to share information with key stakeholders and media about the good work being done by local health departments across the country.

This award places Kane County Health Department into special company—a select group of health departments that exemplify a forward thinking, proactive attitude toward protecting and promoting the health of communities across the nation.

More information about the CHIP is available at www.kanehealth.com/chip.htm. For more information about the NACCHO Model Practice Awards and to view a list of other award winners, go to www.naccho.org.

About the National Association of County and City Health Officials

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's 2,800 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.

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