

FORWARD DuPage

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Purpose Statement

Vision: All residents of DuPage County deserve equitable opportunities to achieve optimal health regardless of racial, ethnic background, age, gender, income and/or body size.

Mission: Partnering through collaborative relationships to empower those who “historically” carry the burden of health inequities to transform and raise awareness, provide education, foster accountability, ensure action and measure progress.

Purpose Statement: Poor health outcomes commonly linked to obesity disproportionately affect people of color. FORWARD will lead a broad DuPage County focused community coalition dedicated to eliminating barriers to health equity, reducing obesity and improving health through aims including improved access to nutritious food, increased physical activity and improved built environment, addressing social determinants of health in our region.

- Our Fight for Health Equity means FORWARD DuPage works for everyone! Transforming knowledge attitudes, behaviors, practices in order to empower all DuPage residents and communities to improve healthy choices and opportunities.
- We help childcare providers, pre-schools, home visiting staff and schools in low income/high risk areas through training and resources to help them build healthy environments and habits for better nutrition and physical activity. We train staff to be educators for kids and parents, and to better understand the importance of food choices and physical activity for developing children.
- Our Fight for Health Equity means that we work with municipalities and local organizations to improve transportation options, food choices, and the built environment. These improvements make it easier for people of all backgrounds to access the tools they need to make healthier choices.
- Our Fight for Health Equity means FORWARD coordinates its efforts with key stakeholders to achieve our mutual goals of building awareness, educating individuals, and providing resources.
- Our Fight for Health Equity means we will use our extensive and knowledgeable coalition to capture data, create new programs and spread sustainable best practices on obesity prevention and treatment, grounding our work on an understanding of the social determinants of health and health inequity among racial and ethnic groups.

Guiding Principles:

- Focus on value
- Keep it simple and practical
- Start where one is
- Focus on individual and collective spread
- Approach must be unique and adapted to each individual/community
- Our strength is in our collaboration