

Strategies

Health & Social Service Organizations



STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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:

Sponsor a community kick-off luncheon during Sickle Cell Awareness Month to build greater understanding of the various dimensions of Sickle Cell, to showcase local programs, and to build support for a sustainable alliance to improve Sickle Cell awareness

Organize a health fair at a local park, shopping mall, or other popular public locations to link residents to health resources in the community

Develop a speaker’s bureau on Sickle Cell awareness issues across the lifespan

Disseminate Sickle Cell awareness guidebooks in English and Spanish

Encourage women to receive annual medical screenings; provide incentives when possible

Sponsor a health activity for staff and community members

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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