



Community Transformation Program Success Story June 2017

City of Bettendorf Implements Healthy Vending

Issue

During a workplace Community Health Assessment and Group Evaluation (CHANGE) Tool reassessment in August 2016, Community Transformation Program (CTP) staff recommended that Bettendorf Wellness Committee implement healthy vending machine options throughout the City of Bettendorf. The Bettendorf Wellness Committee shared interest in increasing and promoting healthy options in vending machines. Uncertain of how to move forward with such a monumental effort to persuade department heads and various vendors, the City of Bettendorf enlisted technical assistance from CTP staff.

Activities

CTP staff developed a Nutrition Environment Measures Survey – Vending (NEMS-V) presentation to discuss the benefits of providing staff and in the City of Bettendorf’s case, the general public with an increased number of healthy vending machines options. Department heads immediately embraced the proposal of healthy vending machine options, and CTP staff began contacting the various vendors to strategize implementation throughout the City of Bettendorf.

Results

NEMS-V was successfully implemented in over 20 beverage and/or snack vending machines throughout Bettendorf Parks, Family Museum, and Public Works! Nine out of 17 beverage vending machines in Bettendorf Parks have 50% NEMS-V green and yellow healthy options. The Bettendorf Family Museum snack machine increased from four NEMS-V green and yellow healthy options to 11. Bettendorf Public Works also expanded from three NEMS-V green and yellow healthy options to eight.

Lessons Learned

The Bettendorf Wellness Committee learned that there are a variety of ways to create a culture of wellness in a workplace. The best thing about implementing NEMS-V for the City of Bettendorf is the direct impact NEMS-V will have for more than 500 staff and 35,122 residents of Bettendorf.