Orange County, New York

Orange County Department of Health/Community Health Outreach and partners are reducing chronic disease for residents by aligning food insecurity screening and referral through county hospitals.

Goals

- Increase the number of health care systems who set up systems for food insecurity identification and referrals
- Increase number of referrals made by hospitals/health centers
- Increase number of food pantry lists made available to hospitals
- Increase number of Rx for Produce programs established and coupons used

Background

- Population size: 382,226
- Some areas of the county lack adequate access to quality food pantry’s, farmer’s markets and supermarkets.
- High poverty rates and low household median incomes have contributed to food insecurity throughout Orange County.

Success Stories

Three of their health care site partners have incorporated food insecurity questions into their screening procedures

Provided a training to health care providers and community sites on local food assistance programs in Orange County

Updated food pantry lists and created resource sheet on how to refer patients with food insecurity to food assistance programs

Key Milestones from July – December 2020

- 15 individuals that attended community convenings or meetings related to access to foods that support healthy eating patterns
- 4 organizational policies or procedures adopted or modified to promote access to foods that support healthy eating patterns
- 6 individuals engaged in training or capacity-building to address inequities in the food system

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