



SAN DIEGO COUNTY
**CHILDHOOD
OBESITY
INITIATIVE**

Working Together to Shape a Healthy Future

icansandiego.org

The Initiative & Faith Advisory Councils

Resources for Faith Communities

The San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative (Initiative) is a public/private partnership whose mission is to reduce and prevent childhood obesity in San Diego County by creating healthy environments for all children and families through advocacy, education, policy development and environmental change. The purpose of the Initiative is to create, support and mobilize partnerships among multiple domains (i.e. sectors); provide leadership and vision; and coordinate countywide efforts to prevent and reduce childhood obesity. In order to accomplish this purpose, the Initiative has established active workgroups in the seven domains (government, healthcare, schools/after-schools, childcare and preschool, community, media/marketing, and business) with the greatest potential impact on childhood obesity to bring stakeholders together to solve this issue.

The Initiative works with more than 100 organizations to ensure that all San Diego County communities have access to healthful, affordable foods and safe physical activity. This work includes faith communities through the Community Domain's Faith Advisory Councils, where faith leaders unite to eliminate barriers to healthy eating and physical activity.

Mission of the Faith Advisory Councils:

To educate and equip faith leaders across San Diego County to reduce and prevent childhood obesity by creating healthy environments in faith communities and their surrounding community through advocacy, education, policy development, and environmental change. The Faith Advisory Councils work within the framework of the Initiative to support community stakeholders in creating a healthier future for all children and families in San Diego County no matter where they live, work, play, worship, or go to school.

Faith Advisory Councils provide faith leaders a venue to:

- Learn about childhood obesity
- Network and partner with other faith leaders
- Learn about local and national faith-based efforts to improve the health of children
- Connect to and share resources
- Develop community-based solutions
- Reach out to faith and community members

Join the Movement:

Faith Advisory Councils currently exist in North County and South Bay and more are expected due to increasing demand. To date, participating partners have adopted wellness policies and hosted wellness events like healthy cooking parties and "Jump Into Sunday School", a physical activity-orientated celebration of a new year in spiritual learning. While partners have primarily focused on making healthy eating and physical activity improvements inside the faith community walls, many are exploring a variety of ways to make healthy habits more easily achievable in their greater neighborhood through tools like skateparks and walk to school programs. Faith Advisory Councils meet bi-monthly or quarterly.

We invite you and your faith community to be part of the excitement!

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