Complete Streets becoming common practice in the North Country

The Clinton County Health Department’s Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) grant, in collaboration with Essex County Health Department, is working with targeted towns and villages to implement Complete Streets policies, plans and practices. As a result of the CHSC grant, seven towns and villages in the North Country have adopted Complete Streets resolutions since 2016. Complete Streets make it safer and easier for residents to walk, bike, roll, drive and play which ultimately encourages increased physical activity.

The Towns of Altona, Burke, Clinton, Dannemora, Mooers, Ticonderoga and Village of Chateaugay have all passed Complete Streets resolutions. These towns are integrating Complete Streets elements into their communities that make it easier for residents to be active with improvements such as crosswalks, signage, bike racks and other built environment improvements to enhance opportunities for safe physical activity.

Funding from the New York State Department of Health has allowed the CHSC grant to support Complete Streets projects by awarding six communities with mini-grants this year. The recipients of the mini-grants are the Towns of Altona, Dannemora, Mooers, Moriah, Ticonderoga and the Village of Chateaugay. Funding will support the purchase of materials such as surfacing material, traffic calming materials, updated recreational equipment and benches to increase opportunities for physical activity.

“In such rural communities, a Complete Street looks different than it would in urban areas. There are often large distances between services such as grocery stores and recreation facilities making it difficult for people without access to transportation. Our goal is to raise awareness and help our communities make it safe for residents to get out and be physically active,” says Karissa Kilmer, Public Health Educator at the Clinton County Health Department.

Today, there are over 90 villages, towns and/or cities and 10 counties in New York State that have Complete Streets policies or resolutions.

For more information about Complete Streets and to find out if your Town or County has a Complete Streets Policy visit: https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/completestreets
Because of the documented benefits of sustainable Complete Streets, the Institute of Traffic Engineers, the American Planning Association, the American Public Health Association and the State of New York support Complete Streets policies, plans and practices.

About the Clinton County Health Department:

The Health Department is a full service department serving the residents of Clinton County. The Health Department’s Mission is to improve and protect the health, well-being and environment of the people of Clinton County. Visit www.ClintonHealth.org for more information.

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