



City of Bellmead

City of Beverly Hills

City of Bruceville-Eddy

City of Crawford

City of Gholson

City of Golinda

City of Hallsburg

City of Hewitt

City of Lacy-Lakeview

City of Leroy

City of Lorena

City of Mart

City of McGregor

City of Moody

City of Riesel

City of Robinson

City of Ross

City of Waco

City of West

City of Woodway

McLennan County

## THE CITY OF WACO IS RECOGNIZED AS RUNNER UP IN HEALTHIEST CITIES & COUNTIES CHALLENGE

(February 12, 2019) Today the City of Waco was named as one of just eight runners up in the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge (the Challenge). As a runner up, the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District received \$25,000 to continue their work to improve health outcomes in Waco.

The Challenge is collaboration between the Aetna Foundation, the American Public Health Association (APHA) and the National Association of Counties (NACo) empowering 50 small to midsize U.S. cities and counties to make measurable, scalable improvements to public health issues in their local communities. Since its inception, \$1.5 million in grants and prizes have been awarded to the 50 participating programs to support their efforts to tackle the most pressing health issues facing their communities.

Through the Challenge, the Health District worked with local partners to increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables in Waco by:

- Offering Monthly cooking demonstrations at our local farmer's market and Healthy Soul food and Tex-Mex demonstrations at community centers and churches;
- Adding more locations of a local mobile farmer's market, Veggie Van, which transitioned into the Veggie Prescription program in collaboration with Family Health Center;
- Working with the Downtown Farmers Market to offer Double Dollar SNAP benefits;
- Supporting Mission Waco to open a non-profit grocery store featuring low cost healthy foods and nutrition educators on staff; and
- Utilizing a Community Health Worker Program to connect residents to healthy eating resources.

"We recognize to solve our most pressing public health issues, we have to start at the local level – acknowledging the solutions to our problems are as diverse as the communities facing them," said Dr. Garth Graham, president of the Aetna Foundation, an independent philanthropic arm of CVS Health, which is working to deliver on the company's purpose of helping people on their path to better health. "It is our hope the outstanding achievements of the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District will serve as a catalyst for collaboration in local communities around the country working to move the needle in combating health disparities."

The awarding of the Challenge prizes, funded by the Aetna Foundation, is part of a \$100 million commitment by CVS Health and its affiliates to making community health and wellness central to the company's charge for a better world. The new [Building Healthier Communities](#) initiative, which will be funded over five years by CVS Health and the CVS Health and Aetna Foundations, builds upon the outstanding tradition of community investment by CVS Health and Aetna and helps to advance CVS Health's purpose of helping people on their path to better health.

For more information on this announcement, visit [www.healthiestcities.org](http://www.healthiestcities.org) and join the conversation at #HealthiestCitiesChallenge.