HEALTHY ORANGE COALITION

ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
• Superintendent of Schools
• Office of Community Engagement

CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP
• Mayor’s Office

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS
• Citrus City
• Hispanic Business Association
• The HUUB
• Lanbi
• University of Orange
• ValleyArts, Inc.

EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
• Worldwide Orphans Foundation

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS
• HANDS, Inc.
• Urban Essex Smart Growth

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS
• First Unitarian Universality Church of Essex County
• Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges
• St. Matthew’s AME Church

HEALTH/WELLNESS ORGANIZATIONS
• Health and Wellness LLC

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
• Montclair State University
• Drew University

YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS
• RADICAL Orange
• Healthy Family Adventure
• Police Athletic League
• ORNG Ink
Healthy Orange is a coalition of groups concerned about the health of the people in the city of Orange, NJ. Our group is focused on the role that education plays in making a healthy city. When we started, we knew that learning is fundamental to health. In a healthy city, everybody will be learning all the time.

Here’s what we’ve learned as we looked at ways to make Orange a city of learning.

As in many poor cities, people are blocked from getting all the education they want and need. In Orange, fear, lack of money, housing troubles and other stressors get in the way of learning.

We also learned that Orange has more learning resources than it would seem. People don’t necessarily know that these resources exist. The fact that Orange is segmented by many ethnic groups, and divided by a highway, also gets in the way of communication about what learning resources exist in the city.

The problems of communication are compounded by inadequate systems of governance. These are burdened by the same problems of resources, obstacles and blocked communication that get in the way of all learning.

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<th>Outcomes</th>
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<td><strong>Year 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Year 3 and 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conduct market research; Identify channels and messages for key target audiences (African American, Hispanic, Haitian, and youth)</td>
<td>The social marketing campaign will have raised awareness of and commitment to education.</td>
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<td>Train community leaders and coalition members; Train two city departments</td>
<td>Leaders will be using Boundary Spanning Leadership Tools and other new skills in their work.</td>
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<td>Hold regular coalition meetings; Hold two meetings with Orange residents; Stimulate cross-visiting among Orange organizations</td>
<td>The Coalition will have an enthusiastic membership and strong links to residents.</td>
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<td>Prepare quarterly updates on the six major projects; Disseminate reports via effective channels</td>
<td>The number of educational programs will have grown and people in Orange will have access to their progress.</td>
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### Healthy Orange Coalition Tasks

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<th>Task</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<td>1) Publicize learning in Orange</td>
<td>Create a social marketing campaign to promote education among key groups, including African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Africans and Haitians</td>
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<td>2) Train leaders in the boundary-spanning leadership tools</td>
<td>Work with leaders in the coalition and in city departments to share tools of communication and connection across social difference</td>
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<td>3) Convene community people to learn about promoting education</td>
<td>Convene leaders in our coalition meetings</td>
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<td>Convene larger meetings with Orange residents</td>
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<td>Participating in convenings organized by other groups</td>
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<td>4) Monitor the progress of the key educational/learning interventions going on in Orange</td>
<td>Collect regular reports and disseminate via appropriate media so Orange residents learn about the resources that are available</td>
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Our analysis has shown people, resources and learning communities are isolated from one another.

The Healthy Orange Coalition has grappled with finding ways to **REMOVE THE OBSTACLES TO LEARNING & CONNECT PEOPLE TO OPPORTUNITY.**
THE MAJOR EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

These initiatives are providing RESOURCES for education, or addressing the OBSTACLES to it. They are creating an exciting learning environment that benefits all the residents of Orange.

TOY LIBRARY
This project of the Worldwide Orphans Foundation teaches parents and volunteers how to support the development of babies using play.

UNIVERSITY-SUPPORTED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Montclair State University and the Orange Public Schools are partnering to create “community schools” that open their doors to the neighborhoods.

ORANGE ADULT SCHOOL
One part of the new community schools is a school for adults.

ORANGE ANTI-VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN
Orange clergy, through their Orange Interfaith Council, have taken a lead in organizing for peace in the city.

HEART OF ORANGE
HANDS has received a major grant from the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation to revitalize in a 15-block area of the Heart of Orange.

MUSIC CITY
The University of Orange’s Music Department is developing an international music festival that will bring together musicians of all ages and nationalities to make music and fun.

To coordinate and strengthen these initiatives, Healthy Orange will:

PUBLICIZE all the exciting learning that’s going on, for people in many parts of the lifecycle. Babies are learning about play in the new TOY LIBRARY, school children are participating in afterschool music through SONIC EXPLORATIONS, adults are taking interesting classes at the new ADULT SCHOOL, and that is just a few examples.

TRAIN people throughout the city in new tools for working with those of different backgrounds, using BOUNDARY SPANNING LEADERSHIP TOOLS we’ve been taught by the Center for Creative Leadership.

CONVENE many organizations that care about the city and its ability to learn. There are already 21 organizations that are a part of the Healthy Orange Coalition, but it can grow MUCH bigger. When all of us are working together, we will be able to create a city of learning, where everyone can get the education they want and need.

MONITOR the progress that major educational initiatives are making in Orange.

FUNDRAISE for sustainability. We want to be able to support educational achievement for many years to come. We also want our coalition to help the major educational projects work together smoothly.