



Maricopa County

News Release

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Environmental Services
Department

*"Working with our
community to ensure a safe
and healthy environment"*

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The Cutting Edge Food Safety Partnership Program Honored with National Award Maricopa County Environmental Services is One of 19 Nationwide to Receive "Model Practice Award" in 2015

Maricopa County Environmental Services Department (MCESD) was honored with the Model Practice Award at the 2015 Annual Conference of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The award celebrates local health-related departments for developing programs that demonstrate exemplary and replicable best practices in response to a critical local public health need. The Cutting Edge Food Partnership Program was one of 19 local health-related department programs to receive NACCHO's prestigious Model Practice Award.

The Cutting Edge Food Partnership Program helps food-related operators with gaining more "Active Management Control" in their establishments and creates a preventive rather than reactive approach to food safety, allowing inspectors to focus on the establishments that might pose greater health risks.

"We are proud to receive NACCHO's Model Practice Award. The award is evidence of our commitment to developing responsive and innovative public health programs that assist in ensuring the health of local residents," said Steven Goode, MCESD Director.

"This national recognition underscores that the Cutting Edge is positively impacting the health and safety of our community, and has shaped the future of our food inspection program", added Andy Linton, MCESD Environmental Health Division Manager.

Since 2003, NACCHO's Model Practice Awards have honored programs, resources, and tools that demonstrate how local health departments and their community partners can effectively collaborate to address local public health challenges. Each innovative project receiving the Model Practice Award was peer-reviewed and selected from a competitive group of 69 applicants.

"This award puts Maricopa County Environmental Services Department in special company with a select group of health departments that exemplify a forward-thinking, proactive approach toward protecting and promoting the health of communities nationwide," said NACCHO Executive Director Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck.

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Model Practice program title is now part of an online, searchable database of successful public health practices in areas that range from immunization and maternal and child health, to infectious diseases and emergency preparedness. The NACCHO Model Practice database allows local health departments, public health partners, and other important stakeholders to learn about the good work being done by local health departments across the country. The database also provides users an opportunity to learn from best practices and what resources are needed to implement comparable programs in other jurisdictions that produce results.

Read more about these award-winning programs at: <http://www.naccho.org/topics/modelpractices/>.

For more information on Maricopa County Environmental Services department and The Cutting Edge Food Safety Partnership program, call (602) 506-6616 or visit ESD.maricopa.gov.

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About the National Association of County and City Health Officials

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's 2,800 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.

For more than 50 years, Maricopa County Environmental Services department has been working with our community to ensure a safe and healthy environment. The department serves the nation's fourth largest county with a population of nearly 4 million people. Using innovative methods, our Environmental Health professionals take proactive steps to regulate the food safety in eating and drinking establishments, work with stakeholders to keep our water supply free from contamination, and provide surveillance/enforcement activities to help minimize vector borne health risks.

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