

2023 Community Health Needs Assessment

Implementation Plan Summary

St. Luke's Elmore

The following implementation plan illustrates the strategies St. Luke's and its community partners will employ in fiscal years 2024-2026 to address the most important health needs identified in our 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment for Elmore County.

Safe, Affordable Housing and Homelessness

Housing instability can impact an individual's health and ability to access or afford health care. It also impacts educational attainment for children and youth. Low vacancy rates can lead to housing shortages and rising housing costs. Dwindling housing supply also can drive up home prices, especially in areas experiencing high growth.

STRATEGIES

Support households that are cost burdened (spend more than 30% of income on housing costs).

- Collaborate with Elmore County Health Coalition and other local stakeholders to educate, inform and address housing scarcity.

Support families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

- Fund education and outreach efforts to support local family shelters and other emergency shelters.

Increase affordable housing options.

- Fund housing projects in alignment with partners to maximize investment and impact.
- Support and align grant-making processes with LEAP/Falcon's Landing priorities.

Support services that assist people in remaining successfully housed.

- Support on-site services for permanent supportive housing models and continue collaboration with Elmore County Health Coalition and other partners.

Behavioral Health, Including Mental Health and Well-Being, and Substance Misuse

Access to affordable mental health care and substance misuse treatment is a struggle for many residents within our service area, including youth. In addition, the service area has a noted mental health provider shortage. Community members identified behavioral health as a top priority—and mental health and substance misuse as topics of serious concern.

STRATEGIES

Support awareness, education and skill building.

- Support availability of mental and behavioral health educational resources.
- Promote existing gatekeeper trainings.

Increase access to mental and behavioral health services.

- Assess and increase school-based mental and behavioral health services in collaboration and coordination with community partners.
- Grow the current behavioral health workforce in collaboration and coordination with community partners.
- Update and distribute the Elmore County Mental Health Guide.

Identify, intervene and measure outcomes in populations.

- Support the Communities for Youth model.



Access to Affordable Health Care, Including Oral and Vision Health

Community members reported several difficulties accessing health care: long waitlists, trouble scheduling urgent appointments, and particularly in rural areas, difficulty obtaining and getting to specialty care. These hurdles are even more challenging for people relying on Medicaid or Medicare. Difficulty accessing health care can lead people to neglect their health—especially preventative health—resulting in more negative outcomes and higher medical costs in the future.

STRATEGIES

Address transportation barriers to care.

- Continue assessing service opportunities through community partners.

Support mobile, telehealth and on-site health services.

- Utilize St. Luke's mobile mammography.
- Continue to assess St. Luke's mobile pediatric care services to rural areas.
- Map, align and leverage mobile health and telehealth strategies in collaboration with community partners.

Support community health worker (CHW) models, resource navigation services and engagement with vulnerable populations.

- Support and expand the community school model.
- Collaborate with FindhelpIdaho.org on a community-facing and an internal patient community resource directory.
- Continue to support the Get Healthy Idaho CHW initiative.

