

**PLANNING GUIDE****1****Students Take Action****Working to Improve Community Health**

Some Project Citizen student groups described in your book identified issues affecting community health. In response to these concerns, the students carefully researched and created a plan of action to effectively address the problem.

What needs to be done to improve community health where you live? Follow the steps below to identify a health threat or problem, research it, and formulate a public policy solution.



1. Brainstorm with your classmates and teacher possible weaknesses in your community's ability to provide effective health care services. Investigate ideas by researching online and interviewing family members for their opinions on each issue. Ask yourself the following questions:
  - Which health issues do the most people seem concerned about?
  - Which problem poses the most immediate danger to people's health?
  - Which issue could we most likely resolve with the resources we have?
  - What support could we get for our solution(s) (for example, funding from a private group)?
2. In small groups, compare your preliminary research findings and weigh the issues. Then, as a class, come to a consensus on the issue you think your class will be best able to address.
3. As a class, decide on a plan of action. Identify the goals you hope to achieve, most importantly protecting the health of members of your community. Find out what is currently being done, if anything, to solve the problem.
4. Under your teacher's guidance, work with group members to interview medical or health science experts at a nearby university and members of local healthcare facilities, as well as the people who are directly affected by the health care issue. Meet with members of the local media and provide them with solid facts about why you are undertaking this project and what you hope to accomplish.
5. Participate in a class discussion on what information needs to be put into the hands of local government, businesses, and health care leaders, and how. Then work in small groups to organize all of the information you have gathered in a complete report. Also, create a display that visually explains why the issue is a concern for various groups in the community and your class's public policy solution.
6. Ask to make a presentation at an upcoming village, town, or city council meeting. Along with your report and display, present testimony from citizens, as well as statistics. Explain to the group how this issue affects the present and future health of local citizens.