



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



# Wyandotte County Community Health Improvement Plan

**2018 - 2023**

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for its support of the planning and publication of  
the Wyandotte County CHIP.**

# The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.




**Wyandotte County residents expect that these conditions will promote and protect their health and well-being.**

These expectations have not always been met. In 2016, the Unified Government Public Health Department launched a process to determine the biggest health-related concerns in the county. Our Community Health Assessment was completed in 2017, and included both health data and feedback from more than 2200 residents.

## Four issues emerged as priorities:

-  Access to living wage employment
-  Access to medical, dental, and mental health care
-  Safe and affordable housing
-  Violence prevention

## Three “lenses” were selected through which to analyze these issues:

-  Poverty
-  Discrimination
-  Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

In 2017 we started the process to create a five-year Community Health Improvement Plan based on these priorities. You are holding the result. The Health Department was far from alone in creating this plan, and we are not alone in implementing it. We have the support of strong Lead Agencies and dozens of partners in each issue area.

**Please look through this plan to find ways you or your organization can help!  
Info about getting involved is on the final page.**

# Priority Issue: Education and Jobs



## Overview

- Access to living wage employment was the top concern in the resident concerns survey.
- WYCO jobs have some of the highest median wages in Kansas, but household income in WYCO is among the lowest in Kansas.
- The unemployment rate was 5.2% for WYCO in 2017, compared to 3.6% for Kansas.

## Focus Areas

- Increase access to quality and affordable child care opportunities
- Improve accessibility and frequency of public and alternative transportation options for Wyandotte workforce
- Increase hiring of individuals with criminal history
- Increase proficiency in English tailored to industry-specific communication
- Increase attainment of post-secondary education/industry-recognized training

## For Future Consideration

**Focus Area:** Increase language proficiency tailored to industry-specific communication

**Strategy:** Implement a Spanish curriculum requirement for middle schools in Wyandotte County

### Lead Agency





**WYANDOTTE**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
Bonner Springs • Edwardsville • Kansas City, KS

**Wyandotte Economic  
Development Council**  
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# Priority Strategies










## Childcare

- » Support the economic development of childcare centers  
- » Support the implementation of a county-wide quality improvement system for early education facilities  



## Language

- » Develop a multi-faceted, customized Business ESL training program  
- » Increase the number of students enrollment in KCKCC's ESL training program 








## Criminal History

- » Increase training and education opportunities for people during their period of incarceration and while under supervision   
- » Establish trainings to educate employers about the incentives for hiring ex-offenders  
- » Promote and expand summer youth employment opportunities  
- » Expand the availability of appropriate expungement services  

## Workforce Transportation

- » Encourage government policy and incentives to increase business investment in transportation solutions for job access 
- » Pilot an employer transportation council in Edwardsville 

## Post-Secondary Education/Industry-Recognized Training

- » Support and expand college and career readiness efforts across all school districts  
- » Streamline and expand the use of Individualized Plans of Study (IPS)  
- » Build supportive systems to remove barriers and improve access to continuing education and living wage job opportunities   

Icons are placed next to strategies that are intended to have a direct or indirect impact on:



Poverty



Discrimination



Exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

# Priority Issue: Access to Medical, Dental, and Mental Health Services



## Overview

- Access to quality care was identified as a top concern in almost every racial, income, and geographic group surveyed in WYCO
- In 2016, 17% of WYCO residents were uninsured versus 9.9% in Kansas
- About 1 in 4 of K-12 students who have been screened have obvious signs of dental decay
- 47% of WYCO residents with income less than \$35,000 report that poor mental or physical health has kept them from doing their usual activities



About 1 in 4 of K-12 students who've received screenings have obvious signs of dental decay.

## Focus Areas

- **Assure access to health care for all**
- **Improve capacity of the health care system**

### Lead Agency









#### Vibrant Health

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# Priority Strategies

## Assure access to health care for all

- » Increase city/county investment in primary care/safety net healthcare services 
- » Expand KanCare (Medicaid) 
- » Assure that clinic locations and service hours match the needs of Wyandotte County residents 
- » Educate the community about health literacy, the availability of local health services, and how to access those services 
- » Establish school-based (physical/behavioral) health centers and dental programs in underserved areas  

## Improve capacity of the health care system

- » Improve coordination of patient care among primary care and behavioral health care providers 
- » Increase the availability and capacity of outpatient therapy/counseling services, in English, Spanish, and other needed languages 
- » Provide training in cultural humility and trauma-informed care for staff of health and human service organizations 
- » Create an education-to-employment pipeline for Wyandotte County students in the health care professions, connected to Wyandotte County employers  

Icons are placed next to strategies that are intended to have a direct or indirect impact on:



**Poverty**



**Discrimination**



**Exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)**

# Priority Issue: Safe and Affordable Housing



## Overview

- According to federal guidelines, 43% of WYCO households live in unaffordable housing
- 3 out of 10 houses in WYCO are at an elevated risk for lead exposure
- 21% of single family homes in WYCO have one or more severe housing problems, compared to 13% in Kansas



**3 out of 10 houses in WyCo are at elevated risk for lead exposure.**

## Focus Areas

- **Increase quantity of quality housing for low-moderate income people in high opportunity areas.\***
- **Reduce the cost of accessing housing and the associated cost of living in the home.**

*\*High opportunity areas are those with easy access to transportation, food, recreation, jobs, low-crime, and schools.*

### Lead Agency



Livable  
Neighborhoods  
TASK FORCE







**Livable Neighborhoods**  
liveableneighbor@wycokck.org  
913-573-8737











# Priority Strategies

## Increase the quantity of quality housing for low/moderate income people in high opportunity areas

- » Engage the KCK Housing Authority in identifying mutual goals 
- » Explore the development of a community land trust 
- » Explore the development of a local affordable housing fund 
- » Promote the use of multi-unit, infill, and use of empty lots 
- » Implement local inclusionary zoning policies 
- » Promote affordable housing as a positive community goal, utilizing community engagement approaches 

## Reduce the cost of accessing housing and associated costs of living in the home

- » Work with utility companies (BPU, WESTAR, Kansas Gas, Atmos) to make reforms that prevent shut-offs   
- » Build coordination and financial capacity for minor home repair 
- » Promote safe and affordable housing through educational efforts, including campaigns about fraudulent financing instruments, eviction prevention programs, lead poisoning and remediation, and use of city arbitration staff 
- » Develop policy options that require displacement analysis for new development 

Icons are placed next to strategies that are intended to have a direct or indirect impact on:



**Poverty**



**Discrimination**



**Exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)**

# Priority Issue: Violence Prevention



## Overview

- Exposure to violence was one of the top five problems identified by residents in the concerns survey
- High crime areas are concentrated in central, northeast, and south central Kansas City, Kansas.
- In 2015, there were 6.2 violent crimes per 1,000 people in WYCO, compared to 3.6 per 1,000 in Kansas.

## Focus Areas

- **Foster safer neighborhoods, free from violence**
- **Foster and promote community connectedness and resident supports**
- **Address cultural norms that support intervention or prevent violence**

### Lead Agency

**MOCOSA**

Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault

**Metropolitan Organization to  
Counter Sexual Assault**








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# Priority Strategies



## Foster safer neighborhoods, free from violence

- » Implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)  
- » Add evidence-based violence prevention components (e.g. CPTED) to existing community programs (e.g. Safe Routes to School, Neighborhood Watch)   
- » Concentrate all violence prevention strategies, including preventive community services that target risk factors (e.g. youth employment opportunities), in KCKPD districts with the highest rates of violent crime  



## Foster and promote community connectedness and resident supports

- » Support creation of a Youth Community Advisory Board that focuses on promoting community development and reducing violence  
- » Develop a Violence Prevention Community Health Worker program  

» Increase coordination among hospital-based violence intervention/survivor advocacy programs   

» Evaluate and improve communication and relations among residents and law enforcement agencies, other first responders, and the justice system  

## Address cultural norms that tolerate or promote violence

- » Develop and implement a violence prevention campaign among UG agencies for UG employees 
- » Convene a community-based committee to develop an effective cultural norms change campaign 

## For future consideration within Violence Prevention Plan

- » Coordinate and support community training for residents, UG staff and service contractors
- » Start a Fatal Injury Review Board

Icons are placed next to strategies that are intended to have a direct or indirect impact on:



**Poverty**



**Discrimination**



**Exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)**

# A plan is just a list of intentions.

## How are we actually going to get this done?

The CHIP Planning Committees have transitioned to become Action Teams that will implement the strategies outlined in this plan. Accomplishing these ambitious goals will require resources, broad leadership commitment, and disciplined inter-agency collaboration.

### With that in mind, each Action Team:

- Is facilitated by dedicated staff at a Lead Agency
- Is supported by AmeriCorps VISTA members
- Recruits staff from multiple agencies to lead the strategies
- Develops smaller teams that assess the environment, form relationships, and turn strategies into concrete projects
- Jointly funds the work, with contributions from multiple organizations, and aggressively pursues new funding opportunities
- Commits to being mutually accountable for this work through shared project management and reporting tools

## How do I get involved?



**The best way is to look at the strategies in each issue area to see if any overlap with your passions or the work of your organization.**

**Working together, we can address the social determinants of health and create the conditions for people to thrive in Wyandotte County, Kansas.**

**To stay updated on CHIP progress,  
connect with one of our lead agencies or  
visit the Community Health Dashboard:**

<https://dashboards.mysidewalk.com/wyco-chip-dashboard>

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Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault

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**Unified Government of Wyandotte County/  
Kansas City, Kansas Public Health  
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# Thanks to the Wyandotte County CHIP Partners

Amerigroup  
Argentine Betterment Corporation  
Armourdale Renewal Association  
Avenue of Life  
Balls Food  
Bethel Neighborhood Center  
Bishop Sullivan Center  
Board of Public Utilities  
Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas  
Central Avenue Betterment Association  
CEVA Logistics  
Children's Mercy Kansas City  
Christmas In October  
City of Bonner Springs  
City of Edwardsville  
Community Health Council of Wyandotte County  
Community Housing of Wyandotte County  
Community Members  
Connections to Success  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Douglass-Sumner Neighborhood Association  
Downtown Shareholders  
Duchesne Clinic  
Educational Opportunity Center  
El Centro, Inc  
Express Employment Professionals  
Friends of Yates  
Gateway Foundation  
Goodwill Western Missouri & Eastern Kansas  
Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness  
Habitat for Humanity  
Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City  
Healthy Communities Wyandotte  
Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce  
Heartland Regional Alcohol and Drug Center  
Historic Northeast Midtown Association  
Jewish Vocational Services  
Johnson County Corrections  
Kansas City Anti-Violence Project  
Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce  
Kansas City, Kansas Community College  
Kansas City, Kansas Housing Authority  
Kansas City, Kansas Police Department  
Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools  
Kansas State University  
KC United!  
Kim Wilson Housing  
Knowledge Department  
KVC Health Systems  
Land Bank  
Landlord Association  
Latino Health For All Coalition  
Leavenworth Road Association  
LISC  
Livable Neighborhoods  
Mercy and Truth Medical Missions  
Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault  
Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center  
Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corporation  
NBC Community Development Corporation  
Neighborhood Resource Center  
Northeast Economic Development Corporation  
Olivet Institutional Baptist Church  
Pipefitters' Local Union 533  
PREP-KC  
Prescott Neighborhood Association  
Providence Medical Center  
REACH Healthcare Foundation  
Real Estate House  
Renaissance Management & Training  
Riverview Health Services  
Rosedale Development Association  
SAVE, Inc.  
Security Bank of Kansas City  
Southwest Boulevard Family Healthcare  
Special Olympics of Kansas  
Street Medicine of Kansas City  
Swope Health Services  
The Family Conservancy  
Trane  
Turner Community Connection  
Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, KS  
    Commissioner's Office  
    Community Development  
    Delinquent Taxes  
    Mayor's Office  
    Planning and Zoning  
    Public Health Department  
    Transportation Department  
United Health Care  
United Way of Wyandotte County  
University of Kansas  
    Center for Community Health and Development  
    University of Kansas Medical Center  
    University of Kansas Trio Grant Program  
Vibrant Health  
Vonzel Sawyer Associates, LLC  
We Are Aligned  
Workforce Partnership  
Wyandot, Inc.  
Wyandotte Economic Development Council  
Wyandotte Health Foundation  
Young Women on the Move  
YouthBuild





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