

LSU AgCenter Healthy Communities CDC High Obesity Program



About Our Program

LSU AgCenter Healthy Communities is an initiative that makes Louisiana towns healthier places to live, work, learn, pray, and play. We help communities identify local food and physical activity needs. Then, local coalitions work together to make healthy food and physical activity safe, accessible, and affordable for the whole community.

2018

LSU AgCenter Healthy Communities team receives \$5 million, five-year CDC High Obesity Program (HOP) grant.

2018 - 2023

Team uses funding to improve nutrition & physical activity environments in 6 parishes with obesity rates over 40%: Assumption, Tensas, Madison, East Carroll, Morehouse, & St. Helena.

2023 - 2028

Team awarded \$4.02 million to expand to 6 more parishes: Claiborne, St. Martin, Winn, Catahoula, Concordia, and Terrebonne.

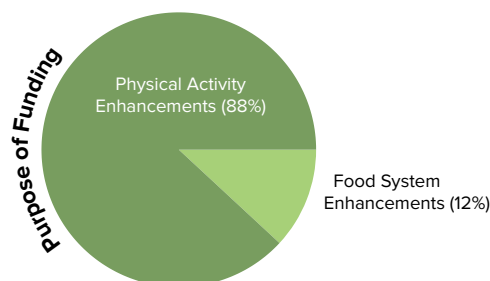
Our Overall Impact 2018 - 2023



\$4,837,347

in outside funding to support food system and physical activity enhancements

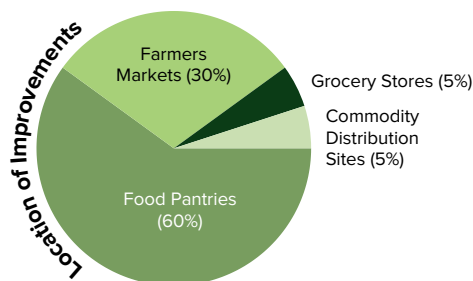
This means we nearly doubled our funding through sponsorships, donations, volunteer hours, and grants.



30,615 people

with improved access to healthier foods

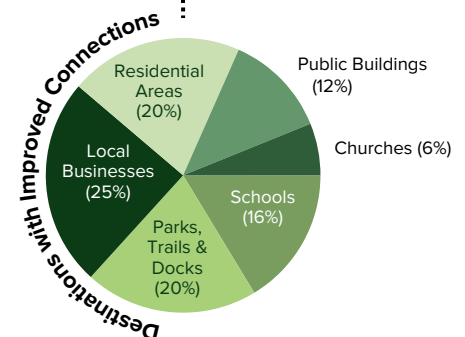
That's nearly 40% of the total population of the parishes we serve!



24,983 people

impacted by plans, policies, or improvements to routes connecting everyday destinations

That's over 30% of the total population of the parishes we serve!



Updated February 2024

Funding awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through Cooperative Agreement number CDC DP23-2313, High Obesity Program.

A Look at Local Projects



In 2023, the Tensas Healthy Communities Coalition launched a new produce market in St. Joseph, LA. The Tensas Produce Market accepts SNAP, WIC & SFMNP, which gives low-income residents an opportunity to spend their benefits locally. While community members benefit from improved access to local produce, local growers also benefit from having a new outlet to sell their products right in their backyard. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/TensasProduceMarket>.



In 2022, the St. Helena Healthy Communities Coalition teamed up with the St. Helena Parish School District and Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank to launch the first parish-wide school food pantry in Louisiana. The pantries feature nutrition standards and a client-choice model, which help the pantries feel more like a grocery store and ensures healthful options are available to students and their families. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/SHSchoolFoodPantries>.

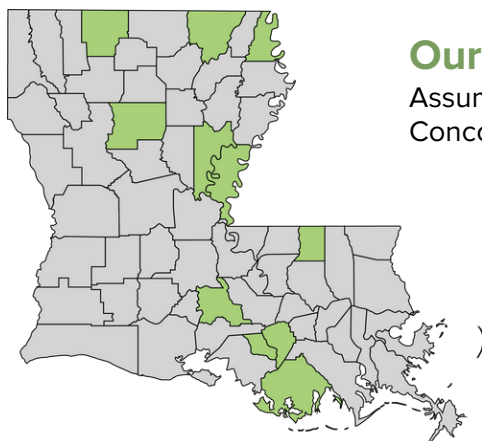


The Assumption Healthy Communities Coalition worked with local youth to help Assumption become the second parish in the state to pass Complete Streets plans for communities under 5,000 residents. The local police jury passed plans for two small towns in the parish, ensuring that LaDOTD will be aware of community needs when maintenance is done on state owned highways. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/AssumptionCompleteStreets>.



The East Carroll Healthy Communities Coalition partnered with the parish police jury, sheriff's department, and local youth leaders to implement a connectivity plan around Kendall's Park in Lake Providence, LA. Together, the group painted crosswalks to connect a nearby apartment and school to the park, upgraded park equipment, and installed a blessings box on site. Now, the community has plans to repair sidewalks in the area surrounding the park.

A Look at What's Next



Our Focus Areas for 2023 - 2028

Assumption, East Carroll, Morehouse, St. Helena, Claiborne, Concordia, St. Martin, Winn, Catahoula, and Terrebonne

Goals & Objectives

Increase access to healthy food and physical activity through:

- Food service guidelines and nutrition standards.
- Fruit & vegetable vouchers and produce prescription programs.
- Policies and plans that connect bike, pedestrian, and public transit routes to everyday destinations.



For More Information

www.LSUAgCenter.com/HealthyCommunities
healthycommunities@agcenter.lsu.edu

The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.

