# Priority Areas and Strategies

The Wood County 2021 – 2024 CHIP identifies six priority areas of focus to improve overall health in our communities. Within each priority, strategies are identified to drive progress in that area. Lead agencies are named for each strategy, and those agencies will work with community partners to identify specific actions that will drive improvements.

Numerous agencies and organizations in Wood County impact public health. Improving coordination of efforts across agencies can have a meaningful impact on the ability of members of our community to access needed services and support.

## Priority #1: Community Conditions (Ohio SHIP Priority Factor)

Community conditions refers to those factors that are outside the health care system that impact the collective health and well-being of individuals in the community. Many of these factors are related to socioeconomic status, such as income levels, nutrition, crime and transportation resources. Community conditions also impact how medical and educational resources are accessed and used by individuals to influence health.

Strategies

* **Expand and improve housing options for residents of Wood County.**
* **Increase awareness, identification and intervention for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).**
* **Strengthen public transportation to make it more accessible to more people in more places and for more purposes.**

## Priority #2: Health Behaviors (Ohio SHIP Priority Factor)

Health behaviors are actions individuals take that affect their health. They include behaviors that lead to improved health, such as eating well and being physically active, and behaviors that increase one's risk of disease, such as smoking.

Strategies

* **Reduce nicotine use among Wood County residents.**
* **Increase the number of Wood County residents who have access to and regularly eat nutritious foods.**
* **Increase the number of hours Wood County residents engage in regular physical activity.**

Note: these strategies also support Priority 5: Chronic Disease.

## Priority #3: Access to Care (Ohio SHIP Priority Factor)

Access to affordable, quality and timely health care can help prevent diseases and detect issues sooner, enabling individuals to live longer, healthier lives. People encounter a variety of barriers in attempting to access care, and access can vary based on factors such as geography, race and ethnicity and income.

Strategies

* **Increase the number of individuals who receive recommended medical care** (Also supports Priority 5: Chronic Disease).
* **Increase the number of individuals who receive recommended dental care.**
* **Develop a multi-year plan to increase the number of mental health professionals available to serve Wood County residents** (Also supports Priority 4: Mental Health and Addiction).

## Priority #4: Mental Health and Addiction (Ohio SHIP Priority Outcome)

Ensuring that individuals have access to mental health care can improve lives and communities. For many, it can dramatically reduce or eliminate the risk of suicide (which is a leading cause of death in the U.S), legal issues, family conflict, employment issues, substance abuse and further mental and physical health problems.

Strategies

* **Develop multi-year plan to increase the number of mental health professionals available to support Wood County residents** (Also supports Priority 3: Access to Care).
* **Increase care-seeking behavior for mental health among Wood County residents.**

## Priority #5: Chronic Disease (Ohio SHIP Priority Outcome)

Chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease and cancer take a significant toll on public health. Yet this leading cause of death is also one of the most preventable. Strategies in this area aim to help reduce people's risk factors by promoting physical activity, improving access to healthy, affordable foods and expanding access to tobacco cessation information and programs.

Strategies

* **Increase the number of individuals who receive recommended medical care** (Also supports Priority 3: Access to Care).
* **Increase the number of Wood County residents who have access to and regularly eat nutritious foods** (Also supports Priority 2: Health Behaviors).
* **Increase the number of hours Wood County residents engage in regular physical activity** (Also supports Priority 2: Health Behaviors).
* **Reduce nicotine use among Wood County residents** (Also supports Priority 2: Health Behaviors).

## Priority #6: Social Wellness

This priority is focused on increasing the individual well-being of Wood County residents, including increasing the sense of community connectedness, and knowledge and resources that enhance an individual’s ability to engage in self-care.

Strategies

* **Increase individual well-being among Wood County residents, including opportunities that enhance self-care.**

## Strategies and Lead Agencies

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| **Strategies** | **Lead Agencies** | **Priorities Supported** |
| 1. **Expand and improve housing options for residents of Wood County.** Potential actions:  * Increase public awareness of affordable housing options available by providing a comprehensive guide to available housing resources. * Advocate for expansion of affordable housing programs for the lowest-income renters. * Advocate for local inclusionary zoning and housing policies to expand the areas where affordable housing can be built. * Expand available transitional housing options that provide transitional housing for 6 to 24 months. | United Way of Wood County | Priority 1: Community Conditions |
| 1. **Increase awareness, identification and intervention for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).** Potential actions:  * Survey health care providers, teachers, coaches, social service providers and other community members on their awareness and use of trauma-informed care, including toxic stress and ACEs. * Develop materials on ACEs that can be used by agencies to mitigate their impact on the people they serve. * Train teachers, superintendents, and organizations that work with people with ACEs on trauma informed care. | Children’s Resource Center  Wood County Educational Services Center | Priority 1: Community Conditions |
| 1. **Strengthen public transportation to make it more accessible to more people in more place and for more purposes.** Potential actions:  * Continue to increase the public awareness of all transportation options through marketing activities. * Expand coordination for public transportation with adjoining counties. * Increase funding for Net Plus Program in Wood County. * Seek an increase in funding for transportation providers who serve seniors, individuals with disabilities and low-income individuals. | Great Lakes Community Action Partnership | Priority 1: Community Conditions |
| 1. **Reduce nicotine use among Wood County residents.** Potential actions:  * Mass media campaigns against tobacco use. * Smoke-free policies for indoor/outdoor areas. * Tobacco cessation therapy affordability. | Wood County Health Department  Wood County Hospital | Priority 2: Health Behaviors  Priority 5: Chronic Disease |
| 1. **Increase the number of Wood County residents who have access to and regularly eat nutritious foods.** Potential actions:  * Food insecurity screening program. * Healthy food initiatives in food banks. * School-based nutrition education programs. | Wood County JFS/SNAP  Wood County Health Department/WIC | Priority 2: Health Behaviors  Priority 5: Chronic Disease |
| 1. **Increase the number of hours Wood County residents engage in regular physical activity**. Potential actions:  * Community-wide physical activity campaign. * Safe Routes to Schools programs. * Exercise prescriptions from healthcare providers. * Increase access to free/affordable opportunities for exercise. | BGSU  Wood County Parks Districts | Priority 2: Health Behaviors  Priority 5: Chronic Disease |
| 1. **Increase the number of individuals who receive recommended medical care.** Potential actions:  * Identify barriers and gaps in accessing healthcare services. * Raise awareness of:   + Importance of seeing a primary care provider annually   + Engage in preventative care   + How to lower risks for chronic disease   + Importance of hypertension and diabetes screenings and follow up.   + Importance of prenatal and post-partum care | Wood County Hospital  Wood County Health Department | Priority 3: Access to care  Priority 5: Chronic Disease |
| 1. **Increase the number of individuals who receive recommended dental care**. Potential actions:  * Improve awareness of the benefits of routine dental care. * Create and maintain a database of local resources to help individuals find low-cost providers. | Wood County Health Department | Priority 3: Access to Care |
| 1. **Develop a multi-year plan to increase the number of mental health professionals available to serve Wood County residents.** Potential actions:  * Telehealth Services for mental health * Raise awareness of benefits of mental telehealth services * School-based counseling services * Develop and publish a Mental Health Resource Guide | Wood County ADAMHS Board | Priority 3: Access to Care Priority 4: Mental Health and Addiction |
| 1. **Increase care-seeking behavior for mental health among Wood County residents.** Potential Actions:  * Implement “Stigma-free Workplace” program in area businesses. * Develop and launch communication campaign to make people aware of when they should seek care and normalize seeking care. | Wood County ADAMHS Board | Priority 4: Mental Health and Addiction |
| 1. **Increase individual well-being among Wood County residents, including opportunities that enhance self-care.** Potential actions:  * Research strategies that have been demonstrated to improve health, such as sleep, reduced screen time, healthy social interactions, happiness, chronic pain, families that share meals together, reading to kids, etc. * Compile list/overview of free and low-cost resources available for self-care that are available to residents. * Enhance and expand No Wrong Door resources and training to include opportunities for self-care. * Develop programs to implemented across multiple organizations - schools, churches, businesses, etc. * Community education about the importance of self-care. * Advocate for policies that promote self-care. | Wood County Health Department | Priority #6: Social Wellness |
| 1. **Develop a protocol/process for creating and maintaining alignment among agencies involved in improving health in Wood County.** Potential actions:  * Conduct a community assessment to understand/document all organization that provide care and community services. * Establish executive committee of leaders of various agencies that impact health and wellness in the county to develop a sustainable approach to networking all relevant organizations. Establish a forum that allows each organization to share needs, opportunities and priorities. | Wood County Health Department |  |