

Strategies

City/County Government



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:

Pass a resolution proclaiming September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month

Issue a news release to broaden public awareness of goals of Sickle Cell Month (get annual screenings, proper nutrition, and adequate exercise)

Participate in local and county level activities for Sickle Cell Month and support on-going activities to improve Sickle Cell awareness

Host a city-wide or county-wide public forum to get community input on strategies to improve Sickle Cell awareness

Convene or join a task force to conduct an in-depth study on the scope of the health care issues affecting women in your municipality or county, to identify community resources, and to prioritize activities that can be undertaken to address the issues

Identify Sickle Cell Awareness as a priority area for the allocation of funds/resources

Work collaboratively with constituents to review statutes and ordinances, initiate legislation to expand Sickle Cell awareness promotion and programs, and enhance their effectiveness

Initiate public-private partnerships to generate funding and in-kind donations for needed community services that are effective in improving Sickle Cell outcomes

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



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