

Congregation to Community

Shared Use by North Carolina Faith-Based Organizations



North Carolina congregations are successfully embracing shared use as a way to create more opportunities for physical activity and enhance the health of both congregants and community members.

Communities across the country are seeking safe, accessible, and affordable places for children and their families to exercise and play. Public schools, community-based organizations, and even faith-based organizations have a variety of recreational facilities – gymsnasiums, playgrounds, multi-purpose rooms, and walking trails – where people can engage in physical activity. Unfortunately, these spaces are often inaccessible to the general community due to concerns over costs, maintenance, security, and liability.

Shared use – also called “joint use” and “community use” – traditionally occurs when government entities or other organizations agree to open or broaden access to their facilities for community use. Faith-based organizations can do this too, as they also have recreational facilities that are not in continual use. North Carolina congregations are successfully embracing shared use as a way to create more opportunities for physical activity and enhance the health of both congregants and community members.

FROM THE HEALTH OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY

Over the past few decades, faith-based organizations across the country have been placing greater emphasis on health and wellness. This reflects a growing recognition of the links between physical, mental, and spiritual health, as well as the integral role that faith-based institutions play in communities. Congregations are serving healthier foods and beverages; sponsoring health fairs; hosting exercise and cooking classes; planting gardens; and adopting healthy eating, physical activity, and tobacco free policies. In North Carolina, congregations are leading the way to better health through programs such as the North Carolina Council of Churches’ Partners in Health and Wholeness initiative and the Faithful Families Eating Smart and Moving More project.

As congregations turn their focus to health and wellness, many recognize the need to direct these efforts to their communities in addition to their members. Just as faith-based organizations often serve their communities through food pantries, after-school programs, meal programs, and other services, many now see shared use of otherwise underused or unused recreational facilities as a promising and cost-effective way to enable both congregants and community members to be healthier.

“Congregations want to improve the wider community.”

~Willona Stallings,
North Carolina Council
of Churches

Faith-Based Health & Wellness Programs in North Carolina

Partners in Health and Wholeness (PHW) is a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation funded initiative of the North Carolina Council of Churches, a statewide ecumenical organization with about 6,000 member congregations. PHW works with congregations across North Carolina to help bridge issues of faith and health by building relationships between the faith and public health communities and by providing free and low-cost health resources to congregations. PHW’s Certification Program recognizes member congregations as health promotion leaders and provides them with mini-grants to support their health ministries. One way congregations can attain silver or gold certification status is to allow community members to use facilities for physical activity. Approximately 300 North Carolina congregations are PHW certified and PHW has made over 200 mini-grants.

Faithful Families Eating Smart and Moving More (Faithful Families) is a joint program of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and the North Carolina Division of Public Health that promotes healthy eating and active living in the faith community. Faithful Families includes a nine-session curriculum co-taught by trained lay leaders and trained health educators. Faithful Families has also produced a planning guide to help faith communities create and implement new policies and make environmental changes. One of the suggested policy changes is to allow community use of recreational facilities. Faithful Families has been implemented in more than 50 North Carolina counties and inspired more than 170 policy and environmental changes.



WHY SHARED USE?

More than two-thirds of adults¹ and almost one-third of children ages 10 to 17² in North Carolina are overweight or obese. One in ten North Carolina residents has been diagnosed with diabetes and nearly a third have hypertension.³ These high rates of overweight, obesity, and related chronic diseases put a huge burden on the health care system and state economy. In 2010, North Carolina spent \$54 billion on direct and indirect costs associated with overweight, obesity, and diabetes.⁴

Physical inactivity is a primary driver of this health crisis.⁵ Less than one-half of North Carolina adults get the recommended 150 minutes of physical activity per week and a quarter get no leisure-time physical activity.⁶ Similarly, less than one-third of North Carolina children in kindergarten through fifth grade get the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity, and high school aged children are even less likely to be active.⁷

A key reason why North Carolinians are not getting enough physical activity is that they do not have access to places to be active. Only 13.5 percent of North Carolina census blocks are within a half mile of a park. Only 41 percent of North Carolina youth live in neighborhoods with any type of facility that can encourage physical activity, such as parks, playgrounds, community centers, walking paths, or even sidewalks.⁶

Public lands are natural places to establish shared use, but less than one percent of North Carolina land is owned by the state or local governments.⁸ Because public land resources are so limited in North Carolina, communities are looking to local nonprofit organizations with recreational facilities, including faith-based organizations, to share their spaces with the public. And North Carolina is home to a lot of faith-based organizations. The 2010 U.S. Religious Census found that North Carolina has nearly 16,000 religious congregations, the third highest number of all 50 states, and roughly the same number of congregations as Florida, a state with twice the population.⁹

Congregations in North Carolina are already opening up their facilities to nonmembers. A 2013 survey* found that many responding congregations allow community use of classrooms, and some also permit public use of playgrounds, gymnasiums, and athletic fields. Many of the responding congregations have Facility Use Policies or Agreements that govern this community use, particularly of indoor space.¹⁰ North Carolina faith-based organizations that open their facilities and programs can play an important role in improving the health and well-being of their neighbors.

*“Living in rural areas,
you have to get creative.”*

~ Mary Smith,
North Carolina Community
Transformation Grant Project
Region 2

* The survey was created and conducted by a partnership between Faithful Families Eating Smart and Moving More, N.C. Council of Churches: Partners in Health and Wholeness, N.C. Division of Public Health (Community Transformation Grant Project and the Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health Branch), and Voices into Action: The Families, Food, and Health Project.



WHAT CAN SHARED USE LOOK LIKE FOR FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS?

Shared use by faith-based organizations can take many forms, including:

- Allowing the community to use existing outdoor facilities like playgrounds, basketball courts, walking trails, and picnic areas
- Allowing the community to use indoor facilities like gymnasiums, social halls, multipurpose rooms, and even kitchens
- Inviting the community to join in a congregation's health-promoting activities, like exercise classes, walking programs, and cooking classes
- Welcoming the community to participate in a congregation's garden program
- Building new facilities or starting new programs specifically for the broader community

“You have to ask two questions. What can we do? And what are we comfortable maintaining?”

*~ Greg Owenby,
Grace Baptist Church, Marion, N.C.*

How to Make Shared Use Official

Faith-based organizations can formalize community access to their recreational facilities in a number of ways.

Open Use Policy

“Open use” refers to the practice of allowing free community access to recreational facilities without a formal partnership or agreement with another public entity or a third party. A faith-based organization can adopt an Open Use Policy that outlines the terms of this type of community access to its property. This is a promising strategy for congregations that want to provide free community access to their facilities and programs without an agreement with another entity. While open use can and often does occur on an informal basis, a formal policy can help the congregation and community come to an understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities in sharing the facilities. A policy can also help ensure continued access over time.

Facility Use Policy and Agreement

Many faith-based organizations have adopted a Facility Use Policy that allows for non-congregational use of their facilities. These policies often allow outside groups to host programs and activities on congregation property, including community-sponsored sports leagues, classes, or lessons. Users typically sign a Facility Use Agreement - a contract with the congregation property owner - and often pay a fee. They may also be required to provide proof of insurance.

Shared Use Agreement

A shared use agreement is a formal contract between two or more entities setting forth the terms and conditions for the shared use of property. Shared use agreements can allow a faith-based organization to share the costs and responsibilities associated with opening their facilities with a school district, local government, or other nonprofit. These agreements can allocate some or all of the responsibility for costs, security, supervision, maintenance, repairs, and potential liability.

While this fact sheet focuses on Open Use as a shared use strategy, Open Use Policies, Facility Use Policies, and Shared Use Agreements are not mutually exclusive. Rather, faith-based organizations can use a combination of these strategies to allow community access to facilities. Each of these approaches is an option for faith-based organizations, school districts, and local governments looking for creative ways to satisfy unmet recreational needs through efficient use of existing resources.

More detailed information about shared use and its many forms is available at www.changelabsolutions.org/shared-use.



Case Study: New Parks Rise Up in McDowell County

McDowell County is located in western North Carolina and is mostly rural. Although many of the county's elementary school playgrounds remain open after the school day, the county has few public parks and playgrounds, and many residents live too far away to access those that do exist. One-third of adults in the county are obese and 30 percent of children live in poverty.¹¹ Through its [Healthy Places North Carolina initiative](#), the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust is investing \$100 million dollars in rural North Carolina counties, including McDowell. In partnership with KaBOOM! (a national nonprofit dedicated to creating more spaces for children to play), the Trust has given grants to several McDowell County churches to build much needed community parks. These new parks are great examples of the types of large projects congregations can take on when dedicated funding is available.

Grace Community Church, Marion, N.C

For nearly a decade, Grace Community Church has been on a path, as Pastor Jerry Lewis put it, to “be integrally involved in the community.” The church was already running a food pantry, an afterschool program, and a summer meals program when it set out to build a community park. Gracepark opened Easter weekend of 2013. It has two playgrounds, swings, a looped walking trail, and a picnic pavilion spread across an entire acre. Gracepark was made possible by impressive and creative fundraising of nearly \$150,000, which included grants from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, KaBOOM!, Blue Cross & Blue Shield, the Crane Widows and Children’s Fund, and individual donors. Gracepark also benefited from donations by local businesses and lots of volunteer hours. According to Pastor Lewis, these “partnerships with local industry and multiple grant making organizations were critical to Gracepark’s success.” Much to the surprise of church leaders, the picnic pavilion has been one of the most popular features of the park. Since the park opened, the pavilion has hosted birthday parties nearly every weekend for children who live nearby. The pavilion was not part of the original plans for Gracepark, but was added after a congregant working on his master’s thesis surveyed residents in two nearby mobile home parks to find out what they wanted in a community park. Pastor Lewis’ advice to other congregations considering allowing community use of their facilities is to “find out what the community really wants ... we would not have pursued the pavilion without the community survey revealing that want and need.”

Grace Baptist Church, Marion, N.C.

Creek Wise Park is the result of years of work by Grace Baptist Church’s congregation and leadership. In the words of Pastor Greg Owenby, the congregation sought to “find some way to reach the community.” Grace Baptist is in a rural community in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and there are no recreational resources within a two-mile radius. Creek Wise Park is spread across five acres and includes a community garden, playground, preschool area, walking trail, nature trail, soccer field, and multi-use court. Future plans for the park include an 18-hole disc golf course and a splash pad. The park project was made possible by an extensive and diverse network of partnerships cultivated by the church. The local county Cooperative Extension service as well as the agriculture and cooking departments at the local high school are partners on the community garden, which includes a greenhouse, raised beds, an orchard, and an outdoor classroom and kitchen. The local YMCA hosts youth summer camps and fitness boot camps at the park. The local hospital and the McDowell Trails Association partnered with the church to design and build the walking trail. McDowell Early College is helping with environmental education installations along the nature trail, which runs along a creek. Finally, students from the local high school’s vocational department designed the park logo and managed a marketing campaign to promote the park. Pastor Owenby and the congregation were “excited to see how many community organizations wanted to come on board.” These partnerships helped to expand the scope of the Creek Wise Park’s facilities and programs.





Case Study: Filling in the Recreation Gaps in Raleigh

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church in Raleigh has a long history of partnering with residents of Stonecrest, a low-income housing development located within walking distance of the church. The congregation runs a tutoring program and a summer program for children who live in Stonecrest, and regularly offers classes on bicycle safety, career development, and healthy cooking. Stonecrest does not allow bikes or skateboards, and, after the housing authority (citing safety concerns) removed outdated playground equipment from the development, children living there were left without a place to play.

With a three-year grant from the Healthy Places Active Spaces program, Pleasant Grove has been able to develop a number of recreational facilities on its properties that are open for use by the congregation and its neighbors, including the residents of Stonecrest. Existing basketball courts were resurfaced and playground spaces were improved. With the help of a Boy Scout troop, the church also transformed a wooded area at the back of their property into a walking trail and prayer garden. The trail and garden provide a safe and peaceful place to walk in a neighborhood with no sidewalks. Overall, the congregation has supported community use of their recreational facilities. It is seen as a combination of common sense and good manners to open up these spaces.

LIABILITY & INSURANCE: TWO COMMON CONCERNS

Faith-based organizations interested in opening up their facilities or programs to the broader community may be concerned about potential liability if someone gets hurt or damage to property occurs. It is important for congregations to understand their potential liability under North Carolina law, as well as how insurance and good risk management practices can reduce their liability exposure.

“Churches are used to giving; they are used to opening their doors.”

~ Dawn Wilde Burgess, Macon County Health Department

Liability

Under North Carolina law, private property owners who do not meet a certain standard of care may be held liable for a visitor’s injury that occurs on their property. State law generally requires private property owners, including faith-based organizations, to act reasonably under the circumstances to protect visitors from potential injury.¹² Property owners who take common sense measures to safely maintain their facilities and warn of any dangers are unlikely to face liability if an injury occurs. Property owners who allow public access to their *outdoor property for recreational use* are granted further protections against liability under North Carolina’s recreational user statute.¹³ In such instances, private property owners will be held liable for an injury only if it was intentionally caused or the owner acted in a way that blatantly disregarded the safety of others.^{12,13} In certain circumstances, this extra protection will not apply if private property owners charge a fee for public recreational use of their outdoor property.¹⁴

Insurance

While state law will generally protect faith-based organizations that take reasonable safety measures from being held liable should an injury occur, it does not prevent them from being sued. Therefore, before allowing free community access to recreational facilities or activities, congregations should confirm with their insurance provider that such use is covered under their existing general liability policy.

Most faith-based organizations are in the business of inviting people onto their property on a weekly, if not daily, basis. And most North Carolina congregations have found that their insurers recognize this. Nevertheless, each congregation should check with their insurance provider to ensure that their existing coverage is adequate before they allow the community to use their recreational facilities. In addition, if a congregation’s shared use efforts include making property improvements or purchasing new equipment, the congregation should be sure to update its property insurance policy accordingly.

For more information about insurance, see ChangeLab Solutions’ fact sheet on [Covering Your Bases: Basic Tips About Insurance for Nonprofit Organizations](#).



Managing Risk

Congregations that allow public use of their recreational facilities can take a number of common sense steps to help manage liability risk. These steps include regularly inspecting equipment and facilities, making timely repairs, and warning facility users of potential hazards, even obvious ones.

For example, if the public is allowed to use a playground, congregations should ensure that the [playground equipment meets safety standards](#) and has the recommended type and depth of surface materials. When inviting community members to participate in exercise or cooking classes, congregations may consider having participants sign a waiver and release of liability form.¹⁵ Finally, posting signs at recreational facilities can also help manage risk. Signs can specify the days and times when the public may use the property and can include a statement that the organization does not assume responsibility for users of the facility. Although these statements do not create any extra legal protection for the property owner, they can serve as a reminder to users to be careful.



CONCLUSION

By increasing public access to recreational space, shared use can benefit individuals and communities in numerous ways. More community recreational resources encourage physical activity, which has many health benefits. Additionally, recreational resources can bolster local economies, strengthen family and community ties, and even help protect local environments. By widening access to their recreational facilities and health promotion programs, North Carolina faith-based organizations can help create stronger and healthier communities.

Case Study: Fitness for All in Southeast Raleigh

For several years, Agape Word Fellowship in southeast Raleigh has been working to include health education and promotion in their “mission of ministering by any means necessary.” This has included health-themed sermons, a Health Education Ministry, a walking program, and annual health fairs. In early 2014, the church started a free Saturday morning Fitness in the Park program led by volunteer fitness instructors. A mini-grant from [Voices in Action's Healthy Southeast Raleigh program](#) allowed the church to purchase exercise equipment like jump ropes, exercise bands, medicine balls, and yoga mats. The equipment is stored on a wheeled cart, which gives participants the flexibility of exercising inside or outside.

The exercise program is open to both congregation members and the general public. Although the grant does not expressly require it, the church was committed to making the classes public. As Jereel Ba, the church's health education ministry coordinator described it, “we wanted to offer a service to the community and not just a church function.” A core group of congregants have regularly attended the classes, but participation by non-congregants has been slower to catch on. The church has advertised the classes on the radio, the internet, and social media; they have also passed out flyers at local recreation centers. The church is also considering putting out a large banner advertising the classes and emphasizing that they are free and open to the community. It has been difficult to generate community participation, but the church is committed to building the exercise classes into a community resource. “The grant was meant to service Southeast Raleigh,” says Jereel Ba, and she is optimistic that participation will grow over time.

CHECKLIST FOR GETTING TO SHARED USE

The following checklist outlines a number of key steps for congregations considering shared use of their facilities.

- Identify and review existing congregational policies and agreements that address public access to facilities, including Facility Use Policies and Agreements. Determine how an Open Use Policy or other shared use efforts would allow the congregation to further expand community access to facilities.
- Discuss shared use with the congregation's leadership and membership. Designate a point person or committee to be responsible for shared use and work with the congregation's leadership and other community partners to ensure success.
- Consider which facilities or programs to open to community use and participation, the type of activities allowed, the hours of use, and any limitations or restrictions on use. The details of shared use may vary across different facilities. For example, a walking trail and playground may be open for community use during daylight hours seven days a week, while a gymnasium may be open for community use a few afternoons a week.
- Start by focusing on how shared use can fit into the organization's existing community work without requiring additional funds or resources. For example, if the congregation already offers free or low-cost aerobics classes, consider inviting community members to participate.
- Include the community in the planning process for any new projects that will be open for shared use purposes.
- Be creative when looking for funding. Sources of funding for shared use are different in every community and congregation. Possibilities include: grants from local and national foundations; grants from federal, state, and local government; and congregational support. Be sure to seek out in-kind donations of equipment, supplies, materials, and volunteer time and labor.
- Form partnerships with other organizations working on health and wellness in the community. For example, a local hospital or clinic may be willing to partner on a walking trail project if the trail will be open to its patients.
- Make connections with other faith-based organizations that allow shared use of their facilities to explore ideas and strategies. Reach out to local, state, and national groups that promote shared use to help answer questions and strategize ways to overcome obstacles.
- Determine if additional staff or volunteer time will be needed to support and supervise community use. Possible added duties and activities include unlocking and locking facilities, scheduling use of facilities, and additional janitorial and maintenance work.
- Review insurance policies to make sure they provide adequate coverage for additional use of facilities. Update insurance policies to include coverage for any property improvements or new equipment.
- Consider getting a waiver and release of liability from participants in exercise or cooking classes.
- Get the word out. Let the community know that they are welcome to use the congregation's recreational facilities by posting signs, using social media, and even sending flyers home with local schoolchildren.

"Find a champion to take this on."

~ Willona Stallings, North Carolina Council of Churches

"Work with what you have."

~ Annie Hardison-Moody, Faithful Families Eating Smart and Moving More

"It can be hard to convince people they are welcome."

~ Jerry Lewis, Grace Community Church, Marion, N.C.

MODEL OPEN USE POLICY FOR NORTH CAROLINA FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Below is a model Open Use Policy that can be adopted by North Carolina faith-based organizations interested in opening their recreational facilities to their communities. As discussed above, there are many ways to make shared use official. This model presents some key elements to include in an Open Use Policy.

Open Use Policy

WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of adults and almost one-third of children ages 10 to 17 in North Carolina are overweight or obese;

WHEREAS, less than one half of North Carolina adults and less than one-third of North Carolina children in kindergarten through fifth grade get the recommended amount of daily physical activity;

WHEREAS, only 41 percent of North Carolina youth live in neighborhoods with any type of facility that can accommodate and encourage physical activity, like parks, playgrounds, community centers, walking paths, and even sidewalks;

WHEREAS, faith-based organizations can provide congregants and the community at large with the ability to be healthier by allowing use of their recreational facilities;

[Insert name of faith-based organization] encourages its members and the community at large to engage in healthy eating and active living programs and activities. [Insert name of faith-based organization] hereby adopts this policy to open its facilities for community recreational use when such use does not interfere with congregational programs and activities.

[Insert name of faith-based organization] hereby resolves to support the health of its surrounding community by:

- Opening its outdoor facilities for community recreational use. [Insert name of faith-based organization] will open [insert description of facilities, potentially including playgrounds, sport courts, walking trails, and gardens] during [insert days and times of access]. The following conditions will apply: [describe any conditions that apply to use].
- Opening its gymnasium for community recreational use. [Insert name of faith-based organization] will open [insert description of facilities] during [insert days and times of access] for the following activities: [insert types of activities]. The following conditions will apply: [describe any conditions that apply to use].
- Opening its kitchen facility for community use that promotes healthy eating. [Insert name of faith-based organization] will open the kitchen during [insert days and times of access] for the following activities: [insert types of activities]. The following conditions will apply: [describe any conditions that apply to use].
- Inviting community members to participate in healthy eating and active living programs hosted by [insert name of faith-based organization], including [describe programs, potentially including exercise classes, walking programs, and cooking classes].

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Date: _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ChangeLab Solutions would like to thank the following individuals who contributed to the development of this fact sheet:

Debbie Allen

Interim Volunteer Coordinator
Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church
Raleigh, North Carolina

Jereel Ba

Health Education Ministry Coordinator
Agape Word Fellowship
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dawne Wild Burgess

Community Health Promotion Supervisor
Macon County Health Department

Annie Hardison-Moody

Director
Faithful Families Eating Smart and
Moving More Program
North Carolina State University

Danielle M. Hewson

CDC Public Health Prevention Services
Fellow
North Carolina Division of Public Health

Jerry Lewis

Lead Pastor
Grace Community Church
Marion, North Carolina

Leah Mayo

Active Living Coordinator
North Carolina Community
Transformation Grant Project Region 9

Greg Owenby

Pastor
Grace Baptist Church
Marion, North Carolina

Mary Smith

Active Living Lead
North Carolina Community Transformation
Grant Project Region 2

Willona Stallings

Program Coordinator
Partners in Health and Wholeness
North Carolina Council of Churches

Anna Stein

Legal Specialist
Community Transformation Grant Project
North Carolina Division of Public Health

Lucinda Sullivan

Former Program Director and Volunteer
Coordinator
Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church
Raleigh, North Carolina

Kristen Waddle

Administrative Director
Nebo Crossing Church
Nebo, North Carolina

Bibliography

1. North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. 2013 BRFSS Survey Results: North Carolina. Available at: www.schs.state.nc.us/data/brfss/2013/nc/all/rf1.html. Accessed September 11, 2014.
2. North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. 2011 North Carolina Statewide CHAMP Survey Results. Available at: www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/champ/2011/bmi_cat10all.html. Accessed September 11, 2014.
3. Trust for America's Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The State of Obesity in North Carolina. F as in Fat: How Obesity Threatens America's Future. 2014. Available at: www.fasinfat.org/states/nc/. Accessed September 11, 2014.
4. Be Active North Carolina. *Tipping the Scales: The High Cost of Unhealthy Behavior in North Carolina*. Morrisville, N.C.; 2012. Available at: www.forprevention.org/prevention/Document/Download?id=34e9eb7c-236b-4b74-915b-7513f733bd91.
5. Ladabaum U, Mannalithara A, Myer P, Singh G. Obesity, Abdominal Obesity, Physical Activity, and Caloric Intake in U.S. Adults: 1988-2010. *Am J Med*. 2014;127(8):717-727. doi:10.1016/j.amjmed.2014.02.026.
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *2014 State Indicator Report on Physical Activity*. Atlanta, GA; 2014. Available at: www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/downloads/pa_state_indicator_report_2014.pdf.
7. North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. 2011 North Carolina Statewide CHAMP Survey Results: Physical Activity. Available at: www.schs.state.nc.us/schs/champ/2011/physday.html. Accessed September 11, 2014.
8. Natural Resources Council of Maine. Public Land Ownership by State. Available at: www.nrcm.org/documents/publiclandownership.pdf. Accessed September 11, 2014.
9. Grammich C, Hadaway K, Houseal R, et al. *2010 U.S. Religion Census: Religious Congregations & Membership Study*. Lenexa, KS; 2012. Available at: www.rcms2010.org/.
10. North Carolina Division of Public Health. *North Carolina Faith-Based Organization Facility Use Assessment*. Raleigh, NC; 2014. Available at: www.eatsmartmovemorenc.com/FacilityUseAssessment/FacilityUseAssessment.html.
11. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. McDowell County Snapshot. Available at: www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/north-carolina/2014/rankings/mcdowell-county/outcomes/overall/snapshot. Accessed September 11, 2014.
12. Nelson v. Freeland, 507 S.E.2d 882 (1998).
13. N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 38A-1 to -4 (2014).
14. N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 38A-2(1), -3, -4(a) (2014).
15. Andrews v. Fitzgerald, 823 F.Supp. 356 (M.D.N.C. 1993).

This tool was developed with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Users of this document should be aware that every funding source has different requirements governing the appropriate use of those funds. Under U.S. law, no federal funds are permitted to be used for lobbying or to influence, directly or indirectly, specific pieces of pending or proposed legislation at the federal, state, or local levels. Organizations should consult appropriate legal counsel to ensure compliance with all rules, regulations, and restriction of any funding sources.

ChangeLab Solutions is a nonprofit organization that provides legal information on matters relating to public health. The legal information in this document does not constitute legal advice or legal representation. For legal advice, readers should consult a lawyer in their state.

© 2014 ChangeLab Solutions

Photos courtesy of Grace Baptist Church (page 5, lower, and page 3); Grace Community Church (page 5, right); Mary Smith (page 6, upper); Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church (page 6, lower); Agape Word Fellowship (page 7); Flickr Creative Commons: emdot (cover), USDA (page 2), and cheriejoyful (page 4).