

BARBARA LEE

9TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies

Subcommittee on
Financial Services and General Government



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509

REPLY TO OFFICE CHECKED

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July 25, 2012

Director Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Dear Dr. Frieden:

I am writing in support of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)'s application for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Community Transformation Grant (CTG). As an independent Special District with an elected Board, the EBRPD currently works with all 33 cities and towns in the East Bay region, as well as with businesses, non-profits and other government agencies. Moreover, the EBRPD plays a critical role in both the physical and mental wellness of our region by administering 112,000 acres of accessible parkland, 1,200 miles of trails and thousands of education, recreation and interpretive programs, as well as providing substantial benefits to health and quality of life.

With the help of this important grant, EBRPD proposes to lead a multi-sector collaborative called the "Get Outdoors! (GO!) Network for Healthy Kids," which will build relationships between health, education, and outdoor activity providers. The broad and diverse GO! Network brings together the Oakland Unified School District, West Contra Costa County Unified School District, Alameda County Office of Education, Children's Hospital in Oakland, the U.C. Berkeley Center for Weight and Health, and EcoVillage (a regional non-profit focusing on sustainable, healthy food and nutrition).

EBRPD's GO! Network features several key components and goals. First, it embraces the full service community school and district model, which promotes schools as sites to holistically meet student, family and community needs. The network will implement "parks prescription" strategies to train teachers and school district staff in the health benefits of outdoor activity and regional park related activities. Second, the GO! Network seeks to promote and institutionalize the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (COBOR) – a statewide resolution that recommends ten outdoor activities every child has the right to experience before the age of 14. Included in this component is the District's third grade *Kids Healthy Outdoors Challenge* curriculum – a thoughtful approach for teachers to implement the concepts of COBOR by ensuring they align with curriculum standards. Finally, the GO! Network will work with stakeholders on transportation and policy barriers that can prevent children from experiencing the outdoors.

I am confident that expanding the District's reach into our education and health care communities will enhance the wellness and health of the East Bay – particularly in the urban corridors of Oakland and Richmond where families have limited access to safe outdoor options. Therefore, I am pleased to express my support for EBRPD and this proposal, while requesting your full and fair consideration for funding this project.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress