

# *Healthy Together:*

Creating Community with New U.S. Americans



## **Health Together Grant Overview**

In July 2008, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation awarded Bloomington Public Health (BPH) a one year planning grant to:

1. Identify what local resources and programs are available for new U.S. Americans.
2. Understand perspectives of various community sectors and new U.S. Americans about the barriers, experiences, needs and opportunities of new U.S. Americans (e.g. human services, education, multi-cultural organizations, faith-based organizations, public health, workplaces, and non-profits).
3. Gather ideas about how to improve health and integration of new U.S. Americans in Bloomington and Richfield.

The goal of this grant was to: To improve health and reduce health disparities of new U.S. Americans by building social connectedness and relationships between newcomers and the broader communities of Richfield and Bloomington.

A Healthy Together Leadership Team was organized to provide guidance to the grant planning activities. The team includes representatives from the Bloomington and Richfield public and charter schools, city departments, Normandale College, South Hennepin Adult Education Programs (SHAPE), Y.M.C.A, and other community organizations.

The primary methods of gathering information were (1) conducting 15-20 interviews with key community people working or serving new U.S. Americans and; (2) conducting 3 focus or discussion groups with new U.S. Americans and (3) conducting a focus group with BPH staff.

Based on the findings of the interviews and focus groups, Bloomington Public Health submitted a two-year implementation grant proposal to help plan and implement priority recommendations developed by the Healthy Together Leadership Team.

See the additional documents listed below, which include the Key Informant interviews and focus group summaries with new U.S. Americans and with Bloomington Public Health Staff.

### **For More Information**

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