



## Connecting the Dots for Better Health



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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **There is Still Time to Reply to the Healthy Communities Survey!**

Rockford, IL – One in 8 households in Boone and Winnebago Counties has an opportunity to make a difference in our community’s health and well-being by participating in the 2020 Healthy Communities Study. The results of the surveys are used to create a “snapshot” of local needs and help the community’s health providers make important decisions about what programs and services are most needed. Region 1 Planning Council recently emailed the survey to 13,000 randomly chosen households in Winnebago and Boone Counties and distributed another 5,000 surveys to parents of children at Harlem School District and Belvidere School District 100, as well as families at Rockford Housing Authority, Winnebago County Housing Authority, and Zion Development Corporation. “We need everyone who receives a survey to respond,” says Becky Kendall, Executive Director of Rockford Regional Health Council. “Only about 15 minutes is needed to complete the survey and return it.” The survey is one part of the 2020 Healthy Communities Study. Other efforts include interviews with agency heads and community leaders, and compiling existing local data.

Completed every three years, the Healthy Community Study captures and analyzes trends and changes in the health of our region, and how it can be improved. The 2020 Study will include geographic coding of information that will be used to analyze the unique needs of residents in different areas of the region. It also includes an added focus on gathering responses from certain populations that are often underrepresented in survey responses, including racial and ethnic minorities, low-income families, and non-English speakers. Results are used to formulate and implement projects that provide access to quality health and human services, with measurable results. “Many area organizations use data from the study to inform their roles within the community, enhance their strategic plans, allocate funds, as well as to apply for state and federal grants,” said Steve Ernst, Chair of the Rockford Regional Health Council’s Strategic Planning Leadership Team.

The preliminary results of this collaborative project between the Rockford Regional Health Council and Region 1 Planning Council will be released in June of 2020.

Rockford Regional Health Council is a non-partisan organization that focuses on improving the quality of our region’s health through data gathering and analysis, education, and advocacy. The Council is a catalyst for collaboration, bringing partnerships together in ways that accelerate progress and move the needle on our community’s most pressing issues.

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