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**Iowa Public Health
Association**

Press Release



Iowa Public Health Association announces creation of IPHA AmeriCorps HealthCorps project and selection of host sites

Des Moines, IA, July 7, 2011:

The Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA) has selected 9 locations across Iowa to become the inaugural sites for the recently approved IPHA AmeriCorps Health Corps project. Ten Iowa AmeriCorps HealthCorps members will be recruited and placed in nine local public health agencies and non-profit groups across Iowa. The project's goal is to reduce the risk of preventable disease and obesity and improve the health and quality of life for Iowans in the host communities. Members will work with youth in a variety of setting as well as in the workplace or in the general community. This project represents a partnership and grant investment from AmeriCorps and the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

IPHA AmeriCorps HealthCorps members will work to improve the quality, availability, and effectiveness of community-based programs and support behavior change to improve nutrition, exercise and healthy choices.

The IPHA AmeriCorps HealthCorps project begins September 1, 2011.

Selected host sites include:

- Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health
- Child and Family Policy Center
- Child Health Specialty Clinics
- FAMILY, Inc.
- Johnson County Public Health
- Linn County Public Health
- Siouxland District Health Department
- Trinity Muscatine
- Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa

IPHA President, Dr. Wendy Ringgenberg said "IPHA is pleased to spearhead this initiative to address obesity and the toll it takes in Iowa in terms of quality of life and resulting chronic

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disease. Three of every four health care dollars in this country are spent on chronic disease, and obesity is a contributing factor to many of these diseases. IPHA is championing the efforts of its members in local communities to implement strategies to address obesity utilizing existing tools and developed resources.”

Additional information is available on the IPHA AmeriCorps HealthCorps page at www.iowapha.org. Ralph Rosenberg is the IPHA AmeriCorps HealthCorps program director and may be reached at 515.509.5057 or Rosenberg_ralph@yahoo.com.