



2024-2025 Annual Report

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN



HealthyFranklinCounty.org

INTRODUCTION

Healthy Franklin County worked in 2024-25 to educate the community and its partners about the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) findings and to implement a community health improvement plan (CHIP) that address key needs including food security, behavioral health, nutrition and physical activity and health disparities. With a commitment to utilizing a public health approach and collective impact model, Healthy Franklin County worked with its cross-sector partners to create and strengthen relationships, leverage expertise, resources, and skills and gain a trusted respect between and among organizations and groups committed to improving the health and well-being of Franklin County residents. Everyone has a role to play in improving the health of our communities and we are grateful to have such committed partners by our side.

ABOUT US

Vision → To have all People of Franklin County achieve their full potential for health and well-being across the lifespan.

Mission → To promote, strengthen and evaluate Franklin County's efforts to improve the health and well-being of all people.

Guiding Principles → We seek bold and lasting change rooted in the best available evidence, analysis, and science, openly debated. • We treat everyone with fairness and respect. • We act as good stewards of private resources, using them to advance the public's interest with a focus on helping the most vulnerable. • We cultivate diversity, inclusion, and collaboration. • We speak out as leaders for what we believe. • We are privileged to do this work. We are proud of our successes and accomplishments, and we believe our best achievements lie ahead.

HEALTHY FRANKLIN COUNTY LEADERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Carla Christian, Chambersburg YMCA; **Mike Ross**, Franklin County Area Development Corporation; **Carrie Gray**, Franklin County Government; **Stacie Horvath**, Franklin County Human Services; **Alice Elia**, Franklin County Library System; **Cori Seilhamer**⁺, Franklin County MH/IDD/EI; **Karen Johnston**, Healthy Communities Partnership, **David Grant**⁺, Keystone Health; **Joanne Cochran**, Keystone Health; **Scott Graham**, Mental Health Association; **Barbara Houpt**⁺, Network Ministries; **Kelly Goshen**⁺, Keystone Behavioral Health; **Jami Burkett**, Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition; **Dr. Jose Ricardo-Osorio, Ed.D.**, Shippensburg University; **Nicole Hewitt**, South Central Community Action Programs; **Amy Hicks**, United Way of Franklin County; **Morgan Hovermale**, Waynesboro Human & Community Services; **Daphne Murray**, WellSpan Health; **Claudia Schuchardt-Peet**, WellSpan Health; **Pat McCulloh**, WellSpan Health; **Nickie Fickel**⁺, WellSpan Health; **Kim Crider**⁺, **Erin Gilbert**, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Note: + indicates committee members who co-chair a task force.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Healthy Franklin County task forces, work group and ad hoc committees work to address health needs and priorities identified in the [community health needs assessment](#) alongside our community-based organizations (CBOs). We work together through a joint plan of action. A task force is organized around a health priority area; some task forces have work groups to help advance the work. Last year, task forces and work groups included: Health Disparities Task Force, Community Health Professional Development and Networking Committee, Behavioral Health Task Force, Move for Mental Health Committee, Suicide Prevention Coalition, Nutrition & Physical Activity Task Force, Environmental Stewardship Work Group, Food Security Task Force, United for Recovery & Prevention and the Policy and Advocacy Forum Planning Committee. Below is an overview of key accomplishments from each priority area.

HEALTH DISPARITIES

The health disparities task force works to increase access to comprehensive high-quality care to populations that experience health disparities. Below is a summary of completed activities:

- Coordinated bi-monthly community health professional development networking program to improve the skills and knowledge of those who help at-risk population access care and connect to community resources. Six events were held:
 - July 23, 2024: Accessing Behavioral Health Resources by Keystone Behavioral Health – 55 attendees
 - September 24, 2024: Nepali, Bhutanese & Refugee Communities Panel – 93 attendees
 - November 25, 2024: Practicing Self-Care Strategies – 59 attendees
 - January 1, 2025: WellSpan Health Integration of HereToHelpAll.org - 58 attendees
 - March 3, 2025: Immigrant Rights, Immigration Process – 80 attendees
 - May 27, 2025: PA Immigration Resource Center & Rapid Response Initiatives – 40 attendees
- Drafted Immigrant Services At-A-Glance guide for organizations helping newcomers/immigrant navigate community services/resources.
- Coordinated with local non-partisan initiative, Franklin Votes, to create a voter education and outreach plan to reach low-income, minority and youth populations.
 - Volunteers attended various events throughout the year to educate voters:
 - July 20, 2025 - Old Market Day in Chambersburg – 262 people engaged; 30 flyers distributed; 70 magnets distributed;

- 150 kites distributed; 7 people registered to vote; 5 people checked voter registration status
- July 30, 2024: Franklin County Housing Authority Chambersburg Food Distribution Event – 10 people engaged; 20 flyers distributed
- August 1, 2024 - Luminest Block Party Waynesboro-10 engaged; 5 magnets distributed
- August 25, 2024 - Wilson College - 238 people engaged; 10 flyers distributed; 16 people registered to vote
- September 26, 2024 – Franklin County Housing Authority Chambersburg Health Fair -10 people engaged; 4 flyers distributed
- October 13, 2024 - Pride Franklin County Festival - 70 engaged; 17 flyers distributed; 13 magnets distributed; 6 people registered to vote; 15 people checked their registration
- October 16, 2024 – Franklin County Housing Authority Chambersburg Canvass - 246 engaged/flyers distributed
- October 19, 2024 – AppleFest Chambersburg - 55 people engaged; 22 flyers distributed; 3 magnets distributed; 9 people registered to vote
- February 12, 2025 - Running for Local Office Webinar - 20 participants
- June 11, 2025 – Franklin County Housing Authority Career Carnival
- Tuscarora Managed Care Alliance innovative community navigator program that works with CBOs to help at-risk populations with social determinants of health served 391 individuals.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The behavioral health task force works to increase access to high quality mental health services, reduce the rate of suicides and to support efforts to reduce substance misuse. Below is a summary of completed activities.

- In collaboration with the physical activity and nutrition task force, designed and implemented the Move for Mental Health campaign* to increase awareness of the benefits of physical activity on mental health and to promote local resources. The campaign included:
 - Promotion of Penn State Cooperative Extension's 8-week, virtual walking challenge in the fall and spring - Everybody Walk Across Pennsylvania - 98 Franklin County residents participated logging 4500+ miles.
 - The move for mental health landing page on the Healthy Franklin County webpage received 605 visits.
- Thriving Thoughts Global coordinated 33 free, Grounded Events at Brio Coffee, Menno Haven and House of Grace with a total of 344 participants.

- Thriving Thoughts Global provided 43 Monday Morning Mental Health Moments via zoom with 291 participants.
- Healthy Franklin County designed and implemented a Tap Talks: Mental Health series the third Wednesday of the month at GearHouse Brewing Co. January – May for free. Speakers/topics included:
 - Dr. Sherri Yoder with Thriving Thoughts Global on January 15 about destigmatizing mental health and having Grounded Conversations with 35 in attendance;
 - Dr. Mike Diller with WellSpan Health who spoke about self-care strategies on February 19 with 25 in attendance;
 - Dr. Ridge Salter with WellSpan Health presented about the impact of physical activity on mental health on March 19 with 40 people in attendance;
 - Dr. Jose Ricardo-Osorio with Shippensburg University who presented on the benefits of music and dance on mental health on April 16 with 15 in attendance;
 - Dr. Heidi Hutchison from WellSpan Health presented about the importance of gut health and nutrition on mental health with 35 in attendance.
- Healthy Franklin County distributed 240 English / 159 Spanish window clings that promote the 988 Suicide Crisis and Text Line.
- The Franklin County Overdose Taskforce installed purple lights in the town centers in Franklin County to increase awareness of National Recovery Month which is September.
- The Keystone Health Crisis Call Center routed 1776 calls and answered 1555 on the 988 Suicide Prevention Hotline and made 16 referrals mental health referrals and 12 non-mental health referrals.
- Healthy Communities Partnership provided the Student Assistance Program to middle and high schools in Franklin County: 487 students were referred to the program; 183 students were screened for services; 183 behavioral health services were provided; 59 students screened positive for current or history of suicide attempts/ideation.
- Mental Health Association of Fulton/Franklin Counties taught 430 people in QPR over 7 training events and coordinated 10 Suicide Prevention Coalition meetings; hung purple ribbons in town centers in September for Suicide Prevention Month.
- Healthy Communities Partnership provided the Check and Connect program all six Franklin County school districts. 123 students participated in Check and Connect in the 2024-2025 school year, with 76 students being new referrals. 85.5% of participants increased their SEI* (Social and Emotional Indicators) score in at least one area of focus (affective and/or cognitive engagement indicators).
- Healthy Communities Partnership facilitated one Strengthening Families cohort March 10-April 21 with five families participating which included 7 youth and 5 caregivers.

- The Mental Health Association of Fulton/Franklin Counties provided the Senior Reach program which averaged 41 participants each quarter and 1200 phone calls were made.
- The Mental Health Association of Franklin/Fulton Counties coordinated the Walking and Talking Group which met weekly and averaged 5 people per meet-up.
- The Mental Health Association of Franklin/Fulton Counties coordinated the Walk the Walk event on May 16 as part of Mental Health Awareness Month activities in Chambersburg with 252 participants.
- The Mental Health Association of Franklin/Fulton Counties delivered the Why Try program reaching 20 people through community programming.
- Healthy Communities Partnership delivered the Why Try program reaching 40 students in two school districts (CASD & TSD). Students are typically referred by school administrators and guidance counselors. 53% of participants showed improvements.
- Healthy Communities Partnership coordinated the free, Go Girls Go program with a total of 278 participants and 85 mentors.
- Franklin County Welcoming Project, an initiative to encourage businesses and organizations to display welcoming signs for the purpose of making LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) individuals and allies feel welcomed as patrons; 420 pageviews to the landing page and 591 pageviews to the allies page.
- LGBTQ+ Resources page on pridefranklincounty.org provides mental health, healthcare and educational resources to the community which had 883 pageviews.
- The annual Pride Franklin County festival was held on October 13, 2024 at Wilson College to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and diversity and inclusion; 2000+ participants.
- A PFLAG Chapter was established in Chambersburg in February, 2023 with the first meeting being held that same month. The group currently meets monthly and has approximately 30 attendees per meeting with 30 dues-paying members and 200 people on an email list.

NUTRITION & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The nutrition and physical activity task force works to improve health by promoting healthy eating, access to nutritious food and physical activity. Below is a summary of completed activities.

- In collaboration with the behavioral health task force, designed and implemented the Move for Mental Health campaign* to increase awareness of the benefits of physical activity on mental health and to promote local resources. For campaign details, see behavioral health task force activity summary above.

- WellSpan Health coordinated a free, 12-week winter wellness challenge – Winter Streak. They coordinated 6 workshops: Choose Your Better – Think Big, Start Small (214 participants); Flexibility 101 (203 participants); Cooking Demo: Chicken Taco Lettuce Wraps (168 participants); Cooking Demo: Ripe Plantain Casserole (103 participants); Strength Training Made Easy (167 participants); Finding Meaning Can Change Your Day (180 participants). 94.64% of participants made progress towards or met at least one health/wellness goal; 73.18% of participants made an appointment for or are considering making an appointment for a preventative health screening.
- WellSpan Health coordinated the free, Get Outdoors (GO) summer reading and hiking program in partnership with Franklin County Library System; 702 children and 252 adults participated; the total miles walked by all participants who logged codes into Beanstack was 1341 miles. The most visited hike out of 15 trails was Chambersburg Memorial Park with 38% of participants visiting it.
- Healthy Communities Partnership coordinated the free, Go Girls Go program with a total of 278 participants and 85 mentors.
- Chambersburg YMCA provided Prevent T2 diabetes prevention and the Rock Steady programs.
- NETwork Ministries coordinated 17 youth community garden classes with a total of 155 participants.
- NETwork Ministries coordinated a middle school garden club that met 35 days throughout the year which had 97 participants.
- Network Ministries coordinated an elementary school garden club that met 35 days throughout the year which had 180 participants.
- Healthy Franklin County implemented the Double Dollars program (see metrics under Food Security Task Force).
- Healthy Franklin County coordinated a free community screening of the documentary *Common Ground* on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at the Capitol Theatre which explored the importance of regenerative agriculture in building sustainable, healthy food systems and combating environmental challenges. A panel discussion followed with members from the Franklin County Farm Bureau, USDA and the South Mountain Partnership; 40 people attended.

FOOD SECURITY

The food security task force works to increase food security by increasing the availability and awareness of healthy and nutritious food resources. Below is a summary of completed activities.

- The Gleaning Project (a program of SCCAP) distributed over 548,000 pounds of gleaned produce through an average of 20 outlets impacting over 16,000 people.
- Implemented the Double Dollars at the North Square Farmers Market with a Summit Foundation grant that doubled SNAP and SFMNP benefits. \$12,080

in Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers was paid by the state and \$19,029 in SNAP was paid by the state to NSFM vendors and the Double Dollars match for both was \$31,109.

- 242 low income senior households benefited from the Double Dollars program using the SFMNP vouchers;
- 98 low-income households that use SNAP/WIC benefits from the Double Dollars program;
- 84% of program participants surveyed reported their vegetable and fruit intake increased during the program.
- Program participants rated their experience with the Double Dollars program an average of 4.9 stars out of 5.
- The Summit Foundation approved \$20,000 in funding for Double Dollars for the 2025 market season.
- The Franklin County Area Agency on Aging SFMNP program had 1421 participants; 6975 SFMNP vouchers were distributed, and 5653 were redeemed at a value of \$56,530.
- The Franklin County Area Agency on Aging provided 50,725 congregate meals and 58,296 delivered meals.
- Local organizations (Franklin County Housing Authority, Luminest, SCCAP, Tower at the Falling Spring, Washington Square Apartments) provided the Senior Food Box Program monthly at their respective sites serving an average of 200 senior per month and the ElderShare Senior Food Box Program at the same sites serving on average 103 individuals per month.
- The task force created and distributed 12 monthly calendars (in English and Spanish) to promote local organizations that provide free congregate or grab and go meals to those in need in Chambersburg. The Shippensburg Community Resources Coalition creates and distributes a free congregate meal calendar each month.
- The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank facilitated 4 consultative meetings (March 26, 2024; July 23, 2024; November 26, 2024; March 25, 2025) with the Food Security Task force on the Franklin County Hunger Mapping project. A public release event was held on June 18, 2025.

UNITED FOR RECOVERY & PREVENTION

The Franklin County Overdose Task Force transitioned to operate under Healthy Franklin County in 2025. An ad hoc committee worked together to create a community health improvement plan (CHIP) which started on July 1, 2025. The task force changed its name to “United For Recovery & Prevention”. The task force will conduct an environmental scan of the substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, prevention and recovery space in FY26.

FRANKLIN COUNTY HEALTH SUMMIT OCTOBER 30, 2024

Healthy Franklin County coordinated the second annual health summit on October 30 which also served as the last policy and advocacy forum focused on “Housing is Health.” Megan Shreve presented on Housing in Franklin County and walked the group through a self-sufficiency exercise. Claudia Schuchardt-Peet facilitated a needs, gaps, solutions activity along with persuasion mapping. 55 people attended. The [survey responses](#) were very positive.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY FORUMS

Healthy Franklin County coordinated two policy and advocacy forums in FY25. The first was on July 25th which focused on learning about the local coordinated entry system coordinated by Franklin County Government and the importance of the lived experience (45 people attended). The second forum was embedded in the annual health summit (noted above on October 30) which threaded together a discussion about the importance of local data and policy and advocacy strategies and solutions. Due to the dynamic policy environment in early 2025, the planning committee chose to pause the forums until things calmed down. A “regroup” forum is planned for August 20, 2025.

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Healthy Franklin County worked with the WellSpan Health CHNA Steering Committee/Project Team to advise /support the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Healthy Franklin County created an ad hoc committee to create a local stakeholder/outreach plan that outlined distribution outlets/partners for the CHNA primary survey and outreach to special populations in Franklin County. A CHNA team with Keystone Health was also created to support outreach. The CHNA was released on July 1, 2025.

SUMMIT ENDOWMENT

The Summit Endowment serves as a funding mechanism that local non-profits can apply to for funding to advance projects that address needs identified in the WellSpan Health Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Grant recipients are required to serve on a Healthy Franklin County committee or taskforce during the term of their funded project. Healthy Franklin County staff serve on the Summit Endowment Committee, a local advisory group that reviews grant applications and makes funding recommendations, to provide technical assistance and context about community health needs and efforts to address them by local CBOs. The Summit Endowment Committee met four times last year on 8.14.24, 11.13.24, 2.19.25, 5.14.25. Last year, the total amount awarded was \$501,842.99 to 22 projects and an additional \$39,000 for 12 Greencastle-Antrim Foundation Scholarships.