

Center TRT Process for Disseminating *Early Assessment* Interventions

Many of the interventions disseminated as *emerging interventions* were identified through the *Early Assessment of Programs and Policies to Prevent Childhood Obesity*, a two-year project (2007-08) to identify and assess local-level programs and policies intended to prevent obesity by improving the eating habits and physical activity levels of children.

The Early Assessments (EA) were a collaborative effort led by a team from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF); the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Adolescent and School Health, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, and Prevention Research Centers; and the CDC Foundation. Macro International Inc. served as the Coordinating Center for the project.

The Early Assessments included an intensive review of the programs by two visitors per site who conducted a 2 -3 day on-site assessment; reviewed intervention materials, protocols and relevant documents; interviewed key staff and partners; developed/enhanced a logic model; summarized findings in reports; and provided limited technical assistance to the site. The primary purpose of this effort was to identify sites with the potential for a more rigorous evaluation.

Many promising interventions were identified as part of the EA process. The Center TRT is collaborating with the Early Assessment project team to package and disseminate selected interventions as:

- practice-tested, if the intervention is re-reviewed using the Center TRT criteria and review process
- emerging, if the decision to disseminate is based on the EA Summary Report and opinions of the site visitors.

While the Early Assessment interventions posted in the *emerging* category did not undergo the full Center TRT review process, they were assessed at multiple stages:

1. Initial selection as an EA site followed by an early assessment completed by two site visitors, at least one of whom was considered an expert in the specific area of intervention
2. Review of Early Assessment findings by an Expert Panel which selected and prioritized the intervention as showing promise in addressing the issue of childhood obesity
3. Referral of the selected intervention to the Center TRT by CDC Advisors
4. Review of EA report by Center TRT staff/investigators and discussion with CDC Advisors
5. Center TRT decision that criteria for dissemination as an *emerging* intervention was met
6. Template developed from information abstracted from the EA report and from collaboration between the intervention developer and the Center TRT