



2023-2026 YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

12-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT

January 1 – June 30, 2024

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The Yellowstone County Community Health Needs Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan, and Healthy By Design Coalition are sponsored by Billings Clinic, RiverStone Health, and Intermountain Health St. Vincent Regional Hospital. These initiatives are intended as a resource for residents, organizations, and leaders. Learn more at www.hbdyc.org.



Linda Deavila was a skilled community organizer, leader, advocate, neighbor, and friend. As a community member and later a seasonal employee for the Healthy By Design Coalition, Linda was a force to be reckoned with. She ensured the South Side lived up to its Bright Side of the Tracks moniker. Linda touched many lives with her wit, honesty, and genuine care. We thank her for sharing her talents, time, and energy with our Coalition members and the community. Her vision for a healthy, vibrant neighborhood will live on through our work and those she inspired.

*All photos in this document are from Healthy By Design archives unless otherwise noted.
Icon graphics are from flaticon.com.*

Our Current Partners

Adult Resource Alliance
Alzheimer's Association
America First Response
AWARE Early Head Start
Big Sky Economic Development
Big Sky Senior Services
Billings Arts Association
Billings Chamber of Commerce
Billings City Council
Billings Clinic & Billings Clinic Foundation
Billings Family YMCA
Billings Industrial Revitalization District
Billings Community Foundation
Billings TrailNet
Billings Urban Indian Health and Wellness
Chamber of Commerce
City of Billings
Community Crisis Center
Community Leadership & Development, Inc.
Continuum of Care
Dog Tag Buddies
DOWL

Head Start, Inc.
HomeFront
HRDC
Intermountain Health St. Vincent Regional Hospital
Living Independently For Today and Tomorrow
MET Transit
MSU Billings
National Endowment for the Arts
Native American Development Corporation
Rimrock Foundation
Riverstone Health
Rocky Mountain College
Rocky Mountain Health Network
Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council
South Side Neighborhood Task Force
Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yellowstone County
St. John's United
Triia
Substance Abuse Connect
Superior Concrete Construction
United Way of Yellowstone County

2023 – 2026 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Strategies



Healthy Neighborhoods





Healthy Connections



Healthy Investments

Strengthening Partnerships

Year One at a Glance

 <p>Healthy Neighborhoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated with Mobilize the MAGIC City partners to complete the installation of 3 creative placemaking hubs and develop the placemaking playbook. • Finalized the Complete Neighborhoods criteria and initiated baseline mapping, setting the stage for analyzing neighborhood accessibility and quality. • Published the Bright Side Neighborhood Clean Up playbook to support neighborhood-driven beautification efforts.
 <p>Healthy Connections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with Age Friendly Billings partners to finalize the action plan, using the AARP 8 Domains of Livability as guidance. • Promoted walkability through the successful implementation of 6 additional Beets on the Streets temporary installations.
 <p>Healthy Investments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported Resilient Yellowstone sites in developing and conducting Community Health Worker (CHW) impact and sustainability assessments. • Finalized community plan fact sheets to increase civic literacy and understanding of community plans.
 <p>Strengthening Partnerships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnered with impact coordinators to develop key stakeholder mapping and finalize content for Collective Impact training for local coalitions. • Participated in Grown in Billings, an emerging community effort that aims to ensure families are connected to resources to raise their children in a stable, safe, supportive, and caring environment.

Presentations & Media Coverage

Presentations & Posters

MSUB Master of Health Administration Class
 MSU Population Health Nursing Class
 Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yellowstone Valley Conference
 Montana Family Medicine Residency
 Montana Confluence Annual Conference
 AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Onboarding
 Envision Sustainability Conference
 Leadership Billings

Media Coverage

Public Art Promotes Community Health
 Gardeners' Market Open 4-6 p.m. Thursdays in South Park
 Area Farmers Markets Can Accept WIC Vouchers
 King Family Farms Prepping for Another Season of Gardeners' Market
 Mobilize the MAGIC City Ribbon Cutting



2023-2026 Yellowstone County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Overview

Vision	A vibrant Yellowstone County where the healthy choice is the easy choice.	
Overall Goal	By 2026, increase proportion of Yellowstone County residents who self-report good or better overall health from 84.7% to 88.9%	
Priorities	Mental Health Substance Use (Misuse) and Safety	Access to Healthcare Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Weight

Priority Specific Objectives

Increase the proportion of Yellowstone County residents who self-report good or better mental health from 79.3% to 83.3%	Decrease the proportion of Yellowstone County residents who find it very/somewhat difficult to buy fresh produce from 27.4% to 26.0%
Decrease the proportion of Yellowstone County residents whose lives have been negatively affected by substance abuse (their own or someone else's) from 43.4% to 41.2%	Increase the proportion of Yellowstone County residents who are meeting physical activity guidelines from 29.3% to 30.8%
Decrease the proportion of Yellowstone County residents who experience difficulty accessing health care from 45.4% to 43.1%	Increase the proportion of Yellowstone County residents who are at a healthy weight from 26.7% to 28.0%

Initiative Assessment Criteria

- Health Equity • Policy, Systems, Environment • Collective Impact
Evidence-Based • Community-Informed



Strategy I. Healthy Neighborhoods: 12-Month Update

Vision: All Yellowstone County residents have access to vibrant neighborhoods that are welcoming, accessible, and foster health.

Overview: Healthy neighborhoods support and promote the physical, mental, and social well-being among residents. Such neighborhoods are structured in a way that provides easy access to essential resources and services, fosters social connectedness, and facilitates healthy choices.

Initiative Updates

Mobilize the MAGIC City, a partnership between the City of Billings, Billings Arts Association, Triia, and Healthy By Design, saw significant progress throughout the year. In December, Billings' inaugural Artist-in-Residence, Terri Porta, began fabricating art pieces for various bulb-outs, while the leadership team drafted a guidebook for future placemaking efforts. In the spring, the public art process and policy drafts were reviewed by a focus group, followed by the Parks board and key City of Billings administrative leadership. A major highlight was the ribbon-cutting event for artist-in-residence Terri



Mayor Cole and Mobilize the MAGIC City dignitaries participate in the first of two ribbon cutting celebrations. Photo courtesy of Shan Cousrouf.

Porta's sculptures in May, celebrating installations with McKinley Elementary students in attendance. A second ribbon-cutting for the Indigenous Identity hub was held in June. The initiative continues to emphasize the value of public art, community pride, and neighborhood safety and beautification.

During this reporting period, the **Complete Neighborhoods** workgroup initiated baseline mapping of quality-of-life resources in Yellowstone County. This effort aims to ensure livable and accessible urban life across all neighborhoods. By May, the criteria for Complete Neighborhoods were finalized, setting the stage for analyzing neighborhood accessibility and quality. Prioritized criteria are green space and public open space, walkability and street connectivity, access to amenities, and transportation. This initiative focuses on creating equitable, healthy, and vibrant neighborhoods by identifying areas for improvement and supporting community needs.

Healthy By Design held a community meeting regarding the **South Side grocery store**. The project is on hold until a business leader is identified to champion the project. The coalition will continue to meet with community members and leaders about this need in the interim.

Health needs addressed: mental health, access to healthcare, nutrition, physical activity and weight.



Strategy 2. Healthy Connections: 12-Month Update

Vision: All Yellowstone County residents have the social or emotional support to integrate into the community in a way that is relevant, accessible, and fulfilling across all life stages.

Overview: Healthy Connections refer to the social interactions, or positive and beneficial ways in which individuals engage with others in various social settings. These connections contribute to the overall health and quality of life of individuals and communities.

Initiative Updates

The **Age Friendly Billings** workgroup focused on enhancing quality of life for older adults by focusing on 5 of the 8 Domains of Liability. By February, a survey of workgroup members identified activities that address 5 of the AARP Domains of Livability. These efforts align with fostering age-friendly practices, emphasizing outdoor spaces, transportation, housing, civic participation, and social inclusion. In April, Age Friendly members reviewed action plans and prioritized proposed activities based on ability to impact and workgroup capacity to implement.



Healthy Worksite recipients Billings YMCA showcase their resiliency journaling program. Photo courtesy of Billings YMCA.

The relaunch of **Healthy Worksite Recognition** attracted diverse community organizations, highlighting their investments in employee health and workplace culture. Five community organizations received recognition. Updates to the Healthy Worksite Toolkit were completed in June, including the addition of a “Post-Covid Lessons Learned” section. The worksite playbook offers step-by-step wellness guides to promote employee well-being, underscoring the importance of healthy workplace environments.

Health needs addressed: access to healthcare, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, and weight.



Strategy 3. Healthy Investments: 12-Month Update

Vision: Enhance Yellowstone County's ability to respond to the demand for livability through investments in community development, policies, systems, and infrastructure that directly impact the health and wellbeing of area residents.

Overview: Investing in quality of life has become crucial for communities seeking to not only sustain their existing workforce and population, but also attract and retain new residents. The livability and desirability of a community is intrinsically connected to the availability of certain life necessities, including trails, parks, walkability, safety measures, access to healthy foods, family-friendly destinations, quality schools, and employment opportunities.

Initiative Updates

Resilient Yellowstone partner organizations continue to address health disparities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Sub-recipients implemented and tailored CHIP strategies to meet the sub-populations served by respective CHWs. A detailed description of these site-specific CHIPs is available in Appendix A.

Throughout the year, CHWs have enhanced volunteer engagement, transportation, mental health training, and social connections.



*CERT training participants practice fire suppression techniques.
Image courtesy of RiverStone Health.*

- February and March
 - HBD and CHW sites reviewed impact and sustainability options.
- April
 - A program overview and recommendations for integration of CHWs into public health settings were presented at the state public health conference.
- May and June
 - As part of Resilient Yellowstone, Healthy By Design in coordination with RiverStone Health and Yellowstone County Emergency Services organized a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for CHWs in May. This training equipped participants with essential skills for disaster response, enhancing their capacity to support community members during emergencies. This initiative underscores the importance of a proficient CHW workforce in improving community health and resilience, highlighting the critical

role of CHWs in public health and emergency preparedness. This training ensures that CHWs are well-prepared to perform basic disaster response skills to free up professional responders to focus their efforts on more complex, essential, and critical tasks.

- Priorities included sustainability strategies for the CHW workforce, aiming to build a resilient community health infrastructure.

Community Plan Fact Sheets were drafted and finalized during this reporting period. The Community Plan Fact Sheets provide concise, 2-page summaries of four key City of Billings plans:

- Growth Policy
- Long Range Transportation Plan
- Bikeways and Trails Master Plan
- Safe Routes to School Plan

Each fact sheet includes an overview of the purpose and goals, a summary of findings, methodology and strategies, and the impact on community health. They also cover community engagement, implementation timelines, results and next steps, and highlight short-term projects. The fact sheets aim to enhance civic literacy and understanding of these essential community plans among Yellowstone County residents by offering accessible summaries.

Health needs addressed: access to healthcare, mental health, substance misuse, nutrition, physical activity, weight.



Strategy 4. Strengthening Partnerships: 12-Month Update

Vision: Advance collective action to make Yellowstone County a healthier, more vibrant community.

Overview: Yellowstone County is confronted with a number of intricate and long-standing health challenges, including mental health concerns, substance misuse, public safety, health conditions related to poor diet or inactivity, and limited access to affordable, healthy foods. By strengthening partnerships, the community can leverage collective expertise, resources, and shared responsibility to improve health outcomes for residents. In doing so, these partnerships will enhance the effectiveness of interventions, foster innovation, and promote a comprehensive approach to addressing community health needs.



Healthy By Design staff at the Eagle Seeker's Summer Celebration

Initiative Updates

The **Impact Coordinators**, comprising backbone staff from various coalitions, met monthly to enhance collective impact practices. They focused on stakeholder mapping and reviewed best practices, aiming to foster collaboration and resource sharing. This group's efforts emphasize the importance of coordinated initiatives in strengthening community well-being through comprehensive strategies. The group finalized content for an upcoming Collective Impact training to be held in August for Yellowstone County coalitions to improve their collective leadership impact and be more equipped to move knowledge to action.



Trauma Informed Care trainer, DeeDe Baker of Dog Tag Buddies, presents to training participants.

The relaunch of **TIC 101 training** in spring aimed to build a trauma-informed community. This training fosters an understanding of traumatic experiences and promotes practices that empower individuals affected by trauma. The training encourages community members to become TIC trainers, enhancing the community's capacity to support those living with trauma. This effort aligns with fostering inclusive, supportive environments that respect diverse lived experiences. Next steps include the TIC workgroup reviewing and updating train-the-trainer materials.

In February, the **Resilient Yellowstone** initiative piloted an **in-home vaccination** program for homebound clients. This collaboration between CHWs, medical residents, and public health nurses ensures that vulnerable populations received necessary vaccinations. This program highlights the importance of community collaboration in addressing health needs and improving access to healthcare services.

Health needs addressed: access to healthcare, substance misuse, and mental health.

Key

- ★ Initiative completed or target met
- ★ In progress, improvement over baseline, but target not yet met
- ★ Stopped/not started

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

Metric	Status
By June 2024, enhance neighborhood safety, strengthen community identity and foster health by completing 90% of Mobilize the MAGIC City workgroup deliverables.	★
By June 2025, foster equitable opportunities for residents to live and thrive by using workgroup defined Complete Neighborhoods criteria to evaluate 3 neighborhoods to inform next steps.	★

Yellowstone County Indicator	2023 CHNA	2026 Goal
% of residents who are meeting physical activity guidelines	29.3%	30.8%
% residents who feel they can help make their community a better place to live	89.4%	93.9%
% adults who feel safe walking alone in neighborhood	84.6%	88.8%
% of children who are physically active 1+ hours daily	58.7%	61.6%

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

Metric	Status
By December 2024, expand awareness of and access to social opportunities for older adults by engaging Age Friendly Billings members in completion of three domain work plan initiatives.	★
By June 2024, improve access to healthy worksite resources by publishing updated Healthy Worksite Toolkit using evidence-based strategies and local Healthy Worksite recipient examples.	★

Yellowstone County Indicator	2023 CHNA	2026 Goal
% adults 65+ who spend three or more hours on screen time for entertainment on an average day	38.5%	36.6%
% adults who feel isolated from others (sometimes or always)	43.7%	41.5%
% adults who get the social and emotional support needed	91.8%	96.3%

Healthy Investments

Metric	Status
By June 2024, support 100% of Resilient Yellowstone CHW sites in developing sustainability action plans to retain CHW practices that address health disparities among populations hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.	★
By June 2024, advance civic engagement to support an equitable, thriving community by engaging at least three partners in sharing community plan fact sheets.	★

Yellowstone County Indicator	2023 CHNA	2026 Goal
% of residents who feel they can help make their community a better place	89.4%	93.9%
% of residents who get the social and emotional support needed	91.8%	96.3%
% of women who experience difficulty accessing health care	54.4%	51.7%

Strengthening Partnerships

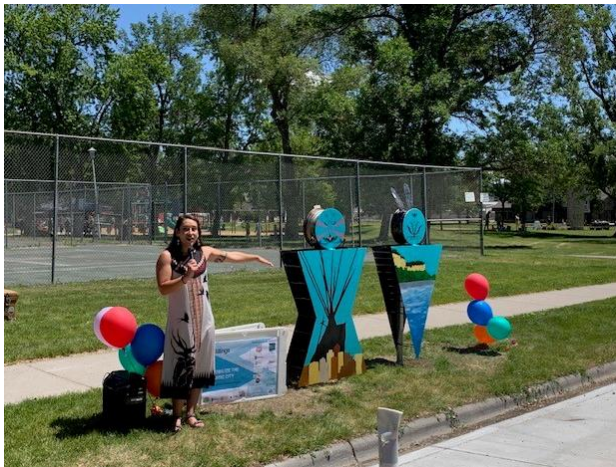
Metric	Status
By December 2024, build community capacity to lead systems change by establishing 3 collective impact-based learning structures and opportunities.	★
By December 2024, ensure 100% of active HBD workgroups include, at a minimum, at least 2 individuals with lived experience relevant to the workgroup's focus.	★

Yellowstone County Indicator	2023 CHNA	2026 Goal
% of residents who feel they can help make their community a better place	89.4%	93.9%
% of people of color who have experienced symptoms of chronic depression	61.0%	58.0%
% of low-income residents who report having “no impact” on improving life in the community	15.7%	14.9%

Looking to get involved with Healthy By Design?

We have a variety of engagement opportunities, including:

- ✓ Join a strategy working group
- ✓ Share your feedback and experiences
- ✓ Advocate for policies or programs that improve health
- ✓ Connect with us (@HBDYellowstone on Facebook and Instagram, or receive our monthly newsletter!)
- ✓ Make the healthy choice, the easy choice where you live, work, learn and play



Amskapi Piikani (Blackfeet) artist, Maria Gladstone, describes the significance of "Eternal Presence", one of three Mobilize the MAGIC City art installations.



Scott Corey, a Community Health Worker at Billings Clinic, and Amanda Zimmerman of Healthy By Design pilot an in-home vaccination program in collaboration with Montana Family Medical Residency.



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Appendix A: Resilient Yellowstone Population-Specific CHIPs

Resilient Yellowstone member organizations and community health workers (CHWs) developed and implemented population-tailored CHIP strategies to address disparities among target populations most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. CHWs continue to promote and evaluate their CHIPs. These strategies, adopting a policy, systems, or environmental change approach, target one or more of the top four 2023 – 2026 CHIP priority areas. Initiatives include enhancing volunteer engagement, improving transportation options, providing mental health trainings in the workplace, refining referral systems, expanding outreach and education, and fostering social connections.

CHWs recognize a need for expanded organizational, workforce, funding, and systems capacity within Yellowstone County to meet the identified and evolving needs of at-risk populations.

Community Health Worker Population-Specific CHIP Overview

Health Need Addressed	Organization(s)	Strategies
Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Resource Alliance • Billings Chamber of Commerce • Big Sky Senior Services • Native American Development Corporation • Intermountain Health St. Vincent Regional Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing volunteer engagement • Providing mental health trainings in the workplace or community groups • Integrating mental health education and trainings into existing and future programs • Fostering social connections, support, and trust within the community and health service organizations • Leading the efforts to change systems within their organization to help improve resources, reduce the stigma of mental health, and improve mental health provider capacity
Access to healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Billings Clinic • Big Sky Senior Services • Native American Development Corporation • RiverStone Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlining referral systems • Expanding outreach and educational opportunities • Improving systems and providing educational opportunities within the organization to increasing healthcare provider capacity • Engaging systems and environmental factors by partnering with organizations to conduct outreach and education together • Improving volunteer engagement, enhancing relationships with travel assistance providers, and

		<p>strengthening partnership to support travel assistance to healthcare appointments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging and utilizing organizational transportation policies
Substance misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RiverStone Health • Native American Development Corporation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlining referral systems • Expanding outreach and education • Establishing and strengthening partnerships with external organizations
Nutrition, physical activity, and weight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Resource Alliance • Billings Chamber of Commerce • Living Independently For Today and Tomorrow • Intermountain Health St. Vincent Regional Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building trust and strengthening relationships between health services and community members • Expanding outreach and education efforts • Creating pathways to encourage social connection by hosting educational opportunities on priority topics identified by the community such as nutritious eating and physical activity