

Department of Environmental Health

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Denver Announces 2016 Healthy Communities Awards Winners

Apr 07, 2016

Mayor Michael B. Hancock today joined more than 100 city officials, finalists and community partners to announce the winners of the second annual Denver Healthy Communities Awards.

Launched by [Denver Environmental Health](#) in 2015, the [Healthy Communities Awards](#) are intended to recognize individuals, as well as public, private, and community organizations working to promote public health and environmental sustainability.

Nominations were solicited for Innovation, Compliance and Good Neighbor categories. Approximately 34 nominations were reviewed and scored by a panel of experts in public health, sustainability and related areas.

The 2016 Healthy Communities Awards recipients include:

Innovation Award

Designed to recognize individuals and organizations that employ innovative strategies, processes, or technologies to improve public health and/or the environment in Denver.

- **Weigh and Win** - Weigh and Win utilizes verified weight loss data through patented photographed weigh-ins to provide Colorado adults with access to an effective, free weight management platform. Funded primarily by [Kaiser Permanente](#), Weigh and Win works with partners to complement the organization's other efforts to increase healthy eating and physical activity using weight loss data through patented photographed weigh-ins to provides Colorado adults with access to an effective, free weight management platform.

Compliance Award

Designed to encourage, recognize and reward local individuals, companies, and nonprofit organizations that have consistently met or exceeded applicable standards established through recognized best practices, regulation or certification.

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- **Early Excellence Program of Denver (EEP)** - The Early Excellence Program of Denver promotes and offers high-quality educational services to young children and provides job development and social networks for Colorado's most vulnerable families so that they may achieve self-sufficiency. EEP is located in a lower income neighborhood in Denver and was among the first center in the State of Colorado to receive a level 5 rating. EEPD emphasizes quality by choosing to keep classroom sizes smaller, and supports diversity with a significant number of Spanish speaking staff.

Good Neighbor Award

Designed to recognize individuals and organizations that have a longstanding commitment to protecting and/or improving the environment in Denver (clean air, land, and water), or promoting healthy people through improved access to healthy food, healthy built environments, or promoting healthy pets through activities at the animal shelter or in the community at-large.

- **Walk2Connect** - Walk2Connect is a Colorado-based social enterprise that creates whole health outcomes through innovative walking programs focused on connection to others, to place and to self. Walk2Connect was started in 2012 by Founder, Jonathon Stalls, after completing the Camino de Santiago in Spain and his 8.5 month 3030 mile walk across the United States in 2010.

Since launched, Stalls has grown the organization to having more than 30 same time, same place walks weekly, led by volunteers, throughout Denver and across the Denver metro area, which includes Golden, Boulder, Arvada and Aurora.

For more information about the Denver Healthy Communities Awards, visit www.denvergov.org/hca.

Denver's Department of Environmental Health (DEH) is dedicated to advancing Denver's environmental and public health goals. The divisions of DEH are: Animal Protection, Community Health, Environmental Quality, Office of the Medical Examiner, and Public Health Inspections.

For more information about Environmental Health visit www.denvergov.org/DEH. Follow us on [Twitter.com/DenEnviroHealth](https://twitter.com/DenEnviroHealth).



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