



2023-2026

Yellowstone County

Community Health Improvement Plan 6 Month Progress Report

July 1 – December 31, 2023

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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.

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
LIFTT
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

Past 6 Months at a Glance

 <p>Healthy Neighborhoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrated 13th season of the Gardeners' Market including 31 trained vendors, 12 community tables and 3 Harvest of the Month taste-testing events • Developed and published the Bright Side Neighborhood Clean Up playbook to support neighborhood-driven beautification efforts • Mobilize the MAGIC City placed a call for artists for the Indigenous Identity in Billings public art installation in the North Park neighborhood and selected artists Lauren Monroe, Jr. and Maria Gladstone. • Conducted workgroup recruitment and literature review to develop Complete Neighborhoods criteria to inform baseline mapping of average distance to quality-of-life resources
 <p>Healthy Connections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-launched Healthy Worksite efforts, with a fall application window for Healthy Worksite Recognition, resulting in several community organizations qualifying as Healthy Worksites. Discussions surrounding relaunching Healthy Food Trucks, Healthy Events, and revisions to the Healthy Worksite Toolkit have also begun • Coordinated with Age Friendly Billings coalition leaders to identify priority domain goals • Wrapped up 2nd season of Billings Beets on the Streets. This season's midtown location provided a fun, family-friendly walking loop using "hail-clues" to explore a midtown walking loop
 <p>Healthy Investments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported Resilient Yellowstone sites developing and implementing population-tailored CHIP initiatives and strategies to help build resilience in Yellowstone County • Staff and Resilient Yellowstone Community Health Workers (CHWs) conducted a panel discussion on building a strong network of CHWs amongst our county's diverse community-based programs at the 2nd Annual Montana CHW Summit held in Helena • Drafted community plan factsheets to increase civic literacy and understanding of community plans • Developed and disseminated topic-specific data packets to help decision makers, community partners, and residents better utilize the Yellowstone County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)
 <p>Strengthening Partnerships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with impact coordinators, began development of stakeholder mapping to identify key partners within community and each coalition's involvement level to maximize engagement and collective impact • Participated in Grown in Billings, an emerging community effort that aims to ensure families are connected to the resources to raise their children in a stable, safe, supportive, and caring environment so all children are entering kindergarten prepared and ready for success

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%

Approach

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



Strategy I. Healthy Neighborhoods: 6-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

Following the May 2023 **Bright Side Clean Up** event, the workgroup captured initiative successes and challenges to create The Bright Side Clean Up Planning Guide. This guidebook helps neighborhoods identify key stakeholders and offers step-by-step recommendations for community-led neighborhood clean-up efforts. The guidebook was made available through Healthy By Design communication channels including the website, monthly newsletter, and social media. A summary was shared at the November 2023 South Side Neighborhood Taskforce meeting.

In September, **Mobilize the MAGIC City** advisory committee members and community advocates provided public comment at a Billings City Council meeting regarding the value of public art in our community. This engagement identified the need for a robust city public arts policy to create space for more community input on public projects and encourage a transparent and positive relationship between local government and artist. The initiative was expanded to include a third public art installation in the North Park neighborhood, themed “Indigenous Identity in Billings,” with installation expected to begin in spring 2024.



Artist Terri Porta with Brian Epley of Superior Concrete during initial installation of art piece near McKinley Elementary School

The process of work group recruitment and resource review is underway to develop criteria for defining a **Complete Neighborhood** in Yellowstone County. This includes a review of evidence-based resources to inform criteria development that supports all residents in reaching their full potential for health and well-being. Work group recruitment prioritizes the inclusion of underrepresented sub-populations and those at greater risk of health disparities in our community. Future engagement will involve evaluating neighborhoods to inform next steps.

Emerging Initiative: Develop Public Arts Policy recommendation for City of Billings



Strategy 2. Healthy Connections: 6-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.

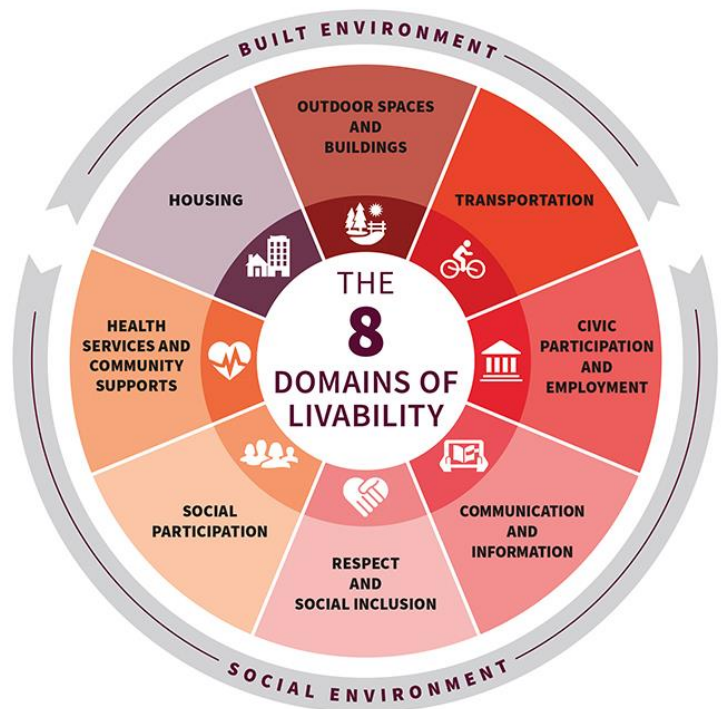
Overview: Healthy Connections refer to the social interactions, or positive and beneficial ways in which individuals engage with others in various social settings. These connections contribute to the overall health and quality of life of individuals and communities.

Initiative Updates

In Fall 2023, the **Healthy Worksite Recognition** initiative was relaunched. Applications were received from community organizations of different sizes and sectors showing how and why they are investing in the health and wellbeing of their employees and workplace culture.

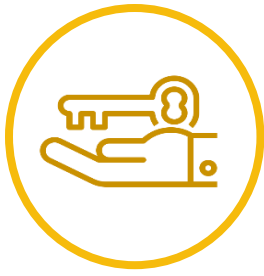
The **Age Friendly Billings** group reviewed and finalized the priority domains based on the AARP 8 Domains of Livability. The group selected 5 domains to prioritize in 2024, including: outdoor spaces and buildings; transportation; civic participation and employment; housing; and respect and social inclusion.

The aim is to enhance the quality of life for older adults and foster age-friendly practices, aligning with HBD's commitment to policy, system and environmental (PSE) approaches that foster positive social interactions for the overall health and well-being of individuals across all life stages.



AARP's 8 Domains of Livability

Emerging Initiative: To be determined Spring 2024



Strategy 3. Healthy Investments: 6-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. Recognizing the significance of these factors, communities are prioritizing healthy investments that enhance the overall well-being and health of their residents.

Initiative Updates

The **Resilient Yellowstone initiative**, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funded effort, includes partnerships with eight area organizations to utilize CHWs to identify and address health disparities among populations in the community hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the past six months, member organizations and their CHWs developed and implemented population-tailored CHIP initiatives and strategies to help build resilience in Yellowstone County. 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 workplaces, refining referral systems, expanding outreach and education, and fostering social connections.

In the upcoming months, impact evaluations and sustainability self-assessments will guide future investments in CHW employment opportunities to ensure continued support for community health and resilience.

Community plan fact sheets to increase civic literacy and understanding of community plans in Yellowstone County were drafted and reviewed. These user-friendly documents simplify complex plans, fostering civic literacy by making information easily accessible. Readers will gain insights into crucial community development projects that increase the livability and desirability of our community. Future engagement may involve interactive platforms to enhance understanding.

Emerging Initiative: In coordination with Arizona State University, Resilient Yellowstone CHWs will develop digital storytelling to share how they have supported and enhanced community resilience.



Resilient Yellowstone Community Health CHWs conducted a panel discussion at the 2nd Annual Montana CHW Summit



Strategy 4. Strengthening Partnerships: 6-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.

Initiative Updates

Resilient Yellowstone CHWs show promise in reaching vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Their roles extend beyond traditional healthcare to include health education, social support, and community engagement. Employing CHWs in non-clinical settings offers cost-effective solutions, enhances cultural competence, and fosters trust within communities.

HBD is working with partners across the state to help build sustainability and longevity into the CHW workforce. Over the past few months, HBD worked with partners to create a statewide coalition to improve information-sharing, create mechanisms to establish statewide CHW skills standards and certification, and create tools to support employers in integrating and retaining the CHW workforce.



*Resilient Yellowstone CHWs
tour MET Transit facility during
a fall skill share session*

The **Impact Coordinators**, comprising backbone staff from Best Beginnings, Communities that Care, Healthy by Design, Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yellowstone County, and Substance Abuse Connect coalitions convened monthly to enhance collective impact practices in the community. The group began stakeholder mapping and reviewed collective impact best practices. The aim is to foster collaboration, share resources, and maximize combined coalition efforts, ultimately strengthening the community's overall well-being through comprehensive and coordinated initiatives.

Emerging Initiative: Collective Impact 1-day training for community leaders and advocates

Healthy Neighborhoods

Metric	Status
By June 2024, engage at least 3 neighborhood taskforces in Bright Side Neighborhood Clean Up guidebook presentations to improve residents' ability to make their community a better place to live.	On Track
By June 2024, enhance neighborhood safety, strengthen community identity and foster health by completing 90% of Mobilize the MAGIC City workgroup deliverables.	On Track
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.	On Track

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.	On Track
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.	On Track

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.	On Track
By June 2024, advance civic engagement to support an equitable, thriving community by engaging at least three partners in sharing community plan fact sheets.	On Track

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

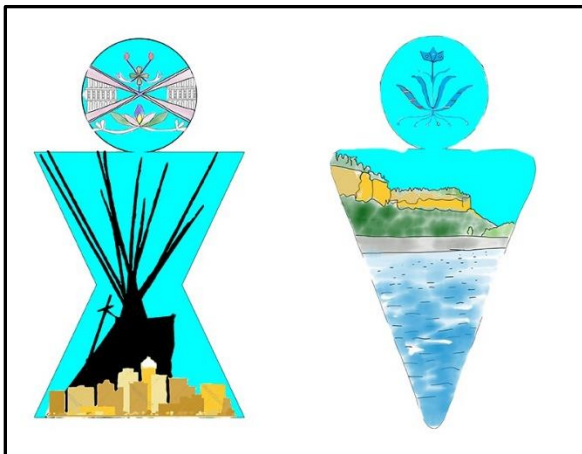
Metric	Status
By December 2024, build community capacity to lead systems change by establishing 3 collective impact-based learning structures and opportunities.	On Track
By December 2024, ensure 100% of active HBD workgroups include, at a minimum, at least 2 individuals with lived experience relevant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

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



Artist rendering of Indigenous Identity art installation designed by Lauren Monroe, Jr. and Maria Gladstone for Mobilize the MAGIC City



Carla Stadtmiller of the St. Andrew's Community Garden at the 2023 Gardeners' Market providing fresh, local, healthy produce



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