

# Strategies

## Civic & Service Organizations



### STRATEGIES FOR CITY/COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The term Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) describes a number of inherited red blood cell disorders. Healthy red blood cells are round, and they move through small blood vessels to carry oxygen to all parts of the body. Red blood cells affected by SCD become hard and sticky and look like a C-shaped farm tool called a "sickle." Also, when they travel through small blood vessels, they get stuck and block blood flow. This can cause pain and other serious problems. SCD affects millions of people throughout the world, including an estimated 70,000 to 100,000 Americans. SCD is a major public health concern. We invite you to assess your needs and resources and to plan to initiate activities to raise awareness during Sickle Cell Month-September.

*Below are a few ideas on how you can participate in Sickle Cell Awareness Month:*

Adopt Sickle Cell awareness as a priority area for the group's service and funding activities

Sponsor community activities during Sickle Cell Awareness Month

Purchase educational materials related to Sickle Cell awareness for community-wide distribution and for the public library

Provide community leadership to raise public awareness of Sickle Cell issues by designating a spokesperson for the organization to speak with the media

Have members organize a walk for Sickle Cell awareness

Register all Sickle Cell Awareness Month community events on the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Website at <http://www.sicklecelldisease.org/>



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