

PUBLIC SECTOR NEWS

HEALTH ASSESSMENT RESOURCE CENTER BEGINS COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC) has begun its third triennial survey of health in the Coachella Valley. The survey will continue through April.

The local nonprofit organization strongly encourages individuals to participate so professionals can more accurately identify the region's most pressing health needs.

Residents across the Coachella Valley will receive phone calls from HARC subcontractor Kent State University. The phone interview, which lasts approximately 23 minutes, gathers data on a wide range of topics related to health and well-being such as nutrition and hunger, physical activity and weight, chronic illness, mental health, preventative screening, healthcare usage, and barriers and challenges to accessing health.

The 2013 assessment is the third study of local health conducted by HARC. Organizations from both the public and private sector regularly rely on the reference data to obtain funding, develop programs and train employees.

HARC needs everyone's help. By just answering the phone and responding to this important survey, Coachella Valley residents can become a key component of helping organizations offer their much-needed programs.

HARC board president, Glen Grayman, M.D. said, "The 2013 needs assessment will not only help produce the most current, statistically valid data available today, it will also help healthcare professionals better understand the relative progress or setbacks that have occurred within specific categories."

He goes on to say, "Armed with the baseline data gathered in the previous two Community Health Monitors, this updated study gives us an opportunity to identify trends with key metrics."

HARC brings together a steering committee of more than 35 community partners and leaders, which include hospitals, school districts, county government, public safety and private sector interests. All have given input on the structure of the survey, ensuring that the data will be useful to a wide array of organizations.

HARC plans to share the results of the survey in early 2014 when a summary of the findings will be shared with the community.

Formed in 2006 by a consortium of more than 35 public and private healthcare agencies, the HARC conducts a confidential community health status assessment in Eastern Riverside County and the Coachella Valley every three years to identify major health and quality of life issues. The nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization is funded in part by contributions from community partners, as well as entities that contract with the agency for customized public health research. More information can be obtained by calling HARC at (760) 404-1945, or visiting the organization's website at www.HARCData.org.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNLINE TRANSIT'S ANNUAL STATE OF PUBLIC TRANSIT LUNCHEON

SunLine Transit Agency will host its sixth Annual State of Public Transit Luncheon on Feb. 13, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. at Rancho Las Palmas Resort in Rancho Mirage.

Keynote Speaker Michael P. Melaniphy is president and chief executive officer, American Public Transportation Association. A nationally recognized leader, Melaniphy's entire career has been in public transportation, with more than 24 years of both public and private sector experience. Always a strong advocate for giving back, he also serves on a number of higher education and nonprofit boards.

For information, please call (760) 343-3456 extension 124.

DUROVILLE REPLACEMENT HOUSING PROJECT CELEBRATED

Riverside County officials celebrated the grand opening of Mountain View Estates, an affordable housing community in the eastern Coachella Valley. Mountain View Estates will provide 181 new modular homes to transplant residents from the hazardous, dilapidated living conditions at Desert Mobile Home Park known as "Duroville."

"Workers and their families have been living in conditions at Duroville that are hard to fathom in our country," said Supervisor John J. Benoit. "Mountain View Estates is a well-designed community that dramatically lifts living standards for these families. The project's underlying human need makes it unlike any other project that Riverside County has undertaken."

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