

# Laramie County Community Health Improvement Plan

2025



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# Executive Summary

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) will guide public health initiatives in Laramie County for the next three years.

Outlined are the priority areas and goals of the CHIP.

## Healthcare Access and Quality

- ✓ Increase access to comprehensive healthcare coverage
- ✓ Increase access to providers through innovative community partnerships
- ✓ Improve quality of care for recently hospitalized patients through innovative community partnerships

## Community and Social Context

- ✓ Increase social connectedness among adults
- ✓ Increase social connectedness among youth

## Neighborhood and Physical Environment

- ✓ Increase housing stability in Laramie County

# Introduction

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) will guide public health initiatives in Laramie County for the next three years. A broad range of data was examined to identify the needs in the community.

The prioritization process for the 2025 CHIP involved input from three key stakeholder groups:

- ❖ System-wide Leadership Team
- ❖ Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Steering Committee
- ❖ Community-wide Stakeholder Strategy Session

The System-wide Leadership Team identified the three priority areas of the six possible Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) areas. These include:

- ✓ Healthcare Access and Quality
- ✓ Community and Social Context
- ✓ Neighborhood and Physical Environment

These priority areas were further refined into six goals. The goals are broad-based community measures that encompass the collaborative work of multiple initiatives and organizations. Within each goal are objectives that provide further refinement of the goals, and finally, strategies.

On the following pages you will find each of the priority areas broken out to include the associated goals, measures, objectives, strategies, and owners of the strategies identified under each priority area.

## Priority Area: Healthcare Access and Quality

### **The goals identified under this priority include:**

- ✓ Increase access to comprehensive healthcare coverage
- ✓ Increase access to providers through innovative community partnerships
- ✓ Improve quality of care for recently hospitalized patients through innovative community partnerships

In Laramie County, Wyoming, we have several important goals to improve the health care access and quality of our community. When people know how to get and use health insurance, they can see doctors and get the care they need without worrying about high costs. This helps everyone stay healthier and reduces health problems in the community. Supporting laws and rules that help more people get affordable health insurance can ensure everyone has the chance to get the care they need. This reduces financial stress and helps people stay healthy, which is good for the whole community.

Comprehensive care means taking care of a person's whole health, including both their body and their mind. Good mental health is important for overall well-being, and by making these services more available, we can help people stay healthy both physically and mentally. By providing better education and training for future doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers, we ensure that our community has skilled professionals to provide high-quality care. This helps maintain good health and prevents illnesses.

By making sure patients have smooth transitions from the hospital to home or other care settings, we can reduce the chances of them needing to return to the hospital. This helps patients recover better and stay healthier, which benefits the entire community.

# Priority Area: Healthcare Access and Quality



**Progress will be  
measured by:**

## **Percent of uninsured adults under the age of 65**

*Laramie County Health Matters, 2022*

Laramie County: 13.9%

Wyoming: 16.6%

## **Percent of adults that have a personal health care provider**

*Laramie County Health Matters, 2017-2021*

Laramie County: 73.0%

Wyoming: 75.4%

## **30-day readmission rates**

*Community Hospital Quality, 2024*

Laramie County: 15.3%

U.S.: 15.5%

## Healthcare Access and Quality

**Goal:** Increase access to comprehensive healthcare coverage.

**Goal Measurement:** Percent of uninsured adults under the age of 65.

Objectives	Strategies	Owner(s)
Improve knowledge, skills, and ability to enroll in and use health insurance.	Provide individual assistance and community education on health insurance options.	Enroll WY, Healthworks, WY211
	Collaborate through the use of CommuniCare (CIE) to share intake and referral information of patients/clients across community resources in order to facilitate streamlined enrollment in multiple programs. Increasing cross-sectoral referrals and community navigation.	WY211
	Establish, connect, and support a Certified Application Counselor Designated Organization (CDO) network of partners trained to offer consumers support when enrolling in health insurance.	Enroll WY
	Increase successful applications, appeals, and coordination of SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) services for health insurance through disability and social security incomes (SSI and SSDI)	CRMC, CALC, Recover WY, Healthworks
Promote policies and increase access to healthcare coverage.	Maintain and grow services offered through Mobile Integrated Health (community paramedicine).	CRMC
	Promote sustaining and expanding Medicaid coverage.	Access to Care Team
	Improve and expand transportation options for patients seeking medical services in Laramie County.	CRMC Transport Program, Lion's Disability Transport

## Healthcare Access and Quality

**Goal:** Increase access to providers through innovative community partnerships.

**Goal Measurement:** Percent of adults that have a personal health care provider.

Objectives	Strategies	Owner(s)
Improve use of preventive healthcare services.	Increase the availability of health education and prevention programs and support resources for individuals, especially in Cheyenne's south-side neighborhoods.	CRMC, CLCPH
	Enhance opportunities for employers to incentivize preventive care services for their employees.	Access to Care Team
	Explore expansion of school-based health mobile units to elementary schools within LCSD#1.	Healthworks, CLCPH
	Explore new partnerships and expand innovative delivery methods of preventive care (e.g., community paramedicine; prevention efforts in partnership with animal shelter to provide people and pet vaccine clinics).	CLCPH, CRMC
Improve accessibility of behavioral health services.	Reduce barriers to telehealth behavioral health delivery in the rural areas.	Behavioral Health Action Team
Improve the training pipeline for key health professionals.	Partner through NextGen Collaborative to expand the health professional training pipeline with a focus on behavioral health providers.	Next Gen Laramie County Healthcare Partnership
	Bridge training to workforce components by exploring the AHEC model and how it can be implemented in Laramie County.	Next Gen Laramie County Healthcare Partnership



## Healthcare Access and Quality

**Goal:** Improve quality of care for recently hospitalized patients through innovative community partnerships.

**Goal Measurement:** 30-day readmission rates.

Objectives	Strategies	Owner(s)
Improve care transitions.	Increase participation in CommuniCare (CIE) to facilitate better referrals, collaboration, and transition for patients/clients from medical provider to community-based services and resources. Increasing cross-sectoral referrals and community navigation.	WY211
	Increase communication, awareness, and connection between VA Services and Community providers.	Behavioral Health Action Team
	Understand and explore the most vulnerable populations who need transition support from the hospital to the community. Identify the barriers, gaps, and services needed. Create a recommendation for future strategies.	Access to Care Team

## Priority Area:

### Community and Social Context

#### The goals identified under this priority include:

- ✓ Increase social connectedness among adults
- ✓ Increase social connectedness among youth

When people understand how harmful loneliness can be to their health, they are more likely to seek out and participate in social activities. This helps improve mental and physical health, as social connections are important for overall well-being. By understanding what prevents people from connecting with others, we can develop strategies to overcome these obstacles, making it easier for everyone to build and maintain relationships. Encouraging more people to participate in community events and activities helps create a supportive environment where everyone feels included and valued, leading to better health outcomes.

Having a reliable adult to turn to can provide young people with guidance, support, and a sense of security, which is crucial for their development and well-being. Strong peer relationships help young people develop social skills, build self-esteem, and feel a sense of belonging. By fostering these connections, we can help youth grow into healthy, well-adjusted adults.



#### Progress will be measured by:

##### **Average number of poor mental health days among adults**

*Laramie County Health Matters, 2017-2021*

Laramie County: 4.8 days

Wyoming: 4.9 days

##### **Percent of youth with adults to talk to about their problems**

*Wyoming Prevention Needs Assessment, 2022*

Laramie County: 80.3%

Wyoming: 82.8%

## Community and Social Context

**Goal:** Increase social connectedness among adults.

**Goal Measurement:** Poor mental health: average number of days.

Objectives	Strategies	Owner(s)
Increase awareness of the negative effects of social isolation.	Raise awareness about social isolation/disconnectedness and advance it as a public health priority. Create tailored messaging, utilize national day/weeks/months campaigns, create communication strategies to garner support and buy-in from various stakeholders.	CLCPH
Identify barriers to social connectedness in the community.	Promote the use of SDOH screening tools across organizations and sectors that helps to identify individuals who may be experiencing social isolation or at risk for social isolation.	CRMC
	Collect and analyze data from SDOH screening tools to understand who is experiencing social isolation and the barriers they face when attempting to connect with others. Survey service providers to understand what they are hearing informally from their clients. Conduct the MAPP Community Context Assessment (qualitative).	LCCP

## Community and Social Context

**Goal:** Increase social connectedness among adults (cont.).

**Goal Measurement:** Poor mental health: average number of days.

Objectives	Strategies	Owner(s)
Increase the number of adults engaged in the community.	Implement a community-wide electronic platform to house and promote community activities such as fun runs, family fitness events, recreational leagues, sober living events, and health and wellness classes.	LCCP
	Support and promote Family Resource Centers.	Blue Boost Center
	Partner with realtors and the business community to create 'Welcome Kits' for new residents with resources and local events information.	Better Together Action Team
	Partner with local organizations to provide opportunities for adults to engage and interact with others. (e.g., host regular community meetings such as "coffee with/a cop", Neighborhood Night Outs, Mom's on the Move, Circle Talk for Seniors, etc.).	LCCP, Senior Center

## Community and Social Context

**Goal:** Increase social connectedness among youth.

**Goal Measurement:** Youth with adults to talk to about their problems.

Objectives	Strategies	Owner(s)
Increase the connection between youth and a trusted adult.	Increase community and organization participation in suicide prevention training. (i.e., QPR, schools, LCCC, youth groups, faith communities, etc.).	CRMC, Behavioral Health Action Team
	Promote and support Youth Alternatives.	CRMC, Behavioral Health Action Team
	Reestablish and promote "Senior High Tech Night" program.	LCSD#1, WY211, Senior Center
	Support and connect community members to volunteer activities with community partners serving youths.	Better Together
	Continue to support and promote Sources of Strength in the community.	Healthy Youth Action Team
	Explore the feasibility of a youth space dedicated to outreach, connection, and youth lead activities.	Healthy Youth Action Team

## Priority Area:

# Neighborhood and Physical Environment

### The goal identified under this priority is:

- ✓ Increase housing stability in Laramie County

Affordable housing reduces financial strain and allows individuals and families to allocate resources to other essential needs, such as healthcare and education, which further improves their overall health and quality of life.

By working with local organizations and resources, we can ensure that people who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability have safe places to live. By making it easier for people to find and use housing assistance programs, we can help them secure stable housing more quickly. This reduces the stress and uncertainty that comes with housing instability, leading to better mental and physical health outcomes. By supporting laws and initiatives that make housing more affordable, we can help more people find and keep stable homes.

When people have a safe and steady place to live, they can take better care of their health. They sleep better, eat better, and don't get sick as often. It also means fewer trips to the emergency room, which helps the whole community stay healthier.



### Progress will be measured by:

#### **Renters Spending 30% or More of Household Income on Rent**

*Laramie County Health Matters, 2019-2023*

Laramie County: 47.3%

Wyoming: 43.5%

#### **Mortgaged Owners Spending 30% or More of Household Income on Housing**

*Laramie County Health Matters, 2023*

Laramie County: 30.9%

Wyoming: 27.8%

## Neighborhood and Physical Environment

**Goal:** Increase housing stability in Laramie County.

**Goal Measurement:** Percent of Laramie County residents that are living with severe housing problems.

Objectives	Strategies	Owner(s)
Improve connection between individuals and available housing resources.	Promote a "Literacy" series with local partners to increase awareness of issues and resources available for housing, food, healthcare, and childcare support and resources.	Blue Boost Center
	Explore sustainability and availability of resources needed for year-round low-barrier shelter options.	Housing Action Team and United Way
	Better collaboration and coordination with housing partners.	Housing Action Team and United Way
	Increase access to information and legal assistance for persons facing eviction/foreclosure or has unstable/unsafe housing conditions of rentals.	Equal Justice Wyoming
Promote policies that increase housing affordability.	Advocate for Wyoming Housing Investment Fund.	Habitat for Humanity
	Explore methods for increasing housing navigation and advocacy options for individuals with prior evictions.	Housing Action Team

# Stakeholder Input in the Prioritization Process

The prioritization process for the 2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) involved input from three key stakeholder groups.

## **System-wide Leadership Team**

A group of system-wide leaders convened to review the results of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Using these findings and aligning them with organizational priorities, they set the overall strategic direction. They selected the three priority areas for the CHIP to focus on.

## **CHNA Steering Committee**

The CHNA Steering Committee selected the specific goals and objectives within each priority area. This group emphasized ensuring health equity and addressing health disparities across Laramie County during their prioritization discussions. Strategies selected were identified as Evidence-Based Interventions (EBIs). These are programs, policies, or practices that have been proven to positively change a targeted outcome. A full list of steering committee partners can be found in Appendix A.

## **Community-Wide Stakeholder Strategy Session**

Over 80 stakeholders, including members of the community, the steering committee, and the Laramie County Community Partnership, participated in a day-long strategy session. During breakout sessions, participants reviewed goals and objectives for each priority area. When evaluating which strategies to use, the team considered which 2021 strategies should be retained, improved, or discontinued. A curated list of recommended strategies was provided to guide brainstorming of new strategies. Groups proposed new or refined strategies, then voted on the top three per objective. Each strategy was matched with proposed organizational owners and key implementation partners.



## Next Steps

The MAPP 2.0 framework is from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). It brings a renewed focus on the nation's health and well-being through "upstream" actions that address the social determinants of health (SDOH). This community-driven strategic planning process for community health improvement (CHI) spurs collective action to improve population health and equity. It provides the structure for Laramie County residents to assess the top population health issues and helps to target resources and staffing for strategic action.

The Healthy People 2030 initiative from the HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion complements the MAPP Framework because it identifies public health priorities from across the nation. It builds on the science and knowledge gained over the years to address public health priorities and provides both a baseline and national standards for comparative data. This allows the Laramie County community to not only compare itself to other counties in Wyoming, but to other states as well.

Public health's role is to protect and improve the health of Wyomingites through interventions such as health prevention services, sanitation, vaccinations, and food safety. The CHIP acts as a guide to create a healthier community for those living in Laramie County. Although many public health initiatives are occurring all the time, the CHIP is focused on the top priorities right now. With goals, objectives, and key actions identified for the priority areas, the next step is to work with the LCCP action teams, key stakeholders, and the community to implement these strategies.

The implementation process will begin to address the identified needs through the creation of:

- ✓ funding strategies
- ✓ resource identification and development
- ✓ determining new partnerships
- ✓ community and staff involvement
- ✓ identifying key qualitative and quantitative metrics
- ✓ development of a reporting structure that includes updates on goal progress

# Appendix A : Participating Organizations

## **Steering committee**

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)  
Cheyenne Laramie County Public Health (CLCPH)  
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC)  
Cheyenne Senior Center  
Community Action of Laramie County (CALC)  
Data Corp  
EMC Partners  
Healthworks  
Healthy Youth Action Team  
Laramie County Community College (LCCC)  
Laramie County Library Systems (LCLS)  
Laramie County School District #1  
United Way of Laramie County  
University of Wyoming  
Volunteers of America  
Wyoming 211 (WY211)

## **Data team**

Cheyenne Laramie County Public Health (CLCPH)  
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC)  
Community Action of Laramie County (CALC)  
Data Corp  
EMC Partners  
Laramie County  
Laramie County School District 1  
United Way of Laramie County  
Wyoming 211 (WY211)

Thank you to all members of LCCP for your insight and  
perspective throughout this process!