

2022 Community Health Needs Assessment

Community Health Improvement Plan

Connecticut Children's 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) identified five priority areas that significantly affect the health and well-being of Hartford families:

- Healthy, Stable, and Secure Housing
- Access to Nutritious Food
- Access to Healthcare
- Educational and Occupational Opportunities
- Safe Neighborhoods and Violence Prevention

In conducting the CHNA, Hartford residents, community leaders and other stakeholders identified areas of need affecting the health and well-being of Hartford residents through focus groups, a survey of Hartford Public School nurses and social workers, available data sets and other sources of information. The five priority areas will guide our three-year Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP will provide a flexible set of objectives and strategies to help address the needs identified in the CHNA.

The CHIP was developed through various meetings with leaders from Connecticut Children's departments and community-oriented programs. In those meetings, a thorough review was conducted of the needs identified in the CHNA. Through this process, goals, objectives, and strategies were developed to help address the themes identified in the CHNA. Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health (the Office) houses the many programs and resources that connect the larger organization to community opportunities that contribute to the health and well-being of Connecticut's children. The Office's 17 programs engage in rigorous data collection and measurement to ensure that their efforts are effective.

Additionally, the development of the current CHIP resulted in the establishment of a Community Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee with Connecticut Children's community program leaders who will review the progress on the strategies implemented and opportunities for improvement.

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Healthy, Stable, and Secure Housing

Goal: Improve housing conditions and affordability to make housing healthy, stable and secure for Hartford families	
Objectives	Strategies / Activities
1. Decrease the number of families of children living in houses with hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Secure robust funding for Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes Program to remediate housing hazards including pests, mold, lead, among others.
2. Increase cross-collaboration between partners that address housing conditions to make houses more healthy, stable, and secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Create a strategy and implementation plan to expand and sustain the Building for Health program through key partnerships.Work with the Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance and the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline to actively share housing resources with the community.
3. Influence policies that promote healthy, stable and secure housing for families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes Program and Connecticut Children's Government Relations team should collaborate in identifying and supporting housing policy priorities each legislative session with a focus on, but not limited to: affordable, healthy, and stable housing.

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Access to Nutritious Foods

Goal: Improve access to nutritious food for Hartford children and families

Objectives	Strategies / Activities
<p>1. Expand access to programs that promote healthy nutrition and provide food to children and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide vouchers for fruits and vegetables at Connecticut Children’s Emergency Department and primary care settings. Provide such vouchers to families living in the North Hartford Promise Zone through the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline. • Provide education to families about proper nutrition to manage chronic conditions.
<p>2. Increase early detection of children and families with high risk of food insecurity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand food insecurity screenings into Connecticut Children’s Emergency Department and primary care settings. • Incentivize post surveys for food insecurity.
<p>3. Influence policies that promote access to healthy and nutritious food</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Start Childhood Off Right program, Connecticut Children’s Government Relations team, and other stakeholders should collaborate in identifying and supporting access to healthy and nutritious foods with a focus on, but not limited to: processed foods for children, relation of nutrition and preventable medical conditions, etc.

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Access to Healthcare

Goal: Identify and address barriers in access to healthcare for underserved and vulnerable families and children in Hartford	
Objectives	Strategies / Activities
<p>1. Improve access to medical and non-medical resources for families and children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide care coordination services in Connecticut Children’s primary care settings. • Strengthen collaboration with internal community-based programs and healthcare delivery services. • Develop strong partnerships with community-based programs and agencies.
<p>2. Expand value-based care models within primary care settings to increase quality and affordability of care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use quality improvement strategies within Connecticut Children’s Care Network to advocate for and negotiate value-based contracts.
<p>3. Expand the Connecticut Newborn Screening Network in primary care settings to identify gaps in care for children ages 0-5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate primary care providers affiliated with Connecticut Children’s Care Network about available newborn screening modules. • Partner with the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline to increase parent awareness of available resources for children diagnosed with congenital diseases.
<p>4. Influence policies that address barriers in the access of healthcare for underserved and vulnerable populations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecticut Children’s Care Network, Connecticut Children’s Center for Care Coordination, Connecticut Children’s Government Relations team, and other teams should collaborate on identifying and supporting bills with a focus on, but not limited to: cost of care, access to care, insurance coverage for mental health conditions, insurance coverage for underserved populations, and addressing health disparities.

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Educational and Occupational Opportunities

Goal: Increase access to learning, higher education, and workforce development opportunities for Hartford children, youth and caregivers.

Objectives	Strategies / Activities
<p>1. Facilitate school readiness initiatives aimed to increase reading level among children and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline, including community engagement and marketing and communications activities. • Facilitate partnership and collaboration between aligned early childhood stakeholder groups. • Support initiatives such as the Imagination Library and the United Way Readers programs. • Support the Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance’s community outreach to children eligible to participate in the annual book contest.
<p>2. Facilitate access to higher education opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline, including community engagement and marketing and communications activities. • Support the Southside Institution’s Neighborhood Alliance in providing scholarship opportunities for Hartford Residents and STEM-related education initiatives.
<p>3. Promote access to workforce development and job training programs to youth, parents and caregivers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline, including community engagement and marketing and communications activities. • Support the Southside Institution’s Neighborhood Alliance’s Walk to Work program and other education and training opportunities to increase placement of local residents in jobs at member institutions. • Provide internship opportunities at Connecticut Children's for Hartford youth.

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Safe Neighborhood and Violence Prevention

Goal: Decrease violence and violent injuries in Hartford neighborhoods	
Objectives	Strategies / Activities
1. Reduce violent re-injury for gunshot wounds among youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead the city-wide Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program.• Hire Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program experts to adequately connect patients to the right support services.
2. Influence policies that promote safe neighborhoods and violence prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connecticut Children's Injury Prevention Center and Connecticut Children's Government Relations team should collaborate in identifying and supporting violence prevention policy priorities with a focus on, but not limited to: firearms, family violence prevention, hospital-based violence intervention, teen driver safety, pedestrian safety, and mental health initiatives.