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**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
FOOD ACTION PLAN**
For healthy people, a healthy economy, and a healthy environment



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P R E S S R E L E A S E
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Community Listening Session on Supporting Health

(Santa Barbara, Calif) — A free community listening session is scheduled for Friday, April 21, 2017 from 9 – 11am. The focus of this meeting is on strategies to fund health initiatives. The session will include a presentation on a proposed health impact fee with sugar sweetened beverages. The community is invited to share ideas for financing projects and programs that support health improvements and hunger alleviation in our community. The listening session is a partnership with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, Foodbank of Santa County and the Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan.

According to the California Health Interview Survey between 2003 and 2014, between 5% and 9.3% of our county population has been diagnosed with diabetes. This percentage has been increasing over the past few years and has exceeded the state percentage. Results from the 2016 Santa Barbara County Community Health Assessment show 33% of adults reported a body mass index in the overweight category while 28% reported a body mass index in the obese category. The single best predictor of type 2 diabetes is if an individual is overweight or obese. How can we fund strategies to prevent obesity, diabetes, and other diseases?

This session will include a presentation by Michael Dimock, President of Roots of Change, on the proposed Healthy California Prevention and Health Equity Fund (AB1003), which proposes a health impact fee on sugar sweetened beverages.

Elected officials and their staff are invited to hear from community members and advocates who seek to improve community health and resilience.

The event will be held on Friday, April 21, 2017 from 9:00 – 11:00am in the Auditorium at the Santa Barbara County Education Office located at 4400 Cathedral Oaks Rd., Santa Barbara. Participants are asked to pre-register online at <https://listeningsessionssbt.eventbrite.com>