

JOIN US in 2022

WOW-E 2022 Program Offerings



Howdy!

We are excited to share with you the upcoming programs WOW-E is offering this year. There will be many opportunities to get involved and make policy, system, and environmental change in your community! Whether you are a local leader, community advocate, or youth advocate, there is a way to get involved. All available programs are highlighted in this edition of our newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We are looking forward to working with you on your local PSE efforts.

2022 PROGRAMS

WOW-E COMMUNITY CHALLENGE 2022

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE) POLICY WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY PLANNING CALL

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

YOUTH SUMMIT

WOW-E HEALTHY PARKS & CONNECTIVITY ACTION INSTITUTE

CPTED & MAINTENANCE ACTION INSTITUTE COMMUNITY COLLABORATION SUMMIT



Working on Wellness Environments Community Challenge 2022

We are kicking off the WoW-E 2022 Community Challenge! This effort provides training and support to help communities jump-start activities to improve local health environments. The initiative helps local leaders pilot test environmental and policy changes and build competencies, leadership, and capacity.

Who should participate?

Leaders, professionals, and advocates in areas and organizations such as planners, hospitals and clinics, park departments, Faith-based, libraries, schools, civic organizations, law enforcement, public works, government, EDCs, Main Street, Chamber of Commerce, food banks, and food assistance programs, sports associates, colleges, etc.

The CC22 program supports local organizations and advocates wanting to pilot test tools for improving connectivity including **walkability demonstrations**, **wayfinding**, and **activating spaces**. And, improving access to healthy foods by pilot testing **healthy vending machines**, **healthy concessions**, and **healthy end caps**.

Do you want to pilot test any of these tools in your community? Click [here](#) to learn more on our webpage and to access the registration link to attend an Action Institute. Note: Up to 30 spaces will be available at each of three Action Institute Meetings. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Up to 15 pilot test projects designed through the 2022 Community Challenge workshops will be eligible for a competitive review for technical assistance and implementation support.

April 5, 2022: Roma, TX

Location: Roma Community Center

Time: 9:30am – 4:00pm

April 6, 2022: Eagle Pass, TX

Location: Eagle Pass Public Library

Time: 9:30am – 4:00pm

April 8, 2022: Laredo, TX

Location: Falcon National Bank

Time: 9:30am – 4:00pm



Early Childhood Education (ECE) Policy Workshop

Building an ECE Policy



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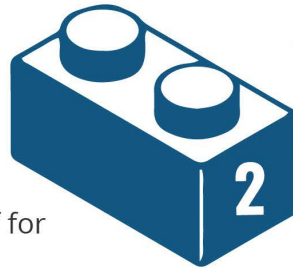
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Apply



- Apply for the Program
- Complete the Program Participation Application
- Complete the 15-minute assessment.
 - The assessment is completed through the workshop registration.

Deadline to apply and complete the assessment is March 28, 2022.



Register

- Register for you and up to two of your staff for **one** of the in-person workshops.
- Help your center learn innovative ways to implement at least 1 nutrition and/or 1 physical activity policy to promote compliance with the revised minimum standards.
- These policies will also help you and your staff create a center environment that promotes health and wellness among children, their parents, and staff.
- Workshop attendees will receive **5 clock hours** of continuing education.

Workshop dates and times are:

April 9th, 9:30 am to 3 pm

Location: Laredo

Lunch will be provided.

OR

April 23, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

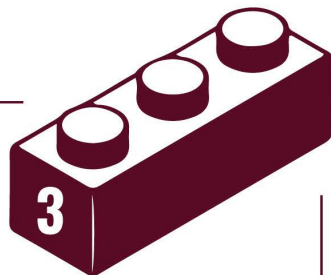
Location: Rio Grande City

Lunch will be provided.

To register for a workshop visit:

wowe.tamu.edu/2022-programs/ece-policy-workshop/

Implement



- As a result of the workshop, identify 1 nutrition and/or 1 physical activity policy to implement or monitor.
- This may be a new policy that you create or may be an existing policy that has not been implemented.
- Your center policies must be identified and communicated to the AgriLife Extension Working on Wellness team **no later than May 21, 2022.**

Adopt



- Participate in technical assistance virtual calls as needed.
 - Complete a follow-up interview and survey by **July 31, 2022**
 - Apply for a mini-grant for additional support
- * Additional assistance is available, details on assistance will be addressed at the workshop.

Community Planning Call

Texas A&M AgriLife's WOW-E program is offering planning support for PSE work focusing on increasing connectivity/walkability or increasing access to healthy foods

Up to four projects will be awarded six months of technical assistance for community planning, business planning, policy planning, citizen engagement, or feasibility assessments.

Planning efforts should focus on:

- Connecting two everyday places (parks, churches, stores, schools, etc.).
- Creating or improving alternative transportation opportunities to connect everyday places.
- Enhancing everyday places (such as parks) to be connected and healthier.
- Kick starting a plan related to PSE efforts that has been stuck on a shelf, needs an update, or needs a health lens or health crossover appendix.
- Business Planning for improving food systems or environments to provide healthy options.
- Food System mapping for communities looking to understand their strengths, barriers, and opportunities within their food environment.
- Policy assessments for organizations or communities looking to improve access to healthy foods or improve connectivity/walkability to safe and usable everyday places.

All projects should have a primary goal to guide Policy, System, and/or Environmental changes for your community. Planning work must be supported by the governing body and decision makers responsible for adoption and implementation

To submit your project to be considered for assistance:

- Click [here](#) to complete the Preliminary Application by April 8, 2022.
- Participate in a listening and scoping session. You will receive an email invitation to schedule this session.
- Update your application as necessary and submit by April 22, 2022 at 11:59pm.
- Announcement for Awardees will occur May 6, 2022.

For more information about our programs visit: wowe.tamu.edu



Leadership Academy

Texas A&M WOW-E Leadership Academy: Join a cohort of leaders looking to Collaborate, Ideate, Assess and Transform your Community

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension WoW-E Leadership Academy is dedicated to building a community of professionals committed to effective leadership, while engaging in learning about, assessing, ideating, and implementing PSE work in their communities.

Working on Wellness Environments (WoW-E) is a collaborative approach promoting increased physical activity levels and improved access to healthy foods. This project prioritizes local solutions and transformative change to health-related challenges in Texas communities.

Who should apply?

Leaders, professionals, and advocates in areas and organizations such as planners, hospitals and clinics, park departments, faith-based, libraries, schools, civic organizations, law enforcement, public works, government, EDCs, Main Street, Chamber of Commerce, food banks, and food assistance programs, sports associates, colleges, etc. with a demonstrated record of the project, planning, or policy leadership and work in their communities.

What is the Academy?

The Academy is an 18-month long educational and networking opportunity available to leaders, professionals, and advocates in Hudspeth, Maverick, Starr, Webb, and Zapata counties. Participants engage in one day a month of dedicated education and application of PSE work. Meetings will occur both in person and virtually. Travel support will be provided to participants for meetings hosted in neighboring counties. Participants must attend all meetings unless an excused absence is approved on a case-by-case basis.

Attendees will be guided by local, statewide, and national experts as they learn about the benefits of using a PSE approach to community health, identify relevant opportunities for their communities, assess local environments and readiness, participate in a multi-county communication effort, and complete a capstone project.

Timeline

- Application opens March 22, 2022. For more information and to apply click [here](#).
- Applications and letter of support due by April 13, 2022.
- Awardees notified via email by April 18, 2022.
- Leadership Academy In-person Kick-Off in Roma, TX April 27, 2022.
- Key dates: in-person fourth Wednesday of each month April - October 2022, January 2023, April 2023, July 2023, and September 2023 Graduation
- Key dates virtual meetings: Fifth Wednesday, November 2023, and Fourth Wednesdays in Feb 2023, March 2023, May 2023, June 2023, August 2023.
- Capstone project proposals due: September 2, 2022.
- Capstone projects must be completed by August 1, 2023.
- WoW-E Leadership Academy Graduation September 2023.

Support

- Access to a network of peers and experts engaged in PSE work.
- Travel support to and from in-person meetings not hosted in the local community.
- Technical and expert support to design a capstone project.
- Up to \$10k to support implementation of approved capstone projects.
- Scholarship opportunities will be available for approved professional development such as attending state and national conferences to build capacity and networking for PSE work.

Youth Summit

The Youth Summit is an interactive and engaging opportunity for youth ages 13-17 to learn about how to apply PSE work, assess their communities, propose change through appropriate leadership channels, and design a local project to kick start PSE work focusing on connecting everyday places or improving access to healthy foods.

Key Dates:

- Virtual Pre-workshop: June 10, 2022 3pm - 5pm
- In Person Summit:
 - July 8, 2022 Check in 3pm - 5pm; Kick off 5pm - 9pm
 - July 9, 2022 9am - 10pm
 - July 10, 2022 9am - 4pm



Who is eligible:

- Youth ages 13-17
- Applicants must have completed Junior High and be entering High School and must not have completed Senior year or have graduated from High School.
- Youth with a demonstrated interest in PSE work
- Youth with a demonstrated background in community advocacy
- Youth who live in Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, or Hudspeth counties



Selection:

- Up to 25 Youth Summit participants will be selected via the application process.
- Up to 5 additional youth will be accepted on a waitlist.

Accommodations:

Lodging will be provided for one youth and one parent at the McAllen LaQuinta near the Convention Center. A parent must accompany their youth to McAllen, TX, and be responsible for their child when the Youth is not in attendance at the Summit Sessions. Travel support applications will be available to help offset costs for travel to McAllen, TX for those needing additional assistance.

Application:

Applications open March 31, 2022. Applications will be reviewed bi-weekly and acceptance will be based on interest and related experience.

Additional Support:

Youth who participate in the Summit and submit their community project plan for competitive review by August 5, 2022 will be eligible to receive additional technical assistance and up to \$ 1,200 to support project implementation. All projects must be completed by September 9, 2022 with After Action reports due by September 16, 2022.

WOW-E Healthy Parks and Connectivity Action Institute

Up to 50 local practitioners and advocates from Hudspeth, Maverick, Starr, Webb, and Zapata counties will be accepted to participate in the WOW-E Healthy Parks and Connectivity Action Institute.

Attendees will learn how to assess and inventory their parks, identify relevant best practices for design, maintenance, activation, and connectivity for their parks, learn basic citizen engagement practices, and complete a mini-plan to improve the health of one or more parks in their community.

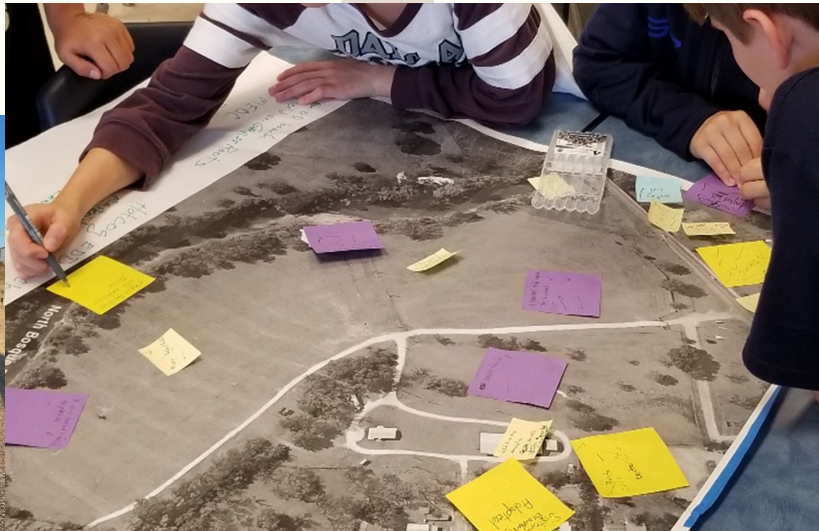
Attendees who complete mini-plans as part of the workshop will be invited to submit their plans for a competitive review in which up to 10 applications will receive up to \$6k each for project implementation. All plans must include efforts to connect at least two everyday places and/or improve walkability to the park.

Applicants can apply for travel assistance to the Action Institute through the WOW-E partnership with the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS).

July 13, 2022, Rio Grande City, TX

9:00am - 4:00pm

Applications open March 31, 2022



CPTED and Maintenance Action Institute

Crime Prevention and through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Maintenance Action Institute

Up to 65 local practitioners and advocates from Hudspeth, Maverick, Starr, Webb, and Zapata counties will be accepted to participate in the WOW-E CPTED and Maintenance Action Institute Action Institute.

Attendees will learn how to use CPTED to design, maintain, and program local parks and open spaces and complete a mini-plan to improve the health of one or more parks or open spaces in their community.

Attendees who complete mini-plans as part of the workshop will be invited to submit their plans for a competitive review in which up to 10 applications will receive up to \$5k each for project implementation. All plans must include efforts to connect at least two everyday places and/or improve walkability to the park.

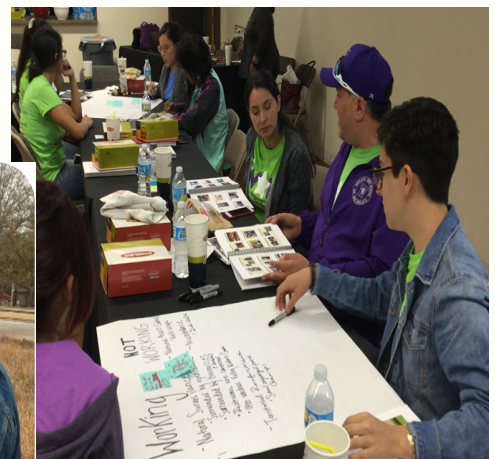
Attendees who complete the 24 hour CPTED Action Institute will be eligible to apply for assistance to get additional education and professional development with the National Institute of Crime Prevention.

Who should apply: park practitioners, public works practitioners, planners, local park and trail groups and advocates, law enforcement professionals, community leaders.

Applicants can apply for travel assistance to the Action Institute through the WOW-E partnership with the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS).

August 23 – 25, Rio Grande City, TX

- Applications open March 31, 2022
- Location: South Texas College, Rio Grande City
- Time: 8:30am – 5:00pm



Community Collaboration Summit

Up to two groups will be awarded Community Collaboration Summits. This is a one-day facilitation focusing on reviewing secondary data, understanding local community-wide barriers and assets to PSE work, and identifying partnerships and action steps to building broader efforts to support improving connectivity/walkability and/or access to healthy foods.

Summits should focus on identifying and documenting barriers and opportunities to a specific issue and building partnerships to identify and implement solutions.



Example projects include but are not limited to developing an action plan to create a multi-city trail or connectivity plan, creating a healthy business program through an EDC or Chamber of Commerce; Creating a Food Policy Council, Conducting a Food System Analysis, or creating Healthy Food Pantries within a county or multi-county collaboration, or developing a multi-partner health communication plan.

Applicants will recruit at least 25 key community partners to attend and participate in the six-hour Summit. The WOW-E team will provide assistance in gathering and analyzing secondary data, facilitation of the Summit, and technical assistance with action planning and implementation. Groups that complete a meaningful plan will be invited to submit them for a competitive review to receive up to \$25k for project implementation.

- Applications will open on April 1, 2022.
- Summits must occur by August 12, 2022.
- Plans must be submitted for Competitive review by September 2, 2022.

***We are looking forward to working with you all on these programs.
Please let us know if you have any questions.***