



# Healthy!CapitalCounties

a community approach to better health

## Project Summary and Talking Points

### What is a “community health assessment”?



Everyone wants to be healthy. Some of us aren't. This project will **measure how healthy we are**, what health conditions we suffer from, and the **root causes** of those health problems.



**Where will the information come from?** We will use a variety of data sources, including surveys, vital records, program and facility data, as well as interviews and focus groups.

### Why should community members be involved?



**Community involvement is vital** for an effective health assessment and improvement project. Community members are needed to **prioritize the health needs**. There will be several opportunities for community members to share their views and experiences and suggest strategies for action.

### How will this improve health?



Once we know what the priority health needs are (and what the root causes of those problems are) we will **develop a plan to fix the problems**.

- Hospitals, health departments, and other community organizations will use the plan to target *their* efforts based on **what the community decides** are the most important health problems. **By all of us moving in the same direction, we will maximize our impact on important health problems.**

### Why are we doing this *now*?



Hospitals have a **new mandate under the health reform law** to conduct a ‘community health needs assessment’ every three years, starting in 2012. Local health departments have a long tradition of health assessment and improvement activities, and those who are seeking national accreditation must conduct assessments and develop improvement plans, so **partnering together just makes sense** in these times of scarce resources.

### What geographic area does this cover?



**The Capital Counties project** includes Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties. People in the capital area share a central urban area, media market, and health and human services providers.

### How long will the project take?



Following national best practices, **our project will take about a year** from starting the assessment to completion of the improvement plan. However, effective community health improvement is part of a **continuous cycle** of measurement, planning, action, and evaluation...constantly refining efforts to respond to community conditions.

Funded by a partnership of non-profit hospitals and local public health departments:

◆ Sparrow Health System ◆ Ingham Regional Medical Center ◆ Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital ◆ Eaton Rapids Medical Center ◆ Barry-Eaton District Health Department ◆ Ingham County Health Department ◆ Mid-Michigan District Health Department  
And a grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) with funding from the R. W. Johnson Foundation.