



Teton County



Community Health Improvement Plan

2025

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

Teton County has a strong history of promoting collaborative approaches to community projects. Teton County's CHIP process engaged a diverse array of community leaders and other agency and organizational partners, community coalitions, and advisory groups with a strong focus on engaging community members facing significant barriers to better health.

Sponsorship of and much of the guidance for this assessment was provided by Teton County Health Department, and the Teton County Community Alliance for Resiliency and Educational Support. In 2025, the Teton County Health Department utilized technical assistance from the Montana Public Health Systems Improvement Office (PHSIO) of the Montana Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate the stakeholder meetings and subsequently developed the CHIP's goal, objectives, and strategies based on stakeholder meetings.

As part of the CHIP process, the Stakeholders identified community resources available locally that could support the achievement of selected activities and act as a general resource for the community. Resources were identified in the areas of primary, behavioral, and public health; dental and vision care; physical therapy; emergency services; childcare and schools; family, social, and legal services; home health care; senior living; community service, faith based, and government organizations. A full list of community resources, including telephone numbers, is available at the end of this document.

SPONSORS



Teton County Health Department is a county department that provides health, wellness, and prevention services across Teton County. Programs include public health emergency preparedness, communicable disease surveillance and response, tobacco use prevention, Women, Infants, and Children Nutritional Supplement Program (WIC), cancer screening services, diabetes prevention, immunizations, and chronic disease self-management classes. The Teton County Health Department is governed by the Teton County Board of Health and Board of Commissioners.



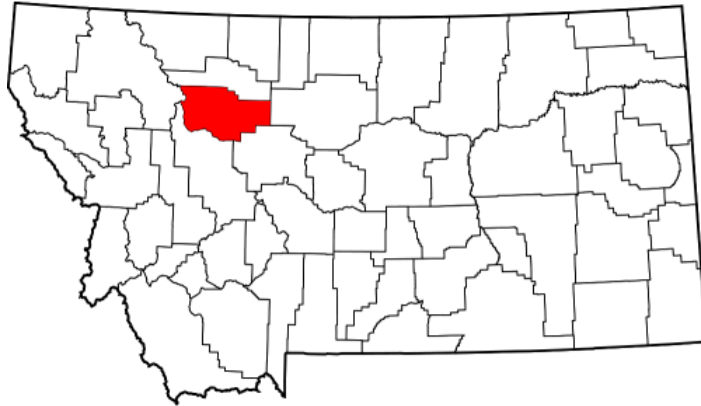
Teton County Community Alliance for Resiliency and Educational Support (Teton County C.A.R.E.S.) was created to confront Teton County's behavioral health challenges through comprehensive and evidence-based strategies that focus on resilience, education, prevention, access to treatment and reducing drug, alcohol and mental health related consequences, through community partnership and cultural change. This group was formed to address the concerns of the 2017 Teton County CHNA, and in 2019 merged with the Teton County Local Mental Health Advisory Council (LAC).

COMMUNITY VOICES

CHIP STAKEHOLDERS

- Alluvion Health
- Benefis Teton Medical Center
- CASA
- Choteau Acantha
- Choteau Lions Club
- Choteau Public Schools
- Choteau Senior Center
- Choteau Soroptimists
- Choteau United Methodist Church
- Choteau Youth Alliance
- City of Choteau
- City of Fairfield
- Dutton Community Member
- Dutton/Brady Public Schools
- Fairfield Food Pantry
- Fairfield Public Schools
- Front Range Assisted Living
- Front Range Family Psychiatry
- Frontier Family Practice
- Montana State University Extension Services
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors
- Opportunities, Inc.
- Power Community Member
- Power Public Schools
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church
- Teton County Board of Commissioners
- Teton County Community Alliance for Resilience and Educational Support
- Teton County Disaster & Emergency Services
- Teton County Emergency Medical Services
- Teton County Food Pantry
- Teton County Health Department
- Teton County Health Officer
- Teton County Planner
- Teton County Sheriff's Office
- Teton County Superintendent of Schools
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- US Forest Service

ABOUT TETON COUNTY



Teton County, Montana is located on the Rocky Mountain Front, which forms the seam between the wild lands and wilderness of the Lewis and Clark National Forest and other public lands, the local Sawtooth Mountain range, the Teton River, several large irrigation and recreational reservoirs, Freezeout Lake Wildlife Management area, and the foothills and plains domesticated by area ranchers and farmers. The county expands 2,293 square miles.

Sparsely populated, Teton County is made up of small communities, linked by miles of country roads and highways, that are dedicated to maintaining the special quality of life that makes living here so worthwhile. Teton County is a rural county in north central Montana, about 120 miles south of the Canadian border and 53 miles northwest of Great Falls. Teton County is a slice out of America's heartland and, in some ways, is a slice out of this country's past. Crime rates are low out here and violent crime is almost non-existent. We don't have gangs in our schools or on our streets, and we still enjoy old-fashioned pleasures like community dances, family picnics and going for a drive in the country.

Our culture and traditions are steeped in the fertile soil and in the wheat and barley and livestock we raise as our top marketable products. Seasons around here include calving, lambing, haying, seeding, harvesting and, in the fall, shipping. When you see cowboys moving their cattle along a roadway, you can bet they live on a ranch in the area, and they probably learned to ride shortly after they learned to walk.

We value the wide-open spaces (Teton County's population density, for example, is just 2.8 people per square mile), the pristine wildlife habitat, the clean air and bountiful water. We're accustomed to seeing deer in our gardens and hay fields, hearing the yip and howl of coyotes on moonlit nights and watching as hawks and eagles soar over the prairie.

Six communities are located in Teton County: Choteau (the county seat), Fairfield, Power, Dutton, Bynum, and Pendroy.

OVERVIEW OF THE CHIP PROCESS

In the Winter of 2025, the Teton County Health Department brought together a group of community stakeholders to evaluate local strengths and identify areas that need improvement. A Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) serves as a long-term, systematic strategy to address the issues highlighted in the Community Health Assessment (CHA). The CHIP's aim is to outline how the local health department and the community will collaborate to enhance the health of the county's population. Community members, stakeholders, and partners can utilize the CHIP to set priorities, allocate resources, and develop and implement projects, programs, and policies. This plan details strategies to bolster the health of county residents over the next three years, concluding in March 2028.

The CHIP process is data-driven, determining which priority areas and strategies to focus on. In 2024, the Teton County Health Department published the latest CHA, which offers a snapshot of the community regarding various health conditions, behaviors, systems, and social determinants of health. For access to the full 2024 Teton County CHA report, please visit the Teton County Health Department website, <https://tetoncountymt.gov/health-department/>.

The CHA identified six priority areas of significant concern for community health:

- Mental health
- Substance use
- Access to healthcare
- Preventative screenings
- Family and social support
- Physical activity and obesity

While the CHA highlighted various areas needing improvement, the CHIP aims to concentrate on a smaller, more manageable number of health needs. To achieve this, stakeholders participated in a series of meetings and surveys.

Before the first meeting, stakeholders received a summarized version of the CHA, which emphasized data from the six priority areas. They were asked to rank the feasibility and necessity of each area. The areas with the highest need and feasibility were identified as mental health, substance use, and family and social support. The inaugural stakeholder meeting took place on January 14, 2025, during which a voting method was employed to narrow down the six priority areas to two: Behavioral Health and Family and Social Support. The group then collectively assessed progress on previous CHIP initiatives and engaged in a facilitated workshop to determine three strategic directions: generating support and connection, increasing professional capacity, and sustainability.

After the meeting, stakeholders received a survey to propose potential strategies. A virtual meeting was conducted on February 6, 2025, to evaluate the strategies based on impact, feasibility, and buy-in. During this session, the group chose to merge the strategic directions of building community support and fostering connections. These objectives were subsequently refined by the Teton County Health Department and MTDPHHS to ensure they were specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART). A final stakeholder meeting was held in March 2025 to review the last draft of the CHIP and allow for any further input, feedback, and discussion before finalizing the plan.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION:
GENERATING SUPPORT
AND CONNECTION

GENERATING SUPPORT AND CONNECTION

Generating support and connection within a community hinge on improving behavioral health and enhancing family and social support networks. In Teton County, the collaborative approach to community health initiatives has fostered strong relationships among diverse stakeholders, including health departments, educational organizations, and community coalitions. By prioritizing engagement with individuals facing significant health barriers, the community has created a more inclusive environment that recognizes the importance of mental health alongside physical well-being. The identification of local resources ensures that families have access to vital assistance. This holistic strategy not only addresses immediate health concerns but also strengthens social ties, ultimately promoting resilience and a sense of belonging among community members. By emphasizing interconnectedness and leveraging available resources, Teton County sets a powerful example of how to build a supportive network that enhances overall community health and individual well-being.

PRIORITY AREA: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Objective 1.1: Decrease stigma through improved public awareness and engagement around mental health topics, including existing mental health resources.

Objective 1.2: Increase behavioral health referrals between existing partner agencies in Teton County and surrounding area through utilization of the CONNECT Referral System.

Objective 1.3: Strengthen behavioral health systems through formal participation of key service partners in the Teton County CARES Coalition.

PRIORITY AREA: FAMILY AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

Objective 1.4: Increase opportunities for Teton County residents to feel supported and connected.

Objective 1.5: Increase the number of community support services available in Teton County to serve individuals and families across their lifespan.

Objective 1.6: Increase public awareness of strategies to build community resiliency and existing resources to support families.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Listed below are the priority areas, measurable objectives, and a series of strategies selected to best achieve the objectives of each priority area. Each strategy also includes a performance measure and lists those responsible for ensuring the completion of each strategy within the specified time frame.

PRIORITY AREA: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

OBJECTIVE 1.1

DECREASE STIGMA THROUGH IMPROVED PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT AROUND MENTAL HEALTH TOPICS, INCLUDING EXISTING MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES.

OBJECTIVE 1.1 STRATEGIES: CREATING BETTER COMMUNITY AWARENESS AROUND MENTAL HEALTH

1.1.1 Utilize two existing community events and create one technology-based event within the first year to enhance awareness of mental wellness, with impact assessments starting in year two,

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**

- Number of community events conducted (2 existing + 1 new technology-based event) within the first year.
- Percentage increase in community awareness of mental wellness as measured by pre- and post-event surveys.
- Level of engagement and participation in the events, tracked through attendance records and feedback forms.

- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY CARES

- **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** MSU EXTENSION, ALLUVION, SCHOOLS

1.1.2 By the end of the year, develop a comprehensive policy containing social media posts and flyers to organize coordinated media campaigns promoting mental health information across multiple outlets, and implement it with partners in years 2 and 3.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**

- Successfully develop and distribute a comprehensive toolkit containing a minimum of 10 social media posts and 5 flyers by the end of the year, with a minimum engagement rate of 20% of followers across all platforms during implementation in years 2 and 3.

- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY CARES

- **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ACANTHA, MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS, ALLUVION, BENEFIS TETON MEDICAL CENTER, EXTENSION

OBJECTIVE 1.2

INCREASE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFERRALS BETWEEN EXISTING PARTNER AGENCIES IN TETON COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREA THROUGH UTILIZATION OF THE CONNECT REFERRAL SYSTEM.

OBJECTIVE 1.2 STRATEGIES: CONNECTING THE DOTS: ENHANCING REFERRAL SYSTEMS

1.2.1 Increase the number of partner agencies participating in the CONNECT Referral System by 20% by the end 2028.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Track the number of partner agencies actively participating in the CONNECT Referral System on a quarterly basis, aiming for a 20% increase from the baseline number recorded at the start of the initiative.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY CARES

1.2.2 Increase referrals by 20% within the next three years by effectively utilizing the CONNECT Referral System.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Track and analyze the number of referrals generated through the CONNECT Referral System on a quarterly basis, comparing the data to previous years to ensure a 20% increase is achieved by the end of three years.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY CARES



OBJECTIVE 1.3

STRENGTHEN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS THROUGH FORMAL PARTICIPATION OF KEY SERVICE PARTNERS IN THE TETON COUNTY CARES COALITION.

OBJECTIVE 1.3 STRATEGIES: STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS: TETON COUNTY CARES

1.3.1 Increase the number of partners participating in Teton CARES from 12 to 25 and achieve an average monthly attendance of 15 people at meetings within the next year.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Track the number of new partners recruited and average monthly meeting attendance over the year.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY CARES
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:**

1.3.2 By the end of 2028, update the CARES Strategic Plan, MOUs, and bylaws incorporating feedback from partners to ensure alignment and effectiveness.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Document the completion and approval of the updated Strategic Plan, MOUs, and bylaws, including feedback from partners.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY CARES
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:**

1.3.3 By the end of the first year, conduct quarterly behavioral health trainings for CARES partners and community members, and evaluate the program's effectiveness afterward.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Record the number of trainings conducted, participant feedback scores, and results from post-training evaluations
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY CARES
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** MSU EXTENSION

PRIORITY AREA: FAMILY AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

OBJECTIVE 1.4

INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TETON COUNTY RESIDENTS TO FEEL SUPPORTED AND CONNECTED.

OBJECTIVE 1.4 STRATEGIES: TOGETHER WE THRIVE: ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER CONNECTION

1.4.1 Identify and reduce participation barriers for community events by conducting a survey within the next six months to gather feedback from at least 30 community members, aiming to implement at least two actionable solutions by the end of the year.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Number of surveys completed and analyzed; two actionable solutions implemented.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** MSU EXTENSION
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1.4.2 By December 2028, organize low-cost or free social gatherings twice a year utilizing existing activities to enhance intergenerational connections and increase awareness of family support services.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Number of gatherings organized
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** MSU EXTENSION
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY CARES, TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



OBJECTIVE 1.5

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF STRATEGIES TO BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCY AND EXISTING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT FAMILIES.

OBJECTIVE 1.3 STRATEGIES: COMMUNITY TRAINING AND RESOURCE AWARENESS

1.5.1 Offer at least three resiliency-building educational opportunities in alignment with Teton CARES, including one PCES and two parenting classes, to the general public within the first year.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Successfully conduct three educational sessions with a minimum attendance of 20 participants per session and collect feedback to assess participant satisfaction and learning outcomes.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY CARES
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** SCHOOLS, MSU EXTENSION, SOBER LIFE

1.5.2 Launch a resiliency awareness and educational campaign via social media and community events by 2027.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Achieve a reach of at least 500 individuals through combined social media engagement and community event attendance, while tracking participant engagement and feedback to measure effectiveness.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY CARES
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ACANTHA, SCHOOLS, ALLUVION, BENEFIS TETON MEDICAL CENTER, MSU EXTENSION

1.5.3 Promote existing family support resources through at least three public events and media campaigns within the next year.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Conduct outreach at three events, ensuring a diverse audience, and track participation rates and resource distribution, while focusing on aging resources in year one and families and children in year two.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY CARES, MSU EXTENSION, SCHOOLS, SENIOR CENTERS

OBJECTIVE 1.6

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE IN TETON COUNTY TO SERVE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES ACROSS THEIR LIFESPAN.

OBJECTIVE 1.3 STRATEGIES: IMPROVING COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

1.6.1 Increase the number of family activity spaces by updating two spaces within the next three years by either creating or enhancing existing spaces.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Successfully complete renovations or new constructions of two-family activity spaces and achieve at least 75% community satisfaction based on surveys.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** CHOTEAU AREA PORT AUTHORITY
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, CHOTEAU YOUTH ALLIANCE

1.6.2 By December 2028, enhance partnership between programs that provide childcare assistance and food security to increase access for at least 10 families in the community. Recommend policy to continue programs and see if expansion is needed.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Formalize partnerships through MOUs with three or more service programs that will increase access to at least 10 participants in total.
 - Recommend creation of a policy
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** CHOTEAU YOUTH ALLIANCE, FOOD PANTRIES, DAYCARES

1.6.3 Increase opportunities for early childhood development by implementing at least one new program or campaign and enhancing childcare services by the end of the year.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Launch one new early childhood program with at least 10 participants in total and conduct a satisfaction survey showing at least 80% of parents expressing satisfaction with the services.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** CHOTEAU YOUTH ALLIANCE
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1.6.4 Increase the availability of respite care services for caregivers of elderly or disabled individuals within the next two years.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Offer two respite care provider trainings in Teton County within the next two years.
 - Create and distribute an "Aging Resources" one-page document that includes existing respite care services.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** MSU EXTENSION
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** AREA AGENCY ON AGING, SENIOR CENTERS

STRATEGIC DIRECTION:
INCREASING
PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY

INCREASING PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY

Increasing professional capacity to improve behavioral health and enhance family and social support is crucial for fostering resilient communities. In Teton County, a collaborative approach has been adopted, engaging a wide array of stakeholders such as health departments, educational institutions, and community organizations. This synergy enables the identification and mobilization of local resources, ensuring that families facing health challenges receive the necessary support. By prioritizing mental health alongside physical well-being, the community not only addresses immediate health issues but also cultivates strong social connections. This holistic strategy promotes an inclusive environment where individuals feel valued and supported, ultimately enhancing their overall well-being. Teton County serves as a model for how professional capacity can be expanded to create robust support networks that empower families and strengthen community ties.

PRIORITY AREA: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Objective 2.1:
Increase the number of individuals that are being screened and referred for behavioral health in a standard healthcare setting.

Objective 2.2:
Create a workforce that is well trained and confident in addressing behavioral health in their positions.

Objective 2.3:
Increase utilization of telehealth services to improve access to behavioral health services in rural communities across Teton County.

Objective 2.4:
Expand access to mental health services through paraprofessional programs including peer supports, support groups and worksite wellness champions.

PRIORITY AREA: FAMILY AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

Objective 2.5: Develop and implement comprehensive training programs on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), parenting skills, and trauma-informed care for professionals that work with children and families

Objective 2.6: Increase scope and utilization of existing tools and resources that help protect vulnerable individuals and families

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Listed below are the priority areas, measurable objectives, and a series of strategies selected to best achieve the objectives of each priority area. Each strategy also includes a performance measure and lists those responsible for ensuring the completion of each strategy within the specified time frame.

PRIORITY AREA: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

OBJECTIVE 2.1

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE BEING SCREENED AND REFERRED FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN A STANDARD HEALTHCARE SETTING

OBJECTIVE 2.1 STRATEGIES: INTEGRATED CARE FOR BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

2.1.1 Establish specific baseline metrics by the end of 2025 to measure the current integration of behavioral health and physical health within Teton County.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Percentage of patients receiving both behavioral and physical health services within the same care plan, with a target of establishing a baseline by the end of 2025.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** BENEFIS TETON MEDICAL CENTER, ALLUVION
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2.1.2 By December 2028, implement integrated care models in all clinical settings in Teton County to improve patient outcomes and enhance collaboration among healthcare providers.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Improvement in patient health outcomes as measured by a reduction in hospital readmission rates and an increase in patient satisfaction scores, assessed annually from implementation.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** BENEFIS TETON MEDICAL CENTER, ALLUVION
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OBJECTIVE 2.2

CREATE A WORKFORCE THAT IS WELL TRAINED AND CONFIDENT IN ADDRESSING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN THEIR POSITIONS

OBJECTIVE 2.2 STRATEGIES: TRAINING PROFESSIONALS

2.2.1 Create a detailed training schedule for first responders and educators that includes specific courses like CIT, MHFA, and trauma-informed practices, to be implemented by the end of 2027, ensuring at least 40 participants.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**

- Track the number of participants who complete the training by the end of 2027, aiming for at least 40 participants, and gather feedback on training effectiveness.

- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY CARES

- **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, TETON COUNTY EMS, NORTH CENTRAL CRISIS COALITION, SCHOOLS

2.2.2 Increase the availability of training opportunities, including certifications and continuing education, for professionals by 2 trainings within the next two years.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**

- Monitor the number of training programs offered annually and measure the percentage increase in availability, ensuring 2 trainings are held within the specified timeframe.

- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY CARES

- **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** SCHOOLS, TETON COUNTY EMS, TETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, BENEFIS TETON MEDICAL CENTER, ALLUVION

2.2.3 By December 2026, collaborate with first responders to conduct a comprehensive assessment of training needs that results in a prioritized list of at least two key areas for improvement.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**

- Document and analyze the assessment outcomes to identify and prioritize at least two key areas for improvement, ensuring completion by the December 2026 deadline.

- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY CARES

- **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY EMS, TETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



OBJECTIVE 2.3

INCREASE UTILIZATION OF TELEHEALTH SERVICES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS TETON COUNTY.

OBJECTIVE 2.3 STRATEGIES: UTILIZING TELEHEALTH

2.3.1 Partner with two existing health organizations by the end of 2028 to implement telehealth options for behavioral health services.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Monitor and report a number of patients accessing behavioral health services through telehealth options by the end of the target period.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** ALLUVION, BENEFIS TETON MEDICAL CENTER, MANY RIVERS WHOLE HEALTH
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:**

OBJECTIVE 2.4

EXPAND ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH PARAPROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS INCLUDING PEER SUPPORTS, SUPPORT GROUPS AND WORKSITE WELLNESS CHAMPIONS

OBJECTIVE 2.4 STRATEGIES: EXPAND USE OF PARAPROFESSIONALS

2.4.1 By December 2027, collaborate with at least three community partners to develop and implement a paraprofessional program that complement existing professional behavioral health services.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - At least 75% of program participants reporting increased skills and confidence in providing behavioral health support.
 - Feedback from community partners indicating satisfaction with the partnership and the effectiveness of the programs.
 - A minimum of 8 hours of training completed by paraprofessionals in each program by the end of the implementation period.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY CARES
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, CHURCHES, TETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



PRIORITY AREA: FAMILY AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

OBJECTIVE 2.5

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS ON ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACES), PARENTING SKILLS, AND TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE FOR PROFESSIONALS THAT WORK WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

OBJECTIVE 2.5 STRATEGIES: TRAINING FOR CHILD AND FAMILY PROFESSIONALS

2.5.1 Create a comprehensive training schedule for professionals working with children and families, ensuring at least one session per quarter on topics such as Love & Logic, parenting skills, ACES, PCES, and trauma-informed approaches by the end of the year.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Track the percentage of participants who complete the training by the end of 2027 and gather feedback on training effectiveness.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** SCHOOLS, CHOTEAU YOUTH ALLIANCE, DAYCARES

2.5.2 Increase the number of training opportunities, certifications, and continuing education resources for professionals, offering 2 training opportunities per year.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Monitor the number of training programs offered annually and measure the percentage increase in availability, ensuring at least 2 training opportunities per year.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** SCHOOLS, CHOTEAU YOUTH ALLIANCE, DAYCARES

2.5.3 By the end of 2027, collaborate with at least five professionals who work with children and families to assess and document specific training needs.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Document and analyze the assessment outcomes to identify and prioritize at least two key areas for training needs by the December 2027 deadline.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** SCHOOLS, CHOTEAU YOUTH ALLIANCE, DAYCARES, MSU EXTENSION

OBJECTIVE 2.6

INCREASE SCOPE AND UTILIZATION OF EXISTING TOOLS AND RESOURCES THAT HELP PROTECT VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

OBJECTIVE 2.6 STRATEGIES: TOOLS TO PROTECT VULNERABLE FAMILIES

2.6.1 Increase the use of tools like Handle with Care, 988, CONNECT, and Parenting Montana by 5 partners each year by end of 2028 through targeted outreach and training initiatives.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**

- Track the number of partner organizations accessing each tool through surveys and usage statistics, aiming for 5 additional partner organizations using tools every year.

- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY CARES

- **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY DISPATCH, SCHOOLS



STRATEGIC DIRECTION: SUSTAINABILITY

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability in public health is critical for ensuring long-term well-being for Teton County, and it can be significantly advanced through funding and county-wide buy-in from stakeholders. Teton County Public Health looks to align with the statewide initiative Montana 21C: Strengthening public health together, which works to bring Montana's public health system into the 21st century by presenting a distinctive opportunity for local and tribal health departments to identify their needs and the gaps they face in delivering the foundational public health services, all while receiving support from Montana's state-level organizations. This initiative will foster better coordination and strengthen collaboration. 21C is a national learning collaborative sponsored by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Funding is needed to implement Teton County's CHIP initiatives to not only be effective in the short term but also adaptable to evolving needs, promoting both project sustainability and the overall health of future generations. By securing consistent funding and engaging stakeholders from all levels—local governments, businesses, healthcare providers, and residents—Teton County can foster a local health system that is resilient to future challenges.

PRIORITY AREAS: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND FAMILY & SOCIAL SUPPORTS

Objective 3.1: Create a plan for sustainability of initiatives through community buy-in and financial commitment.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Listed below are the priority areas, measurable objectives, and a series of strategies selected to best achieve the objectives of each priority area. Each strategy also includes a performance measure and lists those responsible for ensuring the completion of each strategy within the specified time frame.

PRIORITY AREAS: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND FAMILY AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

OBJECTIVE 3.1

CREATE A PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF INITIATIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY BUY-IN AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT.

OBJECTIVE 3.1 STRATEGIES: SECURING LOCAL GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION AND FUNDING

3.1.1 Establish a workgroup by the end of 2028, comprising local elected officials, to meet monthly and develop actionable strategies for enhancing the sustainability of behavioral health and family & social support initiatives.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Documentation of monthly meeting agendas and minutes to track progress and action items.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TETON COUNTY CARES

3.1.2 Develop a sustainability plan by December 31, 2028, that identifies specific funding sources to support initiatives and workforce sustainability for the next five years.

- **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**
 - Submission of the finalized sustainability plan to relevant stakeholders for review and feedback.
 - Identification and documentation of viable funding sources, including grant applications or partnerships.
- **LEAD ORGANIZATION:** TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 - **PARTNERS/RESOURCES:** TETON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TETON COUNTY CARES

ALIGNMENT WITH STATE AND NATIONAL PARTNERS

As illustrated below, many of the priority areas and objectives identified during the Teton County CHIP process align with state and national priorities, as measured by the 2024–2028 Montana (MT) State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and Healthy People (HP) 2030, the federal government’s prevention agenda for building a healthier nation. At the time of the writing of this CHIP, the 2024-2028 SHIP was not yet published so changes to the MT SHIP Priority or Policy Areas below are subject to change.

Teton County Priority Areas	Montana SHIP	Healthy People 2030 Overarching Goal	
Behavioral Health	Behavioral Health (Priority Area)	Attain healthy, thriving lives and well-being free of preventable disease, disability, injury, and premature death.	
Family and Social Support	Maternal and Child Health	Promote healthy development, healthy behaviors, and well-being across all life stages.	

Teton County 2025 CHIP Objectives	MT SHIP Alignment	HP 2023 Alignment
Utilize two existing community events and create one technology-based event within the first year to enhance awareness of mental wellness with impact assessments starting in year two.	X	X
By the end of the year, develop a comprehensive toolkit containing social media posts and flyers to organize coordinated media campaigns promoting mental health information across multiple outlets, and implement it with partners in years 2 and 3.	X	X
Increase the number of partner agencies participating in the CONNECT Referral System by 20% by the end of 2028.	X	X
Increase referrals by 20% within the next three years by effectively utilizing the CONNECT Referral System.	X	X

Teton County 2025 CHIP Objectives**MT SHIP
Alignment****HP 2023
Alignment**

Increase the number of partners participating in Teton CARES from 12 to 25 and achieve an average monthly attendance of 15 people at meetings within the next year.		X
By the end of 2028, update the CARES Strategic Plan, MOUs, and bylaws incorporating feedback from partners to ensure alignment and effectiveness.		
By the end of the first year, conduct quarterly behavioral health trainings for CARES partners and community members, and evaluate the program's effectiveness afterward.	X	X
Identify and reduce participation barriers for community events by conducting a survey within the next six months to gather feedback from at least 30 community members, aiming to implement at least three actionable solutions by the end of the year.		X
By December 2028, organize quarterly low-cost or free social gatherings utilizing existing activities to enhance intergenerational connections and increase awareness of family support services.	X	X
Offer at least three resiliency-building educational opportunities in alignment with Teton CARES, including one PCES and two parenting classes, to the general public within the first year.	X	X
Launch a resiliency awareness and educational campaigns via social media and community events by 2027.	X	X
Promote existing family support resources through at least three public events and media campaigns within the next year.	X	X
Increase the number of family activity spaces by updating two spaces within the next three years by either creating or enhancing existing spaces.		X
By December 2028, enhance partnerships between programs that provide childcare assistance and food security to increase access for at least 10 families in the community.		X

Teton County 2025 CHIP Objectives	MT SHIP Alignment	HP 2023 Alignment
Increase opportunities for early childhood development by implementing at least one new program or campaign and enhancing childcare services by the end of the year.	X	X
Increase the availability of respite care services for caregivers of elderly or disabled individuals within the next two years.	X	X
Establish specific baseline metrics by the end of 2025 to measure the current integration of behavioral health and physical health within our organization.		
By December 2028, implement integrated care models in all three clinical settings in Teton County to improve patient outcomes and enhance collaboration among healthcare providers.		X
Create a detailed training schedule for first responders and educators that includes specific courses like CIT, MHFA, and trauma-informed practices, to be implemented by the end of 2027, ensuring at least 40 participants.		X
Increase the availability of training opportunities, including certifications and continuing education for professionals by 2 trainings within the next 2 years.		X
By December 2026, collaborate with first responders to conduct a comprehensive assessment of training needs that results in a prioritized list of at least two key areas for improvement.		X
Partner with two existing health organizations by the end of 2028 to implement telehealth options for behavioral health services.	X	X
By December 2027, collaborate with at least three community partners to develop and implement a paraprofessional program that complement existing professional behavioral health services.		X
Create a comprehensive training schedule for professionals working with children and families, ensuring at least one session per quarter on topics such as Love & Logic, parenting skills, ACES, PCES, and trauma-informed approaches by the end of the year.	X	X
Increase the number of training opportunities, certifications, and continuing education resources for professionals, offering 2 training opportunities per year		X

Teton County 2025 CHIP Objectives**MT SHIP
Alignment****HP 2023
Alignment**

By the end of 2027, collaborate with at least five professionals who work with children and families to assess and document specific training needs.

Increase the use of tools like Handle with Care, 988, and Parenting Montana by 5 partners each year by end of 2028 through targeted outreach and training initiatives.

X

X

Establish a workgroup by the end of 2028, comprising local elected officials, to meet monthly and develop actionable strategies for enhancing the sustainability of behavioral health and family & social support initiatives.

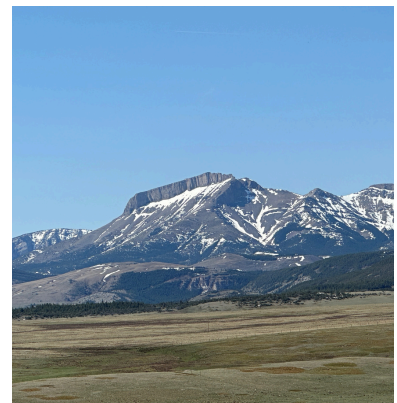
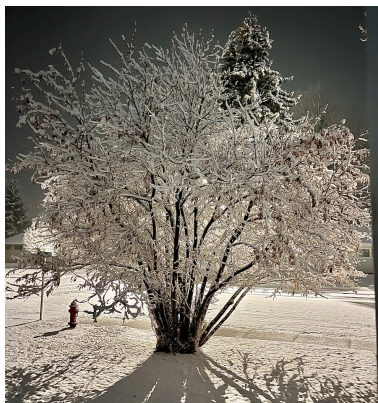
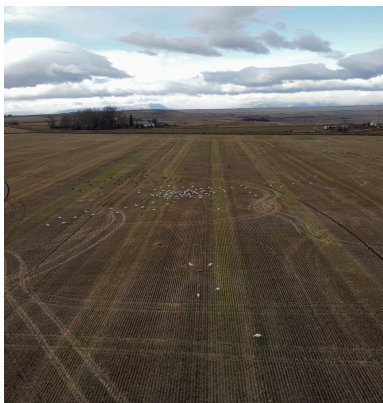
Develop a sustainability plan by December 31, 2028, that identifies at least three specific funding sources to support initiatives and workforce sustainability for the next five years.



NEXT STEPS: CHIP IMPLEMENTATION

This Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) outlines a multi-year effort to improve the health of Teton County residents. The plan will be presented to county and city leaders, made publicly available, and updated every 3 years.

This CHIP is a collaborative effort. The Teton County Health Department will incorporate the plan's priority areas – behavioral health and family and social supports – into their Strategic Plan. Supporting organizations across the county will be encouraged to do the same. This cyclical process ensures continuous improvement through regular updates to the Community Health Assessment, CHIP, and supporting organizations' Strategic Plans.



The Teton County Health Community Health Implementation Committee will play a vital role in monitoring progress towards achieving the objectives of this CHIP. Lead stakeholders/organizations for each strategy will engage in regular meetings with community partners to develop and implement comprehensive work plans. Progress updates will be shared with the Teton County Community Health Implementation Committee through email or in-person meetings. The committee will meet twice per year to assess progress, address challenges, and adapt work plans as appropriate. The committee will utilize a performance management system to monitor progress. Additionally, annual CHIP meetings will be held to share progress with the community.

Each of us in Teton County has a role to play in creating a healthier community. Whether you're a parent, student, business owner, or senior citizen, your unique perspective is valuable. By getting involved, you can help create a community where everyone has access to the resources and support they need to live healthy lives. To learn more or get involved, please contact Melissa Moyer, Teton County Public Health Director, at health@tetonmt.org. Together, we can build a healthier and more vibrant Teton County.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Primary Care			
	Benefis Teton Medical Center	Choteau	406-466-5763
	Alluvion Health Choteau Clinic	Choteau	406-466-3574
	Frontier Family Practice	Fairfield	406-467-3447
Behavioral Health			
	Heart & Mind Counseling	Choteau	406-466-2011
	Montana Online Counseling		406-590-9177
	Eastern Front Counseling	Conrad	406-868-6902
	Front Range Family Psychiatry	Choteau	406-466-2342
	New Roots, PLLC	Dutton / Fairfield	406-590-6991
	Teton Counseling	Fairfield	406-467-2700
	True North Counseling	Choteau	406-369-6129
	Eating Disorders (Emily Wish)		406-952-3772
	Wholly Authentic Life	Choteau, Fairfield	406-799-2711
	Impeccable Therapy	Dutton	406-788-4706
	Many Rivers Whole Health	Great Falls	406-466-5681
Public Health			
	Teton County Health Department	Choteau	406-466-2562
Dental Care			
	Allen Dental	Choteau	406-466-5662
	Huhn Family Dental	Fairfield	406-467-2407
Vision Care			
	Mountain Front Family Vision Center	Choteau, Fairfield	406-466-2802
Physical Therapy			
	Benefis Teton Medical Center	Choteau, Fairfield	406-467-3800
	Pivot Physical Therapy	Choteau	406-466-3040
Chiropractor			
	Vandolah Chiropractic Clinic	Choteau, Fairfield	406-466-5665
Police, Fire & Ambulance			
	Teton County Sheriff's Office	Choteau	406-466-5781
	Teton County EMS	Choteau	406-466-5552
Child Care Resource and Referral			
	Family Connections	Great Falls	406-761-6010
Child & Family Services			
	CASA-CAN	Great Falls	406-576-7041
	Centralized Intake	Statewide	1-866-820-5437
	Hi-Line Help for Abused Spouses	Conrad	406-278-3342
	Child and Family Services - Teton County	Conrad	406-278-5142

Food/Living Expense Assistance			
	Teton County Food Pantry	Choteau	509-847-9488
	Choteau Schools - Backpack Buddies	Choteau	406-781-8711
	Fairfield Food Pantry	Fairfield	406-590-3150
	Caring Tree (Oct.-Dec.)	Choteau	406-590-1126
	Neighbors Helping Neighbors	Choteau	406-466-3646
	Opportunities for All Scholarships, Inc.	Choteau	406-466-5393
	Opportunities, Inc.	Great Falls	406-761-0310
	W.I.C	Choteau	406-466-2562
Homeless Shelter			
	Great Falls Rescue Mission	Great Falls	406-761-2653
Legal Services			
	Disability Rights Montana	Statewide	800-245-4743
	Montana Legal Services Helpline	Statewide	800-666-6899
	People's Law Center	Great Falls	406-761-7720
Schools			
	Rural County Schools		406-466-2907
	Choteau Schools	Choteau	406-466-5364
	Power Schools	Power	406-463-2251
	Dutton/Brady Schools	Dutton/Brady	406-476-3424
	Fairfield Schools	Fairfield	406-467-2528
	Playtime Learning Center Preschool	Choteau	406-466-5166
	Big Sky Special Needs Cooperative	Conrad	406-271-7558
Personal/Home Health Care			
	Easter Seals	Choteau	406-466-2088
	Peace Hospice of Montana	Great Falls	406-455-3040
Senior Centers/Services			
	Choteau Senior Citizens Center	Choteau	406-466-2121
	Fairfield Senior Center	Fairfield	406-467-2574
	Dutton Senior Center	Dutton	406-476-3291
	Power Whistle Stop Senior Center	Power	406-463-2440
	Teton County Council on Aging	Teton County	406-476-3586
Independent/Assisted Living			
	Beehive Homes Assisted Living	Choteau	406-370-3507
	Skyline Lodge Retirement Home	Choteau	406-466-2062
	Front Range Assisted Living	Fairfield	406-467-2407
	Teton Peak Assisted Living	Choteau	406-590-1102
Community Service Organizations/Community Coalitions			
	Teton County C.A.R.E.S.	Choteau	406-466-2562
	MSU Extension - Teton County	Choteau	406-466-2491
	Choteau Lions Club	Choteau	406-203-4679
	North Central Cancer Support Group	Choteau	406-466-2562
	Soroptimists	Choteau	

Government Organizations			
	Choteau Chamber of Commerce	Choteau	406-466-5316
	Choteau Area Port Authority	Choteau	
	Fairfield Chamber of Commerce	Fairfield	406-467-2531
	CONNECT Referral System	Statewide, Choteau	406-466-2562
Faith-Based Organizations			
	Choteau Ministerial Association	Choteau	
	Choteau Baptist Church	Choteau	406-466-2902
	Trinity Lutheran Church	Choteau	406-466-2291
	United Methodist Church	Choteau	406-466-2641
	New Life Church	Choteau	406-466-2303
	St. Joseph's Catholic Church	Choteau	406-466-2961
	St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church	Fairfield	406-466-2961
	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Choteau & Fairfield	480-381-9014/406-750-0988
	Zion Lutheran Church	Power	406-463-2541
	Guardian Angel Catholic Church	Power	406-463-2357
	Power Baptist Church	Power	406-799-6779
	United Church of Christ	Choteau	406-467-2466
	NewLife Fairfield	Fairfield	406-467-2713
	St. John Lutheran Church	Fairfield	406-467-3325
	Grace Lutheran Church	Fairfield	406-467-2277
	Pendroy Community Church	Pendroy	406-469-2245
	Bethany Lutheran Church	Dutton	406-476-3371
	St. William Catholic Church	Dutton	406-476-3327
	Dutton United Methodist Church	Dutton	406-476-3223
	Brady United Methodist Church	Brady	406-753-2253
Support Groups			
	Alcoholics Anonymous (Choteau Trinity Lutheran)	Choteau	406-466-2291
	Narcotics Anonymous (Choteau Trinity Lutheran)	Choteau	406-466-2291

REFERENCES

1. US Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/data-profiles/2023/>
2. Teton County, <https://tetoncountymt.gov/>

Thank you for your continued support.

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(406) 466 - 2562

2025

