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News Release

“We work together to build and maintain a community of the highest quality for present and future generations.”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Abilene Taylor County Public Health District receives gold level recognition from State

ABILENE, Texas – The Abilene Taylor County Public Health District is one of seven in Texas to be recognized at the highest level by the Texas Healthy Communities Program for its efforts to reduce cardiovascular disease (CVD), stroke, and other chronic diseases.

The Texas Healthy Communities Program aims to help communities assess existing environments to implement change, update policy infrastructure, and adopt priority public health practices to reduce risk factors for chronic diseases like CVD and stroke. Every year TXHC honors cities for their work in preventing and controlling such diseases by assigning honorable mention, bronze, silver, and gold recognition levels based on the results of a TXHC assessment.

Communities are assessed based on eight environmental and policy indicators:

- Offering physical activity areas and opportunities
- Accessible healthy food options
- Mother-friendly and breastfeeding-friendly worksites
- Evidence-based health curriculum in schools
- 100% smoke-free city smoking ordinance
- An EMS system which maintains a rapid response time for cardiac events
- Treatment of stroke as a medical emergency in the community
- Appropriate acute stroke treatment protocols in place

More information about the Texas Healthy Communities Program can be found on the Texas Department of State Health Services website at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/txhc/Texas-Healthy-Communities.aspx> or by contacting the Texas Healthy Communities Program, Koreena Villarreal, by phone at (512) 776 – 2050 or by email at koreena.villarreal@dshs.texas.gov

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