

RESOLUTION #15-126
SETTING FORTH COUNTY OF GREENSVILLE'S COMMITMENT TO PUT HEALTHY OPTIONS
WITHIN REACH FOR ALL RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, the County of Greenville has the ability to affect the health of its residents; and

WHEREAS, high rates of costly chronic disease among both children and adults are correlated to environments with few or no options for healthy eating and active living; and

WHEREAS, more than half of Virginia's adults are overweight or obese and therefore at risk for many chronic conditions including diabetes, heart disease, cancer, arthritis, stroke, and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, one in three youth in Virginia is overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, more children are being diagnosed with diseases linked to overweight and obesity previously seen only in adults, such as Type 2 diabetes and heart disease; and

WHEREAS, the current generation of children are expected to have shorter lives than their parents due to the consequences of obesity; and

WHEREAS, obesity takes a tremendous toll on the health and productivity of all Virginians; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost to Virginia – in medical bills, workers compensation and lost productivity – for overweight, obesity, and physical inactivity exceeds \$3 billion; and

WHEREAS, teens and adults who consume one or more sodas or sugar sweetened beverages per day are more likely to be overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, supporting the health of residents and the local workforce would decrease chronic disease and health care costs and increase productivity; and

WHEREAS, the County of Greenville ranks 107 out of 133 in health outcomes and health factors; and

WHEREAS, 19% of the population of the County of Greenville is food insecure.


NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize that obesity is a serious public health threat to the health and wellbeing of adults, children and families in the County of Greenville, and a commitment is needed to put healthy choices within reach of all residents. While individual lifestyle changes are necessary, individual effort alone is insufficient to combat obesity's rising tide. Significant societal and environmental changes are needed to support individual efforts to make healthier choices. To that end, the County of Greenville adopts this Healthy Eating Active Living resolution:

- To include healthy goals and policies related to access to healthy food in the general plan update;
- To examine racial, ethnic, and socio-economic disparities in access to healthy foods and adopt strategies to remedy these inequities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the *Community Health Advocacy Team* (CHAT) will report back to the Board of Supervisors annually regarding steps taken to implement the Resolution, additional steps planned, and any desired actions that would need to be taken by the County of Greenville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator, or his designee, shall work with HEAL Cities & Towns Campaign Staff to explore HEAL policies and to identify those policies that are suitable for the County's unique local circumstances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the *Community Health Advocacy Team* (CHAT) will report back to this Board of Supervisors with recommendations not later than sixty days from the date of this Ordinance.



Peggy R. Wiley, Chairman
Greenville County Board of Supervisors

ATTESTE: