

Benton County Health Department

Community Profile

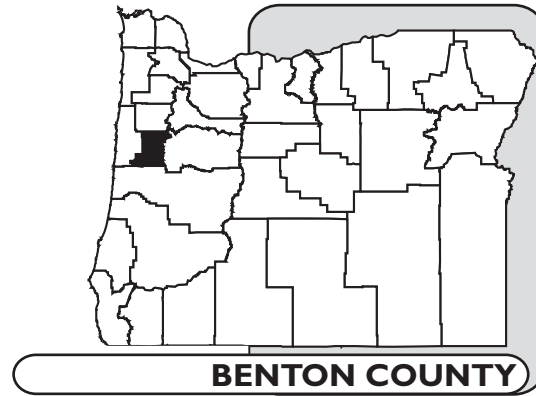
Population 85,300

Location Corvallis

Position Description

Sponsor Benton County
Health Department

Supervisor Patricia Parsons,
Health Promotion
Program Manager



Assignment Benton County Public Health recently established the South Corvallis Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Community Initiative to build a sustainable community environment and improve opportunities for regular physical activity and healthy nutrition. The aim of the initiative is to create long lasting influence through comprehensive improvements to physical design, built environments, and local policy. The RARE participant is focusing on two aspects of the HEAL Community Initiative.

The RARE participant is bringing together partners and community groups to identify strategies to advance HEAL projects. Specifically, the participant is conducting a health impact assessment, collaborating with the farmers' market, and facilitating community meetings. Also, the participant is researching funding, preparing and submitting grants, and leveraging resources to further promote healthy eating and active living.

RARE Participant



Joshua (Mac) Gillespie

Mac Gillespie is entering his second year with the RARE program and Benton County Public Health Department. Mac grew up outside of Philadelphia and attended Cornell University where he received a BS in Rural Studies. Following college, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama. As a volunteer, Mac taught soil conservation, agro-forestry, and organic farming techniques to small farmers. Prior to joining RARE, he worked as a canvass director and organizer for groups such as MoveON and the Fund for Public Interest Research.