

www.leadinghealthycommunities.com

Best practices healthcare Web site is focused on improving lives in communities nationwide

Communities across the nation are faced with numerous challenges in improving the healthcare of underserved populations. While Congress and federal healthcare agencies are attempting to address these challenges on a variety of different levels, many communities are not waiting for a national solution. Instead they have successfully executed initiatives that tackle the issues of access, quality, cost, disparities, immunizations, prenatal child care and a host of others. A new Web site, www.LeadingHealthyCommunities.com, has been launched to help communities learn from the best by providing a repository of best practices and case studies based on successful community-based health initiatives from across the nation.

LeadingHealthyCommunities.com serves as a living resource linking thousands of communities together and provides an Internet 'knowledge exchange' that enables one community to build on the learning of another

- The Web site currently offers over 55 [case studies](#) from both the Wye River Group on Healthcare (WRGH) and Premier healthcare alliance to be used as examples of proven community collaboratives.
- LeadingHealthyCommunities.com will allow not only community and not-for-profit program leaders around the country but also novice representatives of a community to find information and solutions on how to improve their own areas.
- The Web site features a [community action guide](#), offering easy access to templates, surveys and assessment tools, as well as links to funding and professional expertise, to help make collaborative efforts successful.
- A [Kids Action section](#) is also featured, where kids can easily find out how to become leaders and make a difference in the health of their communities. Kids Action provides a step-by-step guide for children and young adults to get involved in positively impacting the health of people in their community.

Case studies from across the country illustrate how to successfully initiate, manage, and sustain constructive change in the health status of a targeted population

- [The Childhood Asthma Initiative](#) (CAI) provides comprehensive asthma services to homeless and poor children in New York City, with an emphasis on the South Bronx. Since it was established in 1997, the CAI has significantly reduced asthma severity and preventable hospital use among this medically underserved population by incorporating best practice National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute guideline-based asthma care, education and psychosocial services into primary care.
- [Palmetto Health's Dental Health Initiative](#) was the community's first Medicaid Dental Clinic for children and uninsured adults and now provides full restorative dental care to uninsured individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and periodontal disease screening and treatment for uninsured pregnant women. These services fill a critical need for the med-

ically underserved and uninsured in Columbia, S.C. and are supported by government agencies, foundations, community organizations and individuals.

- The [Child Health Investment Partnership](#) (CHIP) of Roanoke Valley is a program designed to insure that low income children ages birth through six living in the Roanoke area have access to comprehensive healthcare. In 1993, The National Center for Children in Poverty selected CHIP of Roanoke as one of 11 quality comprehensive services programs that had the potential to be replicated worldwide.¹

Leadinghealthycommunities.com seeks to engage others in its quest to capture cutting edge community practices

- Premier and WRGH are currently [seeking strategic partners](#) to help spread awareness of the site and success of these local initiatives, as well as [feedback](#) from those who visit the site.
- Organizations are encouraged to link to www.leadinghealthycommunities.com on their Web site or include a story about the site on their Web site or in appropriate publications.

About Wye River Group on Healthcare and the Foundation for American Health Care Leadership:

Wye River Group on Healthcare (WRGH) and its affiliate Foundation for American Health Care Leadership (FAHCL) are not-for-profit 501C3 forums for collaboration and open exchange of ideas to promote constructive healthcare system change. Both organizations identify and advance ideas with broad application to healthcare policy and the market place, through multiple educational outlets. We believe that the best way to achieve these objectives is through public-private collaboration. We look for what is working and build on the many community-based partnerships throughout our country. For more information, visit www.wrgh.org.

About Premier, 2006 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient

Serving 1,700 hospitals and more than 47,000 other healthcare sites, Premier is the largest healthcare alliance in the United States dedicated to improving patient outcomes while safely reducing the cost of care. Owned by not-for-profit hospitals, Premier operates the nation's largest healthcare purchasing network, the most comprehensive repository of hospital clinical and financial information and one of the largest policy-holder owned, hospital professional liability risk-retention groups in healthcare. Headquartered in San Diego, Premier has offices in Charlotte, N.C., Philadelphia, and Washington. For more information, visit www.premierinc.com.