

Atoka & Coal County
Partnership For Change Community Coalition
Established 2001

At a Glance

Two counties, Atoka and Coal, were chosen for an initial Partnership for Change project because of their relatively stable and diverse population base, their high poverty rates, and their relative lack of readily accessible nutrition and other assistance program services.

Since its development in 2001, the Partnership for Change coalition has maintained a successful collaborative effort among organizations, civic, faith-based, non-profit and government agencies volunteers, schools, and businesses throughout Atoka and Coal counties. This collaborative effort focus is to organize and collaborate services and develop opportunities to better serve and meet the needs of the families and communities of Atoka and Coal County.

The success of the coalition has been dependant on having community wide representation of all sectors of the community from the general public. To identify needs in the community, the coalition needed a voice representing all possible concerns and as much diversity as possible. During the first two years of the life of the coalition, Nutrition was the highest priority in both Counties and was the first effort of the Coalition. From those early days, Partnership for Change has grown to meet many needs in the community. The coalition has expanded its role from Nutrition to include services to the community such as housing, substance abuse, tobacco control, teen pregnancy, interagency collaborative training, development of school policy, media campaigns, resource rallies, needs assessments, transportation, healthy lifestyle initiatives, cardio vascular prevention and other community efforts.

Key Activities of 2005

- Expanding partnership.
- Establish viable networking between the principal service providers to meet the identified needs.
- Conducted a tobacco focus community needs assessment and development strategic plan specifically for the objectives of this program.
- Conducting Youth Risk Behavior Survey in all middle schools throughout Atoka and Coal County
- Awarded Year 2 for the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund Grant to be implemented in Coal and Atoka counties.
- Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) – with 275 active youth members
- Train 9 Adult SWAT partners
- Postponing Sexual Involvement Mentor Program
- Implement Walk This Weigh with 5th grade students in the Atoka County Public Schools
- Provide community with education and materials on the importance of proper nutrition and physical activity as part of the Walk This Weigh Campaign
- Identify resources to support indigent drug program.
- Assess the possibility of applying for a Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) clinic.
- Conduct the Continuum of Care Community Needs Assessment in Coal and Atoka County
- Assessing and Updating Strategic Plan.
- Community Resource Rally events
- Provide Free Public Transportation for Senior Nutrition Centers and for individuals needing access to sustain food security in the home.
- Annual Community Health Fair in Coalgate
- Community Interagency Collaborative Training (cross training between clerical staff and supervisors of over 16 agencies located in Coal and Atoka Counties).
- County wide Media Campaign on Tobacco Control
- In the process of Applying for dollars available through the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund to serve special populations addressing tobacco control
- Merge the Atoka Teen Pregnancy Prevention TASK Force into the Partnership For Change Coalition as a sub-committee

- Identified the Partnership For Change Coalition to serve as the community collaborative for Continuum of Care in Coal and Atoka County.
- Identified the Partnership for Change Coalition to serve as the community collaborative for the Choctaw Nation CORE Capacity Initiative

Priorities of the Partnership

- Coalition and Community Development
- Youth Education: Substance Abuse Prevention, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Youth Leadership, SWAT & PSI
- Health Promotion: Walk This Weigh/Get Movin, Media Awareness, Community & School Education Programs
- Tobacco Control: Media Campaign, Cessation Classes, Policy/Ordinance Adoption

Partners

- American Cancer Society
- Atoka & Coalgate Chamber of Commerce
- Atoka Community Chest
- Atoka First Baptist Church
- Atoka/Coalgate Hospital
- Big Five Community Action Agency/Sorts Transit
- Choctaw Nation CORE Capacity/Healthy Lifestyles/Project CHILD
- Coal and Atoka County Health Departments
- Coal and Atoka County Public Schools
- Coalgate Register
- COALition
- Community members at large
- County Commissioners
- Department of Human Services
- Girl Scouts
- Head Start
- INCA Community Action Agency/Jamm Transit
- Kiamichi Technology Center
- Oklahoma State Department of Health Turning Point
- Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service
- School Based Social Workers
- Senior Nutrition Center
- Southeast Oklahoma Division on Aging (SODA)
- Tri-County Indian Nations Community Development Corporation
- USDA
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Youth

For More Information:

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