



Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health

MEDIA RELEASE

June 23, 2016 EDITORS: PLEASE INCLUDE THIS IN YOUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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1st Annual Workplace Wellness Awards

CGCDPH Accepting Award Applications from Local Employers

(Mason City) - The Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health, in partnership with the Mason City Chamber of Commerce and the Blue Zones Project® Worksite Wellness Committee, is announcing the first annual Workplace Wellness Award and Recognition program. This program is offered to local employers who engage in and encourage workplace wellness initiatives.

The award program aims to recognize businesses who dedicate time and resources in providing their employees a work environment that supports health and well-being. Interested businesses should complete an award application found online at www.cghealth.com or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CGCWAAwards> by September 2, 2016. All applications will be reviewed and scored by the Blue Zones Project Worksite Committee. The top scoring business will receive recognition at the Mason City Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on October 6 with additional businesses recognized by the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health.

“Many positive health initiatives have developed as a result of the Blue Zones Project® and the Health Department’s worksite wellness assistance program. Now seems like the perfect time to recognize local organizations that go above and beyond to support their employees’ well-being,” stated Kelli Huinker, Health Promotion Manager, Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health. “Employers adding wellness-based opportunities to their business model are instrumental in improving public health. A healthy workforce can help improve productivity, reduce absenteeism and turnover and positively impact the bottom line for employers.”

According to Drew Gappa, chairperson of the Blue Zones Project Worksite Wellness Committee, local employers continue to focus on well-being at work. “We continue to have businesses contact us who are interested in designating their worksite through the Blue Zones Project. Other employers are interested in sharing ideas to keep employees engaged. Assisting worksites in becoming healthier continues to be the focus of our work,” he said.

Scoring will be based on the strength of the wellness programming, policies, and environmental supports the organizations have in place to support employee health and ultimately improve the business. The six benchmarks used to score the applications include:

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Facebook: Cerro Gordo County Public Health • Twitter page: <http://twitter.com/CGPublicHealth>

Web site: www.cghealth.com

1. Management Engagement
2. Program Infrastructure
3. Data-Driven Programming
4. Goal-Oriented Work Plans
5. Visible Actions
6. Evaluation Process

Workplace Wellness Award Levels:

- Diamond – The top organization demonstrating an outstanding wellness program.
- Gold – Organizations with comprehensive wellness programs integrated into their business model.
- Silver – Organizations with good wellness programs and plans for expansion.
- Bronze – Organizations with a solid foundation to build their wellness activities.

The Workplace Wellness Award and Recognition program is partially funded by a University of Iowa Public Health Leadership Center's – Healthy Communities Grant. For more information, contact Kelli Huinker at the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health, 641-421-9312 or khuinker@cghealth.com

Workplace Wellness Award Applications are due September 2, 2016.

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