

## Increasing Inclusiveness in Rural Communities Cattaraugus County, New York

### Leveraging Funding Streams to Address Inclusion and Accessibility

- SCALE: Awarded to the Consortium in 2015, funding to support community improvement efforts
- NACDD: Awarded to Consortium in 2015, funding to support Policy, Systems and Environmental changes to increase inclusion and accessibility
- City of Olean DOT Grant: Awarded to City of Olean to upgrade downtown area including improving traffic flow
- Cattaraugus County Legislature: Provided funding to conduct accessibility assessments on all county buildings

## Collaborations

- SCALE Equity Team formed to address health equity in Cattaraugus County, specifically working on increasing health equity for persons living with a disability in Cattaraugus County (34.1% of population per BRFSS data)
- NACDD grant provided funds for accessibility assessments
- Directions in Independent Living (DIL) conducted accessibility assessments
- County provided additional support to fund all county buildings being assessed
- County Agencies started making changes to increase accessibility and inclusion

## ActionLab Format and Activities

- Intense, three month effort to forward an initiative
- Leadership Team that oversees all activities
- Operational Team that does the day to day work
- Starts with an AIM statement
- Need to have some kind of measurement system to track progress
- Encourages collaboration and use of data to drive decisions and actions

## Our Measures of Success

- Our AIM statement was to increase awareness around accessibility and inclusion in our county
- We used the Cattaraugus County Consortium as our survey group
- Started process in June of 2016 with a survey at the Consortium around accessibility
- Used survey questions from NACDD assessments
- Conducted intense activities for three months (August through October 2016)
- Re-surveyed Consortium members in December of 2016

## ActionLab Activities

- SCALE Equity Team was our Leadership Team (Dept. of Aging, Dept. of Health, NACDD Lead, Dept. of Community Services, Directions in Independent Living, local Politicians, CARES, ReHab Center, local Foundation, United Way and representation of people living with a disability)
- We decided to do a recognition event for all organizations and/or people who had taken actions to increase accessibility and inclusion for people living with disabilities
- We asked for nominations and suggestions

## ActionLab Activities

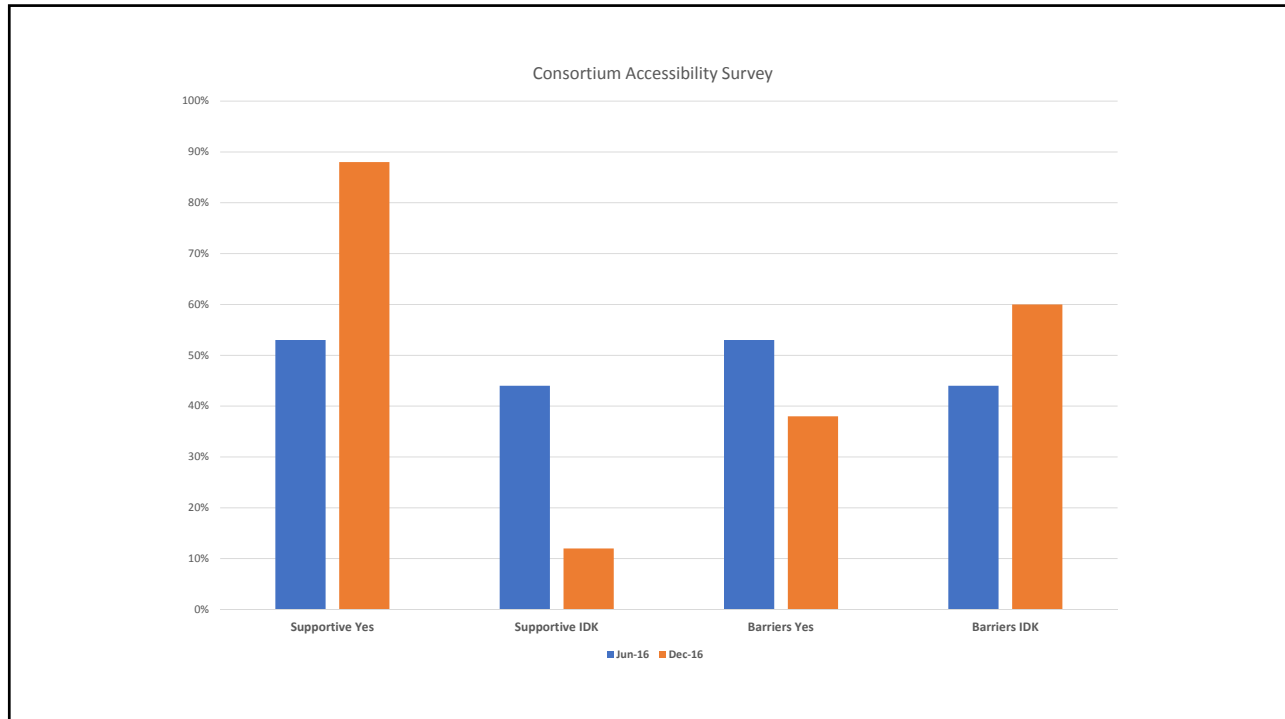
- Received multiple nominations from all areas of the county
- Held a recognition ceremony in Olean on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Recognized 16 different organizations and/or individuals
- Organizations and people were recognized for:
  - Changes to their physical environment (ramps, adjustments, doorways etc.)
  - Changes to the signaling system in roundabouts in Olean
  - Changes to the health food section in a local corner store
  - Making recreational activities more accessible
  - Other activities to forward accessibility and inclusion for people





## Leveraging Collaboration and Exposure

- Recognition Ceremony included proclamations from local politicians
- Representatives of NACDD and the CDC were in attendance
- Marketed the event through local Television programming, the Consortium, newspapers and word of mouth
- Followed up with press coverage of the event
- All organizations involved agreed to continue working together and to plan a second recognition event for 2017



## Follow Up Activities

- Conducted Barriers to Full and Healthy Life survey in first quarter of 2017
- Held second recognition ceremony in November of 2017
- Continue to work collaboratively to improve inclusion and accessibility in Cattaraugus County
- Using Adult Sense of Wellbeing survey with Consortium and organizations serving the Aging and People Living with Disabilities

## How can you increase inclusion in your County?

- Develop collaborative teams between organizations serving different populations who are living with disabilities/challenges
- Make small changes wherever you can
- Highlight/recognize bright spots and organizations making progress on inclusion
- Determine mechanisms for measuring success
- Publicize efforts in different channels to raise awareness about accessibility

## References

- NACDD: National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
<https://nei.nih.gov/content/national-association-chronic-disease-directors>
- 100 Million Healthier Lives: <https://www.100mlives.org>
- BUILD Grants: Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Developments  
<https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/about>
- TIGER Grants: Transportation Investment Generating Economic Investment