



## Health Partners Plans SCOUTStrong Pilot

**Opportunity:** Health Partners Plans and the Cradle of Liberty Council will influence young people to adopt and maintain life-long healthy nutrition and lifestyle choices through an innovative SCOUTStrong pilot Troop.

**Method:** HPP will pre-screen plan members who reside specific North Philadelphia zip codes for risk factors have been shown to lead to the development of chronic acquired conditions such as Asthma, Obesity, Diabetes and Hypertension and invite these families to participate in the SCOUTStrong Troop. COL will coordinate with HPP to develop a concentrated curriculum that challenges plan members to improve their fitness while adopting healthy behaviors to earn rank advancement and Scouting achievements.

**Measurement and Impact:** COL and HPP will track participation and Scouts' progress on a weekly basis through attendance and completion of wellness-related advancement requirements. Further qualitative data may be collected by the integration of biometric fitness tracking devices using the *Scoutbook* application in coordination with the National Council Boy Scouts of America. HPP will track physiological changes in the plan members as well as behavioral outcomes – such as emergency room visit frequency – over a 24-month period. These outputs can then be contrasted against a control group of plan members who did not participate in the SCOUTStrong pilot intervention to show impact and effectiveness of the Scouting curriculum and methods.

**Launch:** COL and HPP have developed the framework for the weekly programming and will apply to Pennsylvania Department of Human Services for final approval in August, 2017. COL anticipates hiring and training three part-time program staff members in September and requests HPP consider a conditional grant of \$8,000 to provide for startup expenses and eight weeks of initial programming in 2017.

