

WELCOA's 7 Benchmarks

AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the past 20 years, the Wellness Council of America has dedicated its efforts to studying and promoting the efforts of America's Healthiest Companies. During that period, WELCOA developed its patented Well Workplace process. At the core of the Well Workplace model, we have identified seven key benchmarks of success. Specifically, these seven benchmarks are inherent in companies that have built results-oriented workplace wellness programs.



Benchmark #1

Capturing CEO Support

From our experience, CEO support is essential to the process of developing best-in-class programs. Indeed, we know of very few programs that have contained costs and improved employee health that don't have strong senior level support.



Benchmark #2

Creating Cohesive Wellness Teams

Once CEO support has been captured, the next task is to create a cohesive wellness team. Teams are essential to building great wellness programs because they help to distribute the responsibility for wellness throughout the organization.



Benchmark #3

Collecting Data To Drive Health Efforts

The team's first and primary responsibility is not to start offering programs, but rather to step back and gather important data. The data will be collected using corporate culture audits, health risk appraisals, and knowledge and interest surveys. This data is extremely important because it will reveal the specific areas of health needs and interests within the organization.



Benchmark #4

Carefully Crafting An Operating Plan

With essential forms of data having been collected, the task is now to develop an operating plan for health and wellness within the organization. This operating plan will serve as the roadmap and will guide the company's efforts and investments in workplace wellness.



Benchmark #5

Choosing Appropriate Interventions

With the first four benchmarks completed, it is now appropriate to begin choosing and implementing the appropriate health and productivity interventions. These interventions will most likely include tobacco cessation, physical activity, weight management, self-care, and stress management. But, they also may include things like fatigue management and ergonomics—depending on what the company's data reveals.



Benchmark #6

Creating A Supportive Environment

Once the appropriate health promoting interventions are up and running, it's time to create a supportive environment. Indeed, by having a supportive environment, organizations can be confident that employees will be supported in their efforts to lead healthier lives. Environmental interventions may take the form of policies, physical modifications, and rewards and incentives.



Benchmark #7

Carefully Evaluating Outcomes

The seventh and final benchmark in the Well Workplace model is carefully evaluating outcomes. It is within this benchmark that companies will religiously keep score when it comes to their wellness program. Evaluation targets include things like participation, participant satisfaction, behavior modification, and cost containment.

WELCOA's Well Workplace model has been adopted by more than 1,000 companies across the U.S.



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This article has outlined in detail our approach to creating results-oriented workplace wellness programs. The information has been adopted and embraced by scores of companies throughout North America. By using this information in an organization or with your clients, you can provide a credible framework which can be understood and operationalized. If you have questions concerning the use of this information or how you can put it to work in your organization, contact WELCOA at wellworkplace@welcoa.org.

About The Wellness Council of America [WELCOA]



Based in Omaha, Nebraska, the Wellness Council of America (was founded in 1987 as a national non-profit membership organization dedicated to promoting healthier life styles for all Americans, especially through health promotion initiatives at the worksite.

Working Well—Specifically, WELCOA focuses on building Well Workplaces—organizations that are dedicated to the health of their employees. The Well Workplace process provides business leaders and members with a structure or blue print to help their organizations build results-oriented wellness programs. Ultimately these programs help employees make better lifestyle choices, and positively impact the organization's bottom line. To date, over 700 companies have received the prestigious Well Workplace award.

Leading-Edge Wellness Information—In addition to helping organizations build structurally sound wellness programs, WELCOA serves as a national clearinghouse and information center on worksite wellness. WELCOA responds to thousands of requests for information and materials by publishing a number of source books, a monthly health and wellness newsletter, an extensive line of brochures, as well as conducting numerous training seminars.

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