

## Area eligible for help fighting childhood obesity

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After-school programs in half of Ohio's counties, including Richland and Morrow, will be eligible for additional training to combat childhood obesity.

Ohio Action for Healthy Kids will receive \$60,000 in federal stimulus money. They will use this money to train officials from selected after school programs in the national Coordinated Approach to Child Health program. The program stresses fitness and nutrition in the classrooms and discourages tobacco use.

Jennifer House, a spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Health, said eligible counties are in the lower half of the county health rankings issued by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. Up to 60 programs within these counties will get funding.

Because about 19 percent of kids are obese statewide, childhood obesity is an issue gaining recognition. The Ohio General Assembly recently approved the Healthy Choices for Healthy Children Act, which imposed new nutritional standards in the state's schools.

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