

TAHLEQUAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Grants and Initiatives

written by Superintendent Lisa Presley on January 14, 2014 in [Superintendent's Corner](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues its long-standing dedication to improving the health and wellness of all Americans through the Community Transformation Grant (CTG) Program. CDC supports and enables awardees to design and implement community-level programs that prevent chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. The program is expected to improve the health of more than 4 out of 10 U.S. citizens.

The Community Transformation Grant Program (CTG) supports state and local government agencies, tribes and territories, nonprofit organizations, schools, business, as well as faith-based organizations to improve the health of their communities. Awardees also provide funding to community-based organizations to ensure broad participation in creating community change.

In 2013, CTG was expanded to support areas with fewer than 500,000 people in neighborhoods, school districts, villages, towns, cities, and counties to increase opportunities to prevent chronic diseases and promote health. In an effort to reach more people, funding was awarded to 40 communities to implement broad, sustainable strategies that will reduce health disparities and expand clinical and community preventive services – services that will directly impact Tahlequah. The expansion of CTG ensures that more Americans will benefit from healthier environments and have access to healthier options.

Tahlequah Public Schools has been fortunate to be in the loop with this funding and is partnering with the [Tahlequah B.E.S.T. Community Coalition](#) and [Cherokee Nation Healthy Nation](#) to promote health in our school and throughout the Tahlequah Community. Tahlequah Public Schools in collaboration with Tahlequah B.E.S.T. and Cherokee Nation Healthy Nation is using this funding to promote the [Farm-To-School](#), [Safe-Routes-To-School](#) and [Tobacco-Free-Parks](#) initiatives.

Tahlequah Public Schools will be expanding their partnerships to include working with Cherokee County Food Policy council to promote locally grown food and school gardens. We will also be collaborating with the Healthy School Alliance program in assessing our health and wellness policies and with the Cherokee County Tobacco Control Program to continue to support Tobacco Free Parks and environments. If you would like more information about the funding provided by the Community Transformation Grant, contact Val Dobbins, Tahlequah Public Schools Safe School Coordinator and Tahlequah B.E.S.T. Community Coalition Coordinator at (918) 458-4191.