



## 4-H Family & Community Health Coalition

**Overview.** A 4-H Family and Community Health Coalition should be assembled to assist the County Extension Agent and support FCH projects. The County Extension Agent should serve as the advisor to the coalition, while the members work as a team to increase the quality of learning experiences for 4-H members. Some counties may have one coalition to help coordinate all FCH projects, while others may have individual coalitions for each project.

### ***Roles & Responsibilities of a 4-H FCH Project Coalition include:***

- Identify goals for each 4-H FCH Project to be conducted in the county.
- Develop annual calendar of events for 4-H FCH Projects.
- Plan, implement, and evaluate leader trainings for the 4-H FCH projects.
- Plan, implement, and evaluate member workshops and clinics for the 4-H FCH projects.
- Assist with the planning and coordination of county 4-H FCH contests. This can lighten the load for a County Extension Agent, while ensuring the integrity of the contests. Coalition members can help secure contest judges, serve as timekeepers, coordinate the awards program, and secure donations and prizes.
- Assist with district 4-H FCH educational events and contests.
- Encourage leaders/parents/volunteers to assume leadership roles and participate in trainings.
- Identify resource needs – financial, material, volunteer – to support FCH projects in the county program.
- Assist County Extension Agent in the development and direction of in-depth and outreach plans related to 4-H FCH Projects.
- Promote 4-H FCH projects and experiences to youth not currently involved in the 4-H program.

### 4-H FCH Toolkit Materials:

1. 1 pager - Overview, Roles, Responsibilities and Membership
2. 1 pager - Key Aspects of Planning
3. Sample Agendas for 3 meetings
4. Training PowerPoint
5. Resources Page

### ***Coalition Development – Identification and Recruitment of Members***

- Based on the needs of your county program, determine whether it is best to have one FCH Project Coalition or a separate coalition for each FCH project.
- A broad representation strengthens the coalition. Secure members from various 4-H clubs, areas of the county and all FCH project areas, and members who have different tenures as volunteers or 4-H members. Diversity will give balance to your coalition.
- When recruiting adult volunteers, look at the industry in the county. Some volunteers may have a profession in a certain area that relates to the project. If they have a passion for the subject matter, they will be committed – even if have not been directly or recently involved in the 4-H program.
- Members should be, or agree to become, screened volunteer leaders for the county 4-H program.



## Key Aspects of Planning with the 4-H Family & Community Health Coalition Meetings

- 1. Outline their Purpose** – Refer to the outline of Key Aspects of a 4-H FCH Coalition and overview the ones you feel are important for your county.
- 2. Roles and Responsibilities** – Outline the expectations of the Coalition, what accomplishments you (the CEA) would like to see in the projects, and how the coalition members can help. Utilize the PowerPoint available with the 4-H FCH Coalition Toolkit materials
- 3. Develop a Calendar/Timeline** – Based on major activities (contests, deadlines, etc.), have the coalition members develop a timeline of events to show when activities will take place throughout the cycle of the project. Add these dates to the County 4-H Annual Calendar of events.
- 4. Plan an Activity** – Move forward with at least one major activity to get the group involved in a successful event. This could be a leader training or member workshop. Be the catalyst but let them take ownership.
- 7. Set Next Meeting Date** – Depending on the activity selected, set the next date as soon as possible to build on enthusiasm.