

Huron County
2026-2028

Community Health Improvement Plan

*Working Together for a
Healthier Huron County*

HEALTHY U



HEALTHY HURON
COUNTY

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FOREWORD: A MESSAGE FROM THE HURON COUNTY HEALTH PARTNERS STEERING COMMITTEE

Huron County Residents and Community Partner Organizations,

The members of the Huron County Health Partners are pleased to present the 2026-2028 Huron County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Utilizing the data found in the 2026 Community Health Assessment and supplemental sources, the Community Health Improvement Plan identifies “priority areas” for which we, as a coalition of community partners, are working towards improving, including:

1. Mental Health
2. Population Health
3. Social Determinants of Health

It is our hope that through focused efforts and designated resources, we will be able to achieve the vision of our Health Partnership: *“A strong, safe, engaged community well-positioned to promote and protect the optimum physical, mental, social, emotional, environmental, spiritual, and economic health and well-being of all who live, work, and play in Huron County.”*

While continuing to work collaboratively to improve the health and well-being of community members, the Huron County Health Partners hope that this CHIP will bring health to the forefront of community discussions. Moving forward, we encourage YOU to take an active role in our health improvement movement. You could be the missing piece in a healthier Huron County.



Dr. Brent Burkey, MD

President & Chief Executive Officer
Fisher-Titus Medical Center



Mircea Handru

Executive Director
North Central Behavioral Health Board

Huron County



Public Health

Nicole Marks, MPH

Health Commissioner
Huron County Public Health



Andrew Morgan

President
Mercy Health – Willard Hospital

THANK YOU, HEALTH PARTNERS!

While the Huron County Health Partners are facilitated by staff from Huron County Public Health, the community health improvement process could not be completed without the input, engagement and expertise offered by the community partners, whose membership and structure is listed below. These agencies and organizations have put time and energy into compiling and assessing data, as well as writing this plan.

Thank you to each member of the Huron County Health Partners:

Steering Committee Leaders <i>Financial Contribution of \$10,000+</i>
• Fisher-Titus Medical Center • Huron County Public Health • Mercy Health – Willard Hospital
Steering Members <i>Financial Contribution of \$5,509.50-\$9,999.99</i>
• North Central Behavioral Health Board
Associate Members <i>Formal Committee Participant; No funding provided</i>
• Clear Minds Coaching and Counseling • City of Norwalk Division of Fire • Citizens Ambulance • Dale Daniels, Village of Wakeman Township Trustee • Enrichment Centers for Huron County • Family & Children First Council of Huron County • Family Life Counseling • Goodwill Industries of Erie, Huron, Ottawa & Sandusky Counties • Huron County Growth Partnership • Huron County Sheriff's Office • Norwalk Area United Fund • NW National Alliance on Mental Illness

The aim of the Health Partners is to have a number and variety of sectors within the community included in this collaborative process, including but not limited to groups such as:

- Populations that are at higher health risk or have poorer health outcomes;
- The general public;
- Local government;
- State government agencies;
- The business community, industries, and employers;
- Non-profit organizations;
- Social service agencies;
- Community foundations and philanthropists;
- First responders;
- Volunteer organizations;
- Healthcare and mental/behavioral health providers;
- Faith-based organizations; and
- Other local health departments.

To become a member of the Huron County Health Partners, visit <https://www.huroncohealth.com/huron-county-health-partners> for more information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2026-2028 Huron County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) has been developed to help describe how and where resources should be allocated to best meet community needs. The CHIP is designed to be a county-wide, community-based improvement plan that a variety of community partners will have ownership in. Priority areas included in this Plan have been selected based on data collected and reviewed by the Huron County Health Partners (HCHP). Strategies included in this CHIP align with state and national plans such as the *Ohio State Health Improvement Plan* and *Healthy People 2030*. The workplan section of the CHIP contains actionable steps that identified partners will work together to achieve selected targets.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Huron County is located in north-central Ohio. Covering 495 square miles, the City of Norwalk is the county seat of this small, rural county.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS		HURON COUNTY	OHIO
Total Population	Total population	58,319	11,810,293
Gender	Male	49.7%	49.3%
	Female	50.3%	50.7%
Age	Under 5 years	5.9%	5.7%
	5-19 years	20.1%	18.9%
	20-64 years	55.4%	57.2%
	65+ years	18.5%	18.3%
Race/ Ethnicity	White alone	91.7%	76.8%
	Black / African American alone	0.8%	12.2%
	Asian alone	0.4%	2.6%
	American Indian / Alaska Native alone	<0.1%	0.2%
	Some other race alone	1.3%	1.8%
	Two or more races	5.7%	6.5%
Household Languages (5+ years old)	Hispanic/Latino (any race)	7.4%	4.8%
	English only	95.6%	92.0%
	Spanish	2.8%	2.6%
	Other Indo-European	1.2%	2.9%
	Asian & Pacific Islander	0.2%	1.3%
	Other languages	0.3%	1.2%

Demographic information for Huron County has been excerpted from the 2026 Huron County CHA.

THE HURON COUNTY HEALTH PARTNERS

VISION

The vision of the Huron County Health Partners is, “To promote individual responsibility and community commitment to create a safe, healthy, and positive culture through education, involvement, collaboration and combined resources.”

MOBILIZING FOR ACTION THROUGH PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Framework, developed by the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) is a community-driven strategic planning process for improving community health. More information about MAPP can be found by visiting: [Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships \(MAPP\) - NACCHO](#). MAPP is the framework that the Ohio Department of Health encourages local partnerships to utilize across Ohio for population health planning.

The MAPP Framework is utilized in Huron County and is facilitated by Huron County Public Health (HCPH). However, MAPP is not a HCPH-focused assessment process; rather, it is an interactive process that is aimed to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and the performance of the local public health system as a whole.

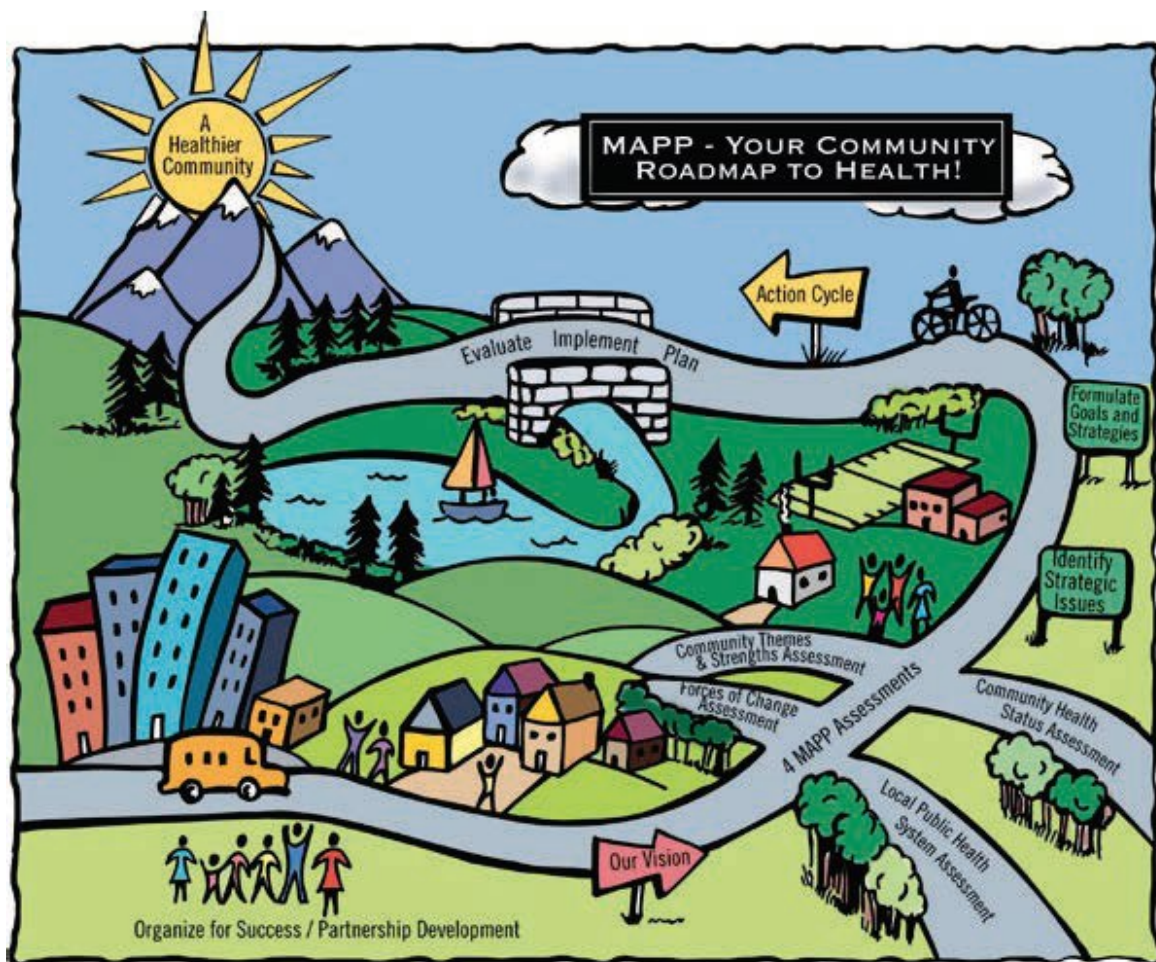


Image Source: The MAPP Roadmap, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) User's Handbook

PHASE 1: BUILD THE COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION

Huron County began building the foundation for the new MAPP 2.0 process in early 2026 by inviting community organizations and partners to participate in the community health assessment and improvement planning process. A formal letter was sent from the Huron County Health Commissioner on January 23rd, 2026, inviting members to the partnership. This letter asked partners to formally choose what level of involvement they would like to have in the process, including what level of funding would be contributed by their agency, if any. The results of this formal membership process have been included on [page 5](#). Note that this list is not exhaustive of all partners involved in the assessment and improvement planning processes, it is limited to those who contributed funding and/or completed a formal partnership agreement.

On February 11, 2026, Huron County held its MAPP 2.0 Kick-Off Meeting, bringing together 16 representatives from a variety of local agencies. Participants were introduced to the MAPP 2.0 process, discussed community health needs and priorities, and explored opportunities for collaboration throughout the assessment and improvement planning process.

This initial engagement established a foundation for continued partner involvement, cross-sector collaboration, resource alignment, and community participation throughout the MAPP process.

PHASE 2: TELL THE COMMUNITY STORY

The three MAPP Assessments are the means to a comprehensive picture of what the health of the community looks like. Each MAPP assessment provides different types of information and data. The three assessments include the:

1. Community Partner Assessment (CPA)
2. Community Status Assessment (CSA)
3. Community Context Assessment (CCA)

Additional details about each assessment have been included below.

Community Partner Assessment (CPA)

An email asking partners to complete the CPA was sent from the HCHP Steering Committee on September 8th, 2026. The survey was administered via Huron County Public Health's SurveyMonkey platform. A total of 14 responses were received from partners by the close of the survey at the end of September 2026. Sectors represented included non-profit organizations, public health agencies, hospitals, mental health agencies, local schools, elected officials, and local governmental agencies. Some of the areas for potential improvement included:

- *Communication* – Throughout the assessment, communication of varying types was noted by respondents' comments. Respondents noted a desire for more communication among agencies.
- *Coordination of Community Services* – Respondents identified a need for stronger coordination and collaboration among Huron County agencies to improve efficiency and reduce duplication of efforts.
- *Opportunity for New Organizations* – Respondents identified the need to engage additional organizations and broaden participation in the community health assessment and improvement planning process.

Community Status Assessment (CSA)

The CSA was not completed as a part of this iteration of MAPP.

Community Context Assessment (CCA)

The CCA was not completed as a part of this iteration of MAPP.

Huron County began Phase III of the MAPP 2.0 process by translating the findings of the 2026 Community Health Assessment (CHA) and community prioritization process into a coordinated Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Community partners identified three priority health needs; Population Health, Mental Health, and Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and identified specific areas of focus within each priority.

On June 24, 2026, Huron County partners participated in a CHIP prioritization session facilitated by Illuminology. The session provided an opportunity for community partners to review the CHA findings, discuss the health issues affecting Huron County residents, and identify areas where collaborative action could have the greatest impact. The prioritization process resulted in four Population Health focus areas: older adult fall prevention, vaccination awareness, cancer prevention, and chronic diseases; two Mental Health focus areas: suicide prevention and anxiety and depression; and three SDOH focus areas: transportation, affordable housing, and walking paths and bike trails.

Following the prioritization process, Phase III continued through three focused CHIP work sessions designed to move from identifying priorities to developing actionable strategies. Each session included subject matter experts and community partners with knowledge and experience specific to the priority area. Their involvement helped ensure that the objectives and activities were informed by local expertise, existing community resources, current initiatives, and the specific needs identified through the CHA.

- **Social Determinants of Health** – September 14, 2026: SDOH subject matter experts developed objectives and activities addressing transportation, affordable housing, and walking and biking opportunities. Discussion focused on reducing barriers, improving access, strengthening resource navigation, and addressing community conditions that influence health and quality of life.
- **Population Health** – September 15, 2026: Population Health subject matter experts developed objectives and activities addressing older adult fall prevention, vaccination awareness, cancer prevention, and chronic disease. Discussion focused on reducing barriers, improving access, and addressing community conditions that influence Huron County residents' ability to receive the care needed to resolve some of these issues.
- **Mental Health** – September 16, 2026: Mental Health subject matter experts developed objectives and activities addressing suicide prevention and anxiety and depression. Discussion incorporated existing community resources, prevention efforts, service awareness, access and affordability barriers, and opportunities to strengthen community support.

Through these activities, Huron County partners moved from identifying and prioritizing community health concerns to developing a coordinated, data-informed action plan. The CHIP development process considers where the community is now, where it wants to go, and the collaborative actions needed to achieve those goals. The involvement of community partners and subject matter experts throughout the process also supports the MAPP 2.0 emphasis on strategic partnerships, coordinated action, addressing root causes and social determinants of health, and developing sustainable approaches to improve community health.

CONSIDERATION OF SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Social Determinants of Health

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are conditions in places where people live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that influence health, functioning and quality-of-life. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are five key areas of SDOHs:

1. **Healthcare Access and Quality** – Including issues such as access to healthcare, access to primary care, health insurance coverage, and health literacy.
2. **Education Access and Quality** – Including issues such as graduating from high school, enrollment in higher education, educational attainment in general, language and literacy, and early childhood education and development.
3. **Social and Community Context** – Including topics like cohesion within a community, civic participation, discrimination, conditions in the workplace, and incarceration.
4. **Economic Stability** – Including issues such as poverty, employment, food security, and housing stability.
5. **Neighborhood and Built Environment** – Including topics like quality of housing, access to transportation, availability of healthy foods, air and water quality, and neighborhood crime and violence.

ALIGNMENT WITH LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL PLANS

The Huron County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) aligns with local, regional, state, and national health improvement efforts, including Ohio’s State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and Healthy People 2030. The CHIP also incorporates additional plan and initiative alignments relevant to Huron County’s priorities, which are identified throughout the Workplan section beginning on [page 11](#).

OHIO STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SHIP, 2020-2022)

Local health departments and hospitals are encouraged to select at least two priority topics from the [Ohio State Health Improvement Plan \(SHIP\)](#) to address in the collaborative CHIP in an aligned cycle covering years 2026-2028. It should be noted that the Ohio Department of Health is currently working on the 2025-2029 SHIP but has yet to release that document at this time. For this iteration of the CHIP, Huron County will be again utilizing the 2020-2022 priorities. The two priority topic areas that align with the SHIP are (1) chronic disease and (2) mental health and addiction.

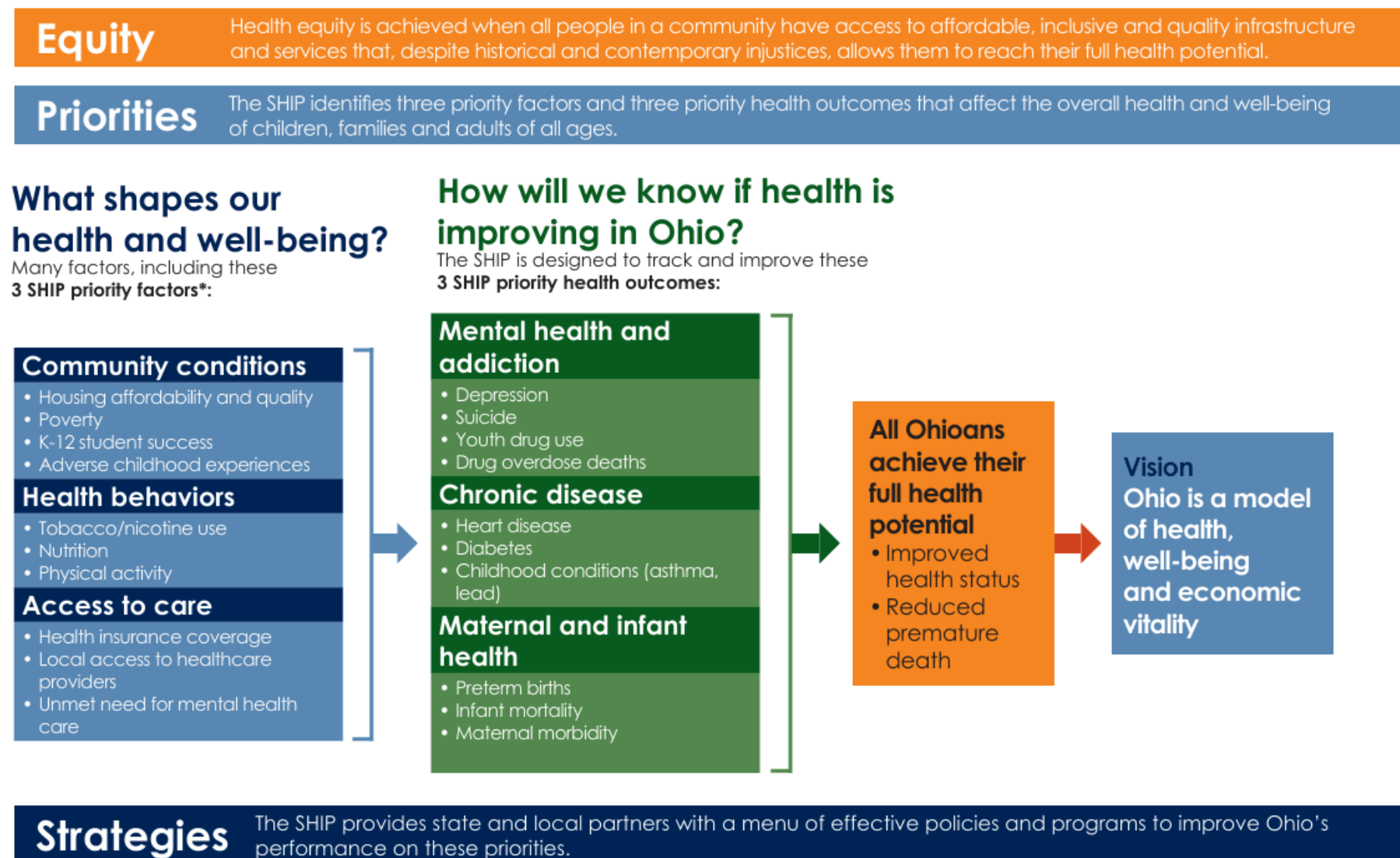
HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030

[Healthy People 2030](#) is the national-level framework aimed at helping individuals, organizations, and communities across the United States improve health and well-being. Healthy People 2030 sets data-driven national objectives for the next decade, with the vision of “a society in which all people can achieve their full potential for health and well-being across the lifespan.” Huron County Objectives that align with Healthy People 2030 are noted in the “alignment” column of the CHIP workplans below.

Figure 1.1: 2026-2028 Huron County CHIP Alignment with the 2020-2022 SHIP

Priority Health Outcome	Priority Indicators	Strategies to Impact Priority Indicators	Healthy People 2030 Alignment
Mental Health & Addiction	• Reduce Depression • Reduce Suicide Deaths	• Mental Health Education	• Healthy People 2030 - Reduce the suicide rate — MHMD-01 • Healthy People 2030 - Increase the proportion of children and adolescents who get appropriate treatment for anxiety or depression — EMC-D04 • Healthy People 2030 - Increase the proportion of children and adolescents who get appropriate treatment for anxiety or depression — EMC-D04
Chronic Disease	• Reduce Heart Disease	• Nutrition Strategies	• Healthy People 2030 - Reduce the proportion of adults with high blood pressure — HDS-04 • Healthy People 2030 - Reduce the proportion of adults with obesity — NWS-03 • Healthy People 2030 - Reduce the proportion of children and adolescents with obesity — NWS-04
Maternal & Infant Health	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A

Figure 1.2. SHIP framework



* These factors are sometimes referred to as the social determinants of health or the social drivers of health

WORK PLAN

PRIORITY AREA #1: MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health continues to be a significant concern among Huron County residents and has been a longstanding focus of Huron County Health Partners. Mental health has been a recurring priority in previous Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs), has received support through multiple locally available funding sources, and continues to be identified within state and national health priority frameworks. Community health assessment findings further highlight the importance of addressing mental health among both youth and adults. This overarching priority area focuses on suicide prevention, anxiety, and depression, with an emphasis on increasing access to prevention, early intervention, crisis support, and community-based resources.

Goal: Increase equitable access to mental health education, suicide prevention, early intervention, and supportive resources to improve mental health among Huron County residents.

Suicide Prevention				
Priority Indicator	2023 Baseline	2026	2029 Target	
Youth: Percentage of Huron County youth (12+) who reported having seriously considered attempting suicide in the past twelve (12) months.	19.6%	12.2%	8.0%	
Adult: Percentage of Huron County adults (18+) who reported having seriously considered attempting suicide in the past twelve (12) months.	4.0%	4.0%	2.0%	
Objectives	Action Steps	Responsible Partner(s)	Alignment	Status
By December 31, 2028, reduce the percentage of Huron County youth and adults who report having seriously considered or attempted suicide by increasing access to suicide prevention education, early intervention, community-based support resources, and decreasing access to lethal means.	Youth - The Prevention Coalition of Huron County, in partnership with CALM America, will continue to provide Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) training to area providers to increase awareness and skills related to reducing access to lethal means through the conclusion of the Ohio Department of Health's Youth Suicide Grant. - The Prevention Coalition of Huron County will continue partnering with local schools to implement Signs of Suicide (SOS) training for middle and high school students through the conclusion of the Ohio Department of Health's Youth Suicide Grant through the 2026–2027 school year.	- Huron County Public Health (Prevention Coalition of Huron County) - Huron County Child Fatality Review Board - Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services	2020-2022 Ohio SHIP – priority health outcome of reducing youth suicide deaths - OMHAS 2021-2024 Strategic Plan - Healthy People 2030 - Reduce	In-Progress

	• The Prevention Coalition of Huron County will continue funding Signs of Suicide (SOS) program licensing for Huron County schools through the conclusion of the Ohio Department of Health Youth Suicide Grant through the 2026–2027 school year. • Huron County Public Health will continue to review child fatalities through the Huron County Child Fatality Review Board and identify recommendations and prevention strategies to reduce the risk of future deaths. • The Prevention Coalition of Huron County will provide financial support to local Huron County schools implementing Sources of Strength programs, including support for promotional materials and other program-related resources. • The Prevention Coalition of Huron County, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health's Youth Suicide Prevention grant, will continue to purchase and distribute medication lock bags and gun safes to community members and agencies serving individuals experiencing a crisis through September 14, 2027. • The Prevention Coalition of Huron County will continue to update, produce, and distribute Huron County suicide prevention resource pamphlets to increase awareness of available mental health services and supports. • Expand QPR training opportunities through local schools to increase suicide prevention awareness and preparedness among school staff and other adults who work with youth, the training is provided through Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services upon request. • Increase awareness and utilization of MRSS as a community crisis support service for children and adolescents experiencing a behavioral health or mental health crisis. • Continue to increase prevention services capacity and availability in Huron County. • Identify and apply for funding sources to target suicide prevention efforts in Huron County.	• Local Mental Health Agencies	the suicide rate — MHMD-01	
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	<u>Adult</u> • Huron County Public Health will continue to review adult (18+) fatalities through the Huron County Suicide & Overdose Fatality Review Board and identify recommendations and prevention strategies to reduce the risk of future deaths. • The Prevention Coalition of Huron County, in partnership with CALM America, will continue to provide Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) training to area providers to increase awareness and skills related to reducing access to lethal means through the conclusion of the Ohio Department of Health's Youth Suicide Grant. • The Prevention Coalition of Huron County, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health's Youth Suicide Prevention Program, will continue to purchase and distribute medication lock bags and gun safes to community members and agencies serving individuals experiencing a crisis through September 14, 2027. • The Prevention Coalition of Huron County will continue to update, produce, and distribute Huron County suicide prevention resource pamphlets to increase awareness of available mental health services and supports. • Expand QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training opportunities for community members and organizations that serve adults, with training offered upon request through Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services. • Promote the Mental Health First Aid training that is offered through Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services to employers, community organizations, schools, faith-based organizations, and other groups serving adults. • Promote expanded MCRT 21+ availability, including the new midnight shift to improve awareness of after-hours crisis support. • Promote NAMI Northwest Ohio's Brightside Drop-In Center in Fremont, Ohio, as a welcoming community resource where adults living with mental health challenges can find connection, support, and a sense of belonging.	• Huron County Public Health • Huron County Suicide & Overdose Fatality Review Board • North Central Behavioral Health Board • Mobile Crisis Response Team • NAMI NW Ohio • Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services • Local Mental Health Agencies	• 2020-2022 Ohio SHIP – priority health outcome of reducing adult suicide deaths • OMHAS 2021-2024 Strategic Plan • Healthy People 2030 - Reduce the suicide rate — MHMD-01	In-Progress
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	- Continue to increase prevention services capacity and availability in Huron County. - Identify and apply for funding sources to target suicide prevention efforts in Huron County.			
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Anxiety & Depression				
Priority Indicator	2023 Baseline	2026	2029 Target	
Anxiety (Youth): Percentage of Huron County youth (12+) that reported anxiety issues warranting further exploration by a mental health professional.	36.0%	28.8%	20.0%	
Depression (Adult): Percentage of Huron County adults (18+) who reported ever being diagnosed with a depressive disorder.	17.0%	22.0%	20.0%	
Objectives	Action Steps	Responsible Partner(s)	Alignment	Status
By December 31, 2028, reduce the percentage of Huron County youth and adults experiencing anxiety or depression by increasing access to mental health education, early intervention, and supportive community resources.	Youth - Expand access to evidence-based youth programs such as Ruling Our Experiences (ROX) by supporting implementation in additional Huron County schools to strengthen youth resilience, healthy relationships, and social-emotional well-being. - Increase implementation of school-based prevention programs, including Sources of Strength, to strengthen protective factors, resilience, help-seeking behaviors, healthy coping skills, and connectedness among Huron County youth. - Strengthen and expand youth-led prevention efforts through the ARISE Youth Prevention Coalition by developing and implementing county-wide campaigns, programs, and events focused on substance use, suicide, depression, and anxiety prevention. - Increase access to evidence-based parent education and support by continuing to offer the Fear-Less Triple P Program to Huron County families with children ages 6–14 experiencing anxiety.	- Huron County Public Health (Prevention Coalition of Huron County) - Huron County Local Schools - Huron County Family & Children's First Council - Huron County's Northeast Ohio Boys & Girls Club - Family Life Counseling's Mobile Response & Stabilization Services (MRSS)	- OMHAS 2021-2024 Strategic Plan - Healthy People 2030 -Increase the proportion of children and adolescents who get appropriate treatment for anxiety or depression — EMC-D04	In-Progress

	• Increase awareness and utilization of safe, supportive youth spaces by promoting Huron County's Northeast Ohio Boys & Girls Clubs and other community-based opportunities that provide youth with positive activities, supportive relationships, and connections to resources. • Promote and increase access to MRSS for Huron County youth and young adults up to age 20 experiencing emotional distress or behavioral health concerns, including rapid response, in-home stabilization, and connection to ongoing supports. • Increase the capacity and availability of youth prevention services by identifying service gaps, strengthening partnerships, and expanding prevention programming based on identified community needs. • Pursue new funding opportunities to expand prevention and intervention services addressing anxiety and other mental health needs among Huron County youth.	• Local Mental Health Agencies		
	<u>Adult</u> • Promote NAMI Northwest Ohio's Brightside Drop-In Center in Fremont, Ohio, as a welcoming community resource where adults living with mental health challenges can find connection, support, and a sense of belonging. • Continue to increase prevention services capacity and availability in Huron County. • Increase access to crisis and recovery supports by promoting Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) resource navigation and assistance to connect individuals experiencing mental health concerns with appropriate community services and ongoing supports. • Increase access to evidence-based mental health services and research opportunities by supporting Clear Minds Coaching & Counseling's efforts to bring the SOAR Study to Huron County, if available and appropriate for local implementation. • Expand access to peer and community-based support by promoting NAMI NW's NAMI Connection support group for people with mental health conditions, NAMI Family Support Group for family members, spouses, or friends of people with mental illnesses, and NAMI's Special Topic Support Groups,	• Huron County Public Health (Prevention Coalition of Huron County) • Clear Minds Coaching & Counseling LLC. • NAMI NW Ohio • Enrichment Centers for Huron County • Connections Recovery Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) • Local Mental Health Agencies	• 2020-2022 Ohio SHIP – priority health outcome of reducing depression • OMHAS 2021-2024 Strategic Plan • Healthy People 2030 - Increase the proportion of children and adolescents who get appropriate treatment for anxiety or depression — EMC-D04	In-Progress

	increasing awareness of opportunities for individuals to connect with others experiencing similar mental health challenges. • Increase opportunities for social engagement among older adults by promoting Senior Enrichment Center activities and connecting older adults with available recreational, educational, and social opportunities. • Increase the presence of mental health peer support providers for Huron County residents. • Identify and apply for funding sources to target depression in the Huron County adult (18+) population.			
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PRIORITY AREA #2: SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Social determinants of health continue to be an important concern among Huron County residents and were identified as one of the three prioritized health needs in the 2026 Community Health Assessment. Community stakeholders identified transportation, affordable housing, and walking paths and bike trails as key factors influencing health and quality of life. The assessment also highlighted the need for improved resource navigation, as residents may be unaware of available services or face affordability barriers. This overarching priority area focuses on increasing access to reliable transportation, affordable and quality housing, and safe opportunities for walking and biking, with an emphasis on strengthening connections to existing community resources and improving the conditions that support health and well-being.

Goal: Goal: Increase equitable access to safe, affordable, and connected transportation, housing, and active-living opportunities to improve the health and quality of life of Huron County residents.

Transportation					
Priority Indicator		2023 Baseline	2026		2029 Target
Percentage of Huron County adults (18+) who reported having experienced issues with transportation (i.e., financial issues, didn't have a vehicle, lack of access to public transportation, etc.).		36.4%	33.0%		30.0%
Objectives	Action Steps		Responsible Partner(s)	Alignment	Status
By December 31, 2028, increase access to reliable, affordable, and accessible transportation options for Huron County residents.	- Design a communications strategy to promote transportation services across all audiences - Distribute marketing materials (e.g., Getting Around Huron County Guides, social media content, flyers) - Evaluate current use of referral systems, including Unite Us and 211, and identify opportunities to increase awareness, utilization, and sustainability of transportation-related referrals. - Explore opportunities to expand or improve local public transportation options, including identifying potential funding sources and community partners. - Assess how changes to local EMS services may affect transportation access and identify opportunities for EMS and community partners to help address transportation barriers. - The creation of a Huron County Public Transportation System.		- GLCAP - Mobility Management - Huron County Commissioners - Huron County Public Health - Local healthcare systems (e.g., Mercy Health, Fisher-Titus) - Norwalk Area United Fund - Local EMS agencies - Enrichment Centers of Huron County - Huron County JFS	- Huron County Coordinated Public and Human Services Transportation Plan 2026-2030 - Access Ohio 2050 – ODOT Transportation Plan	In-Progress

Affordable Housing					
Priority Indicator		2023 Baseline	2026	2029 Target	
Percentage of Huron County adults (18+) reported limited knowledge of any services in the community that they, or a family member were interested in.		34.0%	15.0%	10.0%	
Objectives	Action Steps		Responsible Partner(s)	Alignment	Status
By December 31, 2028, increase access to education and information about affordable housing opportunities and resources for Huron County residents.	• Re-engage and strengthen a Huron County housing coalition to improve coordination among housing-related organizations and community partners. • Identify opportunities to connect residents experiencing housing needs with appropriate housing resources and referrals. • Promote available housing assistance programs through the Huron Metropolitan Housing Authority, GLCAP, and The Salvation Army of Norwalk to increase awareness and access among Huron County residents.		• Goodwill Industries/Housing Coalition of Erie & Huron Counties • Huron Metropolitan Housing Authority • Huron County Public Health • Huron County Commissioners • GLCAP • Salvation Army of Norwalk	• Ohio Housing Finance Agency Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Plan • Huron Metropolitan Housing Authority Housing Annual PHA Plan • Huron Metropolitan Housing Authority Housing PHA 5-Year Plan	In-Progress

Walking Paths & Bike Trails – Active Transportation					
Priority Indicator		2023 Baseline	2026	2029 Target	
Percentage of Huron County adults (18+) who reported being engaged in physical activity within the past 7 days.		88.0%	85.2%	88.0%	
Objectives	Action Steps		Responsible Partner(s)	Alignment	Status
By December 31, 2028, increase access to safe, connected, and accessible walking and biking paths for Huron County residents.	- Update the 2021 Huron County Active Transportation Plan to document progress toward existing 5- and 10-year objectives and identify priority projects for 2026–2028. - Identify priority areas and projects from the Active Transportation Plan that could be advanced through grants, infrastructure projects, or community partnerships. - Align Huron County active transportation priorities with ODOT Active Transportation plans and projects that impact the county. - Pursue funding opportunities to address identified active transportation needs, with consideration given to areas with higher Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) scores. - Increase education and information regarding safe walking and biking, with an emphasis on rural road safety and visibility. - Provide education and resources regarding e-bike safety, including safe riding practices and applicable traffic laws. - Increase access to bike safety equipment, such as helmets, lights, and reflective/visibility equipment, through community events and partner organizations.		- Huron County Creating Healthy Communities Coalition - Huron County Public Health - Huron County Commissioners - GLCAP - Local Huron County Schools and youth-serving organizations - Local bike/walking organizations	2021 Huron County Active Transportation Plan - Huron County Coordinated Public and Human Services Transportation Plan 2026-2030 2020-2022 Ohio SHIP - Healthy People 2023 - Reduce the proportion of adults who do no physical activity in their free time — PA-01 - Healthy People 2023 - Increase the proportion	In-Progress

			of adults who walk or bike to get places — PA-10 • Healthy People 2023 - Increase the proportion of adolescents who walk or bike to get places — PA-11	
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PRIORITY AREA #3: POPULATION HEALTH

Population health was identified as an important focus for improving the health and quality of life of Huron County residents and builds upon the longstanding focus on chronic disease in previous Community Health Improvement Plans. The 2026 Community Health Assessment identified Population Health as one of three prioritized health needs, with older adult falls prevention, vaccination awareness, cancer prevention, and chronic diseases identified as key areas of focus. This overarching priority area emphasizes prevention, early intervention, and increasing access to resources and opportunities that support healthy behaviors, reduce preventable illness and injury, and improve health outcomes across the lifespan.

Goal: Improve the health and quality of life of Huron County residents by increasing awareness, prevention, and access to resources that support older adult fall prevention, vaccination, cancer prevention, and chronic disease prevention and management.

Older Adult Falls Prevention					
Priority Indicator		2023 Baseline	2026		2029 Target
Rate of Huron County hospital stays for ambulatory-care sensitive conditions per 100,000 Medicare enrollees.		3,474	2,990		2,500
Objectives	Action Steps		Responsible Partner(s)	Alignment	Status
By December 31, 2028, reduce falls among Huron County adults aged 65 and older by implementing equitable, evidence-based fall prevention strategies that increase access to education, resources, and interventions for older adults at increased risk of falls.	- Promote and increase participation in the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging’s free Matter of Balance 8-week fall prevention workshop and Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention classes among older adults in Huron County. - Promote the Ohio Department of Health’s STEADI: Empowering Healthcare Providers to Reduce Fall Risk training to local healthcare providers to increase the use of fall-risk screening, assessment, and prevention practices among older adults. - Pursue funding to implement a 10-week Huron County Bingocize workshop that combines physical activity, health education, and fall prevention strategies to promote healthy aging and reduce fall risk among older adults. - Support and expand the implementation of the STEADI program through Citizens Ambulance to identify older adults		- Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging - Huron County Public Health - Enrichment Centers of Huron County - Fisher-Titus Medical Center - Citizen's Ambulance Service - Local EMS Providers	- Ohio Department on Aging’s 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging 2020-2022 Ohio SHIP	In-Progress

	at risk for falls and connect them with appropriate fall prevention resources and services. • Identify and establish a community partnership to provide and install fall prevention equipment in older adults' homes, such as grab bars, shower safety equipment, and other recommended home safety modifications. • Expand STEADI implementation among additional EMS providers in Huron County to increase identification of fall risk and connections to fall prevention resources for older adults. • Increase access to safe, accessible, and affordable physical activity opportunities for homebound older adults, including identifying and promoting appropriate at-home exercise resources and programs. • Local participation in the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership's Older Adult Falls Prevention Coalition to ensure local practices align with state initiatives and to stay abreast of funding opportunities. • Share general information and education to Huron County residents pertaining to falls prevention and available resources.			
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Vaccination Awareness					
Priority Indicator		2023 Baseline	2026	2029 Target	
Percentage of Huron County fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare enrollees that had an annual flu vaccination.		53.0%	46.0%	55.0%	
Objectives	Action Steps		Responsible Partner(s)	Alignment	Status
By December 31, 2028, increase access to and engagement with community education and awareness efforts about the importance of routine and recommended vaccinations among Huron County residents.	• Create and promote evidence-based vaccine education materials through agency websites, social media, direct mail, and trusted community partners to address misinformation and increase vaccine confidence among Huron County residents. • Build upon and utilize materials, resources, and strategies developed through HCPH’s Vaccine Hesitancy Grant, including the existing vaccine webpage, educational videos, vaccine information sheets, and community outreach materials, to avoid duplicating previous work. • Increase access to influenza vaccinations throughout Huron County through convenient community-based opportunities, including drive-through vaccination clinics. • Develop a referral process between HCPH and Citizens Ambulance to connect eligible residents with in-home vaccination services, particularly those experiencing transportation or mobility barriers.		• Huron County Public Health • Citizen's Ambulance Service • Fisher-Titus Medical Center • Local Healthcare Systems • Local Senior Serving Organizations • Huron County Schools	• Healthy People 2030 - Increase the proportion of people who get the flu vaccine every year — IID-09	In-Progress

Cancer Prevention							
Priority Indicator		2023 Baseline		2026		2029 Target	
Lung: The incidence rate of Lung and Bronchus cancer in Huron County Adults (18+) per 100,000 population.		65.6 per 100,000		58.7 per 100,000		51.8 per 100,000	
Colon: The incidence rate of Colon and Rectum cancer in Huron County Adults (18+) per 100,000 population.		40.9 per 100,000		50.3 per 100,00		50.5 per 100,000	
Objectives		Action Steps			Responsible Partner(s)	Alignment	Status
By December 31, 2028, increase access to colorectal and lung cancer prevention education, screening, and early detection resources for Huron County residents.		• Increase education pertaining to colorectal cancer screening, including the colonoscopy procedure, screening recommendations, and the importance of early detection. • Promote the use of Cologuard as an available colorectal cancer screening option, including eligibility, how to use the test, the simplicity of the process, and symptoms or concerns that should be discussed with a healthcare provider. • Fisher-Titus Medical Center will expand access to Cologuard, beginning in Wakeman and expanding to primary care practices throughout Huron County through Exact Sciences. • The Prevention Coalition of Huron County and Fisher-Titus Medical Center will increase school-level education related to vaping and tobacco prevention, including the long-term health risks associated with tobacco and vaping. • Huron County Public Health will provide school nursing training on the relationship between tobacco, vaping, and lung cancer, including the planned November 2026 training.			• Huron County Public Health • Prevention Coalition of Huron County • Fisher-Titus Medical Center • The North Central Behavioral Health Board • Huron County Schools • Local Healthcare Systems	• Ohio Annual Cancer Report 2025 • 2020-2022 ODH SHIP • Healthy People 2030 - Reduce the lung cancer death rate — C-02 • Healthy People 2030 - Reduce the colorectal cancer death rate — C-06	In-Progress

Chronic Disease					
Priority Indicator		2023 Baseline	2026	2029 Target	
Percentage of Huron County adults (age 18+) reporting four or more days of poor physical health in the past 30 days.		27.0%	25.0%	23.0%	
Objectives	Action Steps		Responsible Partner(s)	Alignment	Status
By December 31, 2028, increase access to chronic disease prevention, education, and management resources for Huron County residents.	• Promote healthy lifestyles throughout Huron County through evidence-based healthy eating and active living policies and built-environment improvements. • Increase awareness and education related to heart disease and other heart-related chronic conditions, including prevention, risk-factor reduction, and management. • Promote free active transportation opportunities available throughout Huron County to encourage physical activity and support healthy lifestyles. • Fisher-Titus Medical Center will develop and pilot a prescription food program for individuals with specific chronic disease diagnoses, providing food tailored to their health needs through Second Harvest Food Bank, beginning in Bellevue. • Pursue opportunities to bring Rural Health funding to Huron County to support programs and initiatives that address chronic disease prevention and management.		• Huron County Public Health • Huron County Creating Healthy Communities Coalition • Fisher-Titus Medical Center • Huron County Parks & Recreation Organizations • Second Harvest Food Bank	• 2020-2022 ODH SHIP • Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Implementation Toolkit • 2021 Huron County Active Transportation Plan • Healthy People 2030 - Reduce the proportion of adults with high blood pressure — HDS-04 • Healthy People 2030 - Reduce the proportion of adults with obesity — NWS-03 • Healthy People 2030 - Reduce the proportion	In-Progress

			of children and adolescents with obesity — NWS-04	
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TRACKING, REVIEW, AND REVISION OF THE CHIP

As noted above, although the MAPP Process is facilitated by HCPH, all members of the partnership have a shared responsibility for implementing the Plan and providing updates on progress. No single agency is responsible for all actionable items within the workplans.

For each priority area, responsible partners are identified for individual goals, objectives, strategies, and activities. Responsible partners are expected to provide updates on the status of assigned activities, including progress made, activities completed, barriers or challenges, and relevant outcome or performance data when available. HCPH staff will collect and maintain these updates in the CHIP tracking tool and use the information to document progress toward the Plan's objectives.

Progress will be reviewed with CHIP partners on a regular basis through scheduled partnership or workgroup meetings. HCPH staff will compile and review updates, identify activities that are completed, in progress, delayed, or needing additional support, and follow up with responsible partners as needed. Progress and results will be used to inform ongoing implementation and any necessary updates to the CHIP.

This general process has been used since the development of the initial Huron County CHIP in 2013, with HCPH facilitating the tracking process and community partners providing updates on their respective action items.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES & ASSETS

The following community resources and assets have been identified as potential contributors for the improvement of health in Huron County:

Community Resource/ Asset Category	Examples of Resource/Asset in Huron County
Social Services	• Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) • Churches • Community Gardens (Bellevue, Norwalk, Willard, Wakeman) • Convenient Care/Urgent Care Facilities • Drug Drop Boxes • Food Pantries/ Non-Food Bank/Blessing Boxes • Grocery Stores • Hospitals (The Bellevue Hospital, Fisher-Titus, Mercy Health – Willard Hospital) • Libraries • Local schools • Low Income/Metro Housing • Miriam House • Parks/Playgrounds • Praxis by Landmark Recovery • Produce Stands • Rails to Trails • Recreation Centers
Business and Industries	• Chambers of Commerce • Construction Industry • Law Offices • Local Businesses in a variety of categories from agriculture and barber shops to tree services and travel agencies • Manufacturing Industry • Norwalk Economic Development Corporation • Railroad Industry
Citizen Associations	• Civic Clubs – i.e. The Elks, Rotary Club, Kiwanis, Eagles, etc. • Huron County Volunteer Corps • Huron County Master Gardeners • Support Groups
Financial Resources	• Campbell Soup Foundation • Fisher-Titus Civic Fund • Huron County Community Foundation • United Fund Community Grants

Community Resource/ Asset Category	Examples of Resource/Asset in Huron County
Local Agencies/ Institutions	• Abigail Pregnancy Services • Cancer Services • Catholic Charities • Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron & Richland Counties, Inc. • Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Huron County • Court System • Enrichment Centers for Huron County • Family Health Services • Firelands Forward • Firelands Rails to Trails • First Responders • Health Center of Huron County • HOLA Ohio • Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities • Huron County Emergency Management Agency • Huron County Family & Children First Council • Huron County Health Partners • Huron County Help Me Grow • Huron County Humane Society • Huron County Job & Family Services • Huron County Public Health • Huron County Transit • Huron County Veterans Services Office • Huron County WIC • Law Enforcement • Let's Get Real of Huron County • Mental Health/Counseling Agencies (i.e. Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services, Family Life Counseling and Psychiatric Services, Clear Minds Coaching & Counseling, Cornerstone Counseling) • Monroeville Non-Food Bank • NW Ohio NAMI • Norwalk Area United Fund • Norwalk Clothing Bank • North Central Behavioral Health Board • Ohio State University Extension • Oriana House • The Piggyback Foundation • Primary Care Providers • Reach Our Youth (ROY) • Recreation Centers • Red Cross • Salvation Army • Starting Point Outreach Center



FISHER | TITUS

HEALTH

Huron County



Public Health



**NORTH CENTRAL
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD**

SENECA • HURON • OTTAWA • SANDUSKY • WYANDOT



**MERCY
HEALTH**

HEALTHY U



HEALTHY HURON
COUNTY