

2023 Community Health Needs Assessment

Implementation Plan Summary

St. Luke's Wood River

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 the Wood River area.

Cost of Living—Including Housing, Caregiving and Early Learning

Community members were severely concerned about the costs of housing, child care and education in the region. Due to rapid growth and limited housing, residents report that it is increasingly difficult to find and pay for housing. Many also struggle to obtain and pay for child care and early learning services. These and other expenses can put households at an increased risk of financial instability.

STRATEGIES

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

- Facilitate appointments for utility assistance at St. Luke's Center for Community Health.
- Assist families with their health-related expenses.

Support families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

- Support Blaine County Housing Authority in promoting the Emergency and Transitional Housing Plan.
- Provide wrap-around services in the Center for Community Health.
- Provide assistance to the Blaine County Charitable Fund, which gives community members funds for transitional housing support.
- Participate in Region 4 Homeless Coalition to stay current on regional efforts.

Increase affordable housing options.

- Serve on Blaine County Housing Authority board.
- Attend Housing Partners meetings, engage with Hailey's Housing Committee.
- Support St. Luke's Wood River Foundation efforts to expand workforce housing.

Increase quality, affordable early learning and caregiving opportunities.

- Increase affordable and available early learning and child care opportunities through engagement with the Wood River Early Learning Collaborative and education offerings at the Center for Community Health.
- Support people's caregiver needs at the Center for Community Health.

Increase access to and utilization of health foods.

- Enroll eligible community members into WIC and SNAP programs through outreach events and at the Center for Community Health.
- Partner with The Hunger Coalition to expand programming.





Mental Health and Well-Being—Including Suicide and Substance Misuse

Many residents, including youth, worry about access to affordable mental health care and substance misuse treatment in the region. A lack of these services can lead to worsening mental health outcomes. Community members have high levels of concern regarding their community’s response to overall mental health issues, ability to seek treatments, and suicide and mental health in special populations such as veterans and youth.

STRATEGIES
<p>Support awareness, education and skill building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support availability of mental and behavioral health educational resources through community outreach.• Connect community partners to gatekeeper trainings.• Support the 5B Suicide Prevention Alliance.
<p>Increase access to mental and behavioral health services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the Student and Family Assistance Program.• Provide counseling referrals and funding at the Center for Community Health• Distribute medication lock boxes, gun locks, naloxone and provide safety education at the Center for Community Health.
<p>Identify, intervene and measure outcomes in populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the Communities for Youth model.

Access to Health-Related Services—Including Language and Cultural Barriers

Community members reported several difficulties accessing health care and oral health care: long waits for appointments, trouble paying for services, language and cultural differences, and lack of insurance coverage or not enough coverage. These challenges are even more difficult for people relying on Medicaid or Medicare, and for immigrants without access to insurance and non-native English speakers who require language support.

STRATEGIES
<p>Address transportation barriers to care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fund Mountain Rides non-emergency medical transportation to Twin Falls.• Distribute gas cards through the Center for Community Health to eligible clients with transportation barriers.
<p>Support mobile, telehealth and on-site health services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financially support school nursing positions at Blaine County School District.• Increase access to basic health services in partnership with the Mexican Consulate.• Provide vaccination clinics and health screening services in coordination and collaboration with community partners.
<p>Support community health worker (CHW) models, resource navigation services and engagement with vulnerable populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand reach of Center for Community Health services through staff off-site education.• Collaborate with FindhelpIdaho.org on a community-facing and an internal patient community resource directory.

