Special thanks to the Wyandotte Health Foundation 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
info@wyedc.org
913.371.3198
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 transportations 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

Focus Areas

• Assure access to health care for all

• Improve capacity of the health care system

Lead Agency

Vibrant Health
info@vibrantwyandotte.org
913-342-2552
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

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
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

Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault

communityed@mocsa.org
816-931-4527
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 🌟🌟

» 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 🌟🌟

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 🌟🌟

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
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