



1020 Washington St. N, Twin Falls, Idaho  
208-737-5900 [www.phd5.idaho.gov](http://www.phd5.idaho.gov)

July 22, 2013

**PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

Contact: Melody Bowyer, Environmental Health Program Manager 737-5909

**South Central Public Health District Honored for Excellence in Public Health**

***Local Health Department Program is One of 38 Nationwide to Receive  
“Model Practice Award” in 2013***

TWIN FALLS – South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) was honored at the 2013 annual conference of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), a body of peers, for developing and implementing a program that demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need. **Improving Food Safety at Farmers Markets Through Training and Education** was one of 38 public health programs developed by a local health department selected from across the nation to receive NACCHO’s Model Practice Award.

“We are proud to receive NACCHO’s Model Practice Award. The award is evidence of our commitment to developing responsive and innovative public health programs that improve the health of local residents,” said Rene LeBlanc, SCPHD Director.

Each innovative project receiving the award was peer-reviewed (by other local health department professionals) and selected from a group of 101 applications. Since 2003, NACCHO’s Model Practice Awards program has honored initiatives—including programs, resources, and tools—that demonstrate how local health departments and their community partners can effectively collaborate to address local public health concerns. **Improving Food Safety at Farmers Markets Through Training and Education** is now part of an online, searchable database of successful public health practices in areas ranging from immunization and maternal and child health to infectious diseases and emergency preparedness. The NACCHO Model Practice database allows users to benefit from colleagues' experiences, to learn what works, and to ensure that resources are used wisely on effective programs

that have been implemented with good results. It also enables NACCHO to share information with key stakeholders and media about the good work being done by local health departments across the country.

This award puts SCPHD into special company—a select group of health departments that exemplify a forward thinking, proactive attitude toward protecting and promoting the health of communities across the nation.

For more information about the NACCHO Model Practice Awards and to view a list of other award winners, go to [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org).

### ***About the National Association of County and City Health Officials***

*The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's 2,800 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.*

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