

Community Engagement Project

1 Page Overview

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to support community driven changes in four rural communities in McDowell County, including East Marion, Clinchfield, Eastfield - and a TBD fourth community. This project aims to model the success of the West Marion Community Forum, where leaders are working together to strategize, share information, and foster positive changes in their community.

Goals

We will support local leaders to launch a series of forums to develop a vision for their community, engage in open and honest dialogue about their challenges, identify barriers, connect to resources, build relationships, and develop action plans to strengthen their community. Specific impacts include:

- A deeper understanding and shared analysis of community health priorities, as defined by residents through the forums.
- New leaders are identified and supported to grow their confidence, knowledge, and skillsets.
- Community agencies, nonprofits, and government officials will have a better understanding of the needs, priorities, and challenges related to each community.
- A McDowell County Healthy Places Master Plan will be developed and presented to the City Council and County Commissioners.

Timeline

Community 1, 2, and 3: East Marion, Clinchfield, Eastfield: April, 2017 – June 2018

Community 4: TBD – June, 2018 – June, 2019

Leadership

A Steering Committee provides guidance and support to the goals and strategic direction of this project. Members include:

- Built Environment Pod Co-Chairs: Dawna Ledbetter, Senior Center and Beverly Watts, McDowell Technical Community College
- Emily Roberts: McDowell Catalyst for Healthy Eating and Active Living
- Paula Avery: West Marion Coordinator
- Jacqueline Fox: McDowell Mission Ministries
- Francesca Hagerty: Center Unido Representative
- Daniel Ellis: YES! McDowell Coordinator
- Dan Smith: Health Coalition Executive Director
- Kitty Wilson: Marion East Community Resident

For questions about this project, please contact:

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The Community Engagement Project is a partnership between the McDowell County Health Coalition and McDowell Technical Community College, with generous support from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust.