



Penn
Highlands
Huntingdon



Penn
Highlands
State College

A Campus of Penn Highlands Huntingdon

Empowering Communities:

Unveiling Health Needs, Driving Positive Change

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

IN RESPONSE TO THE PENN HIGHLANDS HUNTINGDON COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT
(CHNA)



2024

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MISSION STATEMENT

To provide you with exceptional care through our community-based health system while maintaining a reverence for life.





VISION STATEMENT

To be the integrated health system of choice through excellent quality, service, and outcomes.

Penn Highlands Healthcare's mission statement focuses on improving regional access to a wide array of premier primary care and advanced services; it does so while supporting a reverence for life and the worth and dignity of each individual. The linkage provides the ability to keep control of the hospitals in the hands of a local board and provides many other community benefits. Increased local access to physician specialists, improved quality, coordination of care, and increased physician recruitment and retention are significant benefits of the linkage.

INTRODUCTION

PENN HIGHLANDS HEALTHCARE

Penn Highlands Healthcare, established in 2011, is a health system in Northwestern/Central/Southwest Pennsylvania. Penn Highlands Healthcare serves a 26-county region that brings together the services of Penn Highlands Brookville, Penn Highlands Clearfield (a campus of Penn Highlands DuBois), Penn Highlands Connellsville, Penn Highlands DuBois, Penn Highlands Elk, Penn Highlands Huntingdon, Penn Highlands Mon Valley, Penn Highlands Tyrone, and Penn Highlands State College (a campus of Penn Highlands Huntingdon). Through this partnership, Penn Highlands Healthcare has evolved into an organization with 6,200 employees in more than 100 regional locations, including community medical buildings, outpatient facilities, surgery centers, and physician practices.

Penn Highlands Healthcare provides exceptional quality care to the region. Its staff includes 764 physicians and 389 advanced practice providers. The facilities have 742 inpatient beds, 388 long-term care beds, 276-person care beds, and 174 independent living units.

Penn Highlands Healthcare provides residents access to the region's best hospitals, physicians, two nursing homes, a home care agency, and other affiliates who believe that healthcare should be managed by board members who live and work in their communities. The hospitals of Penn Highlands Healthcare have been serving the residents of Northwestern/Central/Southwest Pennsylvania as nonprofit community organizations for more than 100 years, a valued and cherished commitment.



PENN HIGHLANDS HUNTINGDON

Penn Highlands Huntingdon is a 71-bed, non-profit community hospital located on “Hospital Hill” overlooking Huntingdon. Founded in 1911 by Kate Fisher Blair, the widow of John Chalmers Blair, J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital has undergone many expansion and renovation projects to continuously meet the changing healthcare needs of residents in its surrounding communities.

In 2019, the hospital joined the Penn Highlands Healthcare system and was renamed Penn Highlands Huntingdon. The hospital is a progressive and diverse medical center with a friendly, well-trained, professional staff. We are continually upgrading technology and procedures with a constant commitment to improving the quality of patient care.

With an active medical staff of nearly 40 physicians, over 400 employees, and more than 40 active volunteers, Penn Highlands Huntingdon stands ready to provide care 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year with medical, surgical, pediatric, and intensive care services, along with an emergency room, urgent care, medical imaging, wound care, integrated behavioral health, and more inpatient and outpatient services.

PENN HIGHLANDS STATE COLLEGE

Penn Highlands State College opened in the summer of 2024 and is set to revolutionize healthcare in Centre County by bringing Northwestern and Central Pennsylvania’s premier medical services to the region. The construction of a state-of-the-art \$70 million hospital and medical office building marks a significant investment in the community’s health infrastructure. The new facility mirrors the exceptional standard of care that Penn Highlands Healthcare is renowned for across its eight other hospitals. Penn Highlands State College is designed to deliver skilled and compassionate medical attention, ensuring patients receive top-tier treatment in a modern and comfortable environment. In addition to the hospital, the adjacent Medical Office Building will offer convenient outpatient services, streamlining access to healthcare and enhancing patient experience. This strategic expansion not only aims to meet the growing healthcare needs of Centre County residents but also reinforces the Penn Highlands State College commitment to providing accessible, high-quality medical care. By integrating comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services within proximity, Penn Highlands is poised to become a pivotal healthcare hub, fostering improved health outcomes and serving as a beacon of excellence in the region’s medical landscape.

PENN HIGHLANDS HUNTINGDON AND PENN HIGHLANDS STATE COLLEGE **SERVICES**

PENN HIGHLANDS HUNTINGDON SERVICES

Behavioral health
Breast Health
Cancer Care – Outpatient Infusion Center. Hematology, Medical Oncology
Cardiac Rehab
Cardiology
Carpal Tunnel Treatment
Diabetes and Nutrition Wellness Center
Emergency Care
Gastroenterology
General Surgery
Heart Catheterization
Infusion Services
Joint Replacement Program
Inpatient and Intermediate Care
Lab Services
Mammography
Medical Imaging (Radiology)
Nuclear Medicine
Occupational Therapy
Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
Otorhinolaryngology (ENT)
(PET) Positron Emission Tomography
Pulmonary Rehab
Swing Bed
Walk-in Care
Women’s Health Services

PENN HIGHLANDS STATE COLLEGE SERVICES

Cancer Care
Emergency Care
Family Medicine
General Surgery
Imaging Services
Lab Services
Medical Oncology
Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
Primary Care
Pulmonary Care
Radiation Oncology
Surgical Services
Walk-in Care

PENN HIGHLANDS HUNTINGDON AWARDS

2024 Patient Safety Excellence Award
2024 Chartis Center for Rural Health Top 100 Rural and Community Hospital
2023 Becker's Top Hospital (five stars) for Staff Responsiveness
2023 The Chartis Center for Rural Health Top 100 Rural and Community Hospitals
2022 The Chartis Center for Rural Health - Performance Leadership Award in Outcomes
2022 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) 3-Star Rating
2022 The Chartis Center for Rural Health Top 100 Rural and Community Hospitals
2021 The Chartis Center for Rural Health Top 100 Rural and Community Hospital

PENN HIGHLANDS HUNTINGDON ACCREDITATIONS

2023 American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Accredited - Cardiac Rehab
2023 American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Accredited - Pulmonary Rehab
2023 Corazon's Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions - endorsed Accreditation
2023 Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) Certification - Mammography
2023 American College of Radiology (ACR) Accreditation - All Digital/3D Mammography
2022 American College of Radiology (ACR) Accreditation - Mammography - Huntingdon
2022 American College of Radiology (ACR) Accreditation - Ultrasound - Huntingdon
2022 American College of Radiology (ACR) Accreditation - Nuclear Medicine - Huntingdon
2022 American College of Radiology (ACR) Accreditation - CT Scan - Huntingdon
2022 American College of Radiology (ACR) Accreditation - Low Dose Lung CT - Huntingdon
2022 American College of Radiology (ACR) Accreditation - MRI - Huntingdon
2022 Corazon Accreditation - Cardiac Cath Lab
2022 College of American Pathologists (CAP) Accreditation - Laboratory Services
2022 College of American Pathologists (CAP) Accreditation - Laboratory Service - Blood Gas
2021-2024 Joint Commission Accreditation
2021-2023 Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) Accreditation - Echo
2021 PA Department of Human Services Certification - Inpatient Psychiatric Unit
2021 Workplace Safety Committee Certification

BACKGROUND

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), all nonprofit hospitals must perform a Community Health Needs Assessment every three years. This process ensures that hospitals stay responsive to the evolving health needs of their communities. The CHNA must define the hospital's community, gather input from a wide range of stakeholders, including public health experts and community members, and assess the most pressing health needs in the area. Once the health needs are identified, hospitals must prioritize them based on their significance and develop an implementation strategy to address them. The Implementation Strategy Plan should include potential measures, partnerships, and resources available to effectively tackle the identified issues, helping hospitals align their efforts with the well-being of their communities.


IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY PLAN REPORT PURPOSE

The ISP report for a CHNA is a critical document that outlines how identified health priorities will be addressed within a community. The ISP report aims to identify the goals, objectives, and strategies that Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College will use to address the health priorities identified in the recent CHNA. The findings from the CHNA will outline actionable steps that healthcare organizations and their community partners will take to improve health outcomes. The ISP report details strategies, resources, and partnerships necessary to tackle the most pressing health issues, ensuring the proposed initiatives are impactful. By providing a clear roadmap, the ISP fosters collaboration among various sectors, aligning efforts to create meaningful improvements in the health and well-being of the community.

PENN HIGHLANDS HEALTHCARE

OVERALL PRIORITIZED NEEDS

Extensive primary and secondary research identified key regional priorities for community members, leaders, and project leadership. The research illustrated the need to address access to care, behavioral health, and chronic diseases/conditions. Each key need area had subareas of concentration. The table below illustrates how each hospital within Penn Highlands Healthcare will address the needs within its region.

 Penn Highlands Healthcare	ACCESS TO CARE			BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ²	CHRONIC DISEASES/CONDITIONS ³	
	Infrastructure ⁴	Lack of PCP/Specialist ⁵	Specialty care ⁶		Health Behaviors ⁷	Social Determinants of Health ⁸
Penn Highlands Brookville	●	●	●	●	●	●
Penn Highlands Clearfield/Penn Highlands Dubois	●	●	●	●	●	
Penn Highlands Elk	●	●	●	●	●	
Penn Highlands Huntingdon/Penn Highlands State College	●	●	●	●	●	●
Penn Highlands Tyrone	●	●	●	●	●	●
Penn Highlands Connellsville	●	●	●	●	●	●
Penn Highlands Mon Valley⁹	●	●	●	●	●	●

² Behavioral health (Mental Health & Substance Abuse)

³ Chronic diseases/conditions (e.g., diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, high blood pressure)

⁴ Infrastructure (e.g., care coordination, navigation, and transportation)

⁵ Lack of primary care physicians (PCP)/Physician specialists

⁶ Specialty care (e.g., cancer care, women's health)

⁷ Health behaviors (e.g., nutrition, physical activity, obesity)

⁸ Social determinants of health (e.g., education, income etc.)

⁹ PH Mon Valley CHNA needs are Diabetes Deaths, Stroke Deaths, Mammography/Breast Cancer, and Colorectal Cancer Deaths. Therefore, it has been classified under Chronic Diseases/Conditions.



2024-2027 PENN HIGHLANDS HUNTINGDON AND PENN HIGHLANDS STATE COLLEGE **PRIORITIZED NEEDS**

Senior leaders from Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College reviewed the previous Implementation Strategy Plan and refined and reinforced key strategies. They prioritized specific initiatives and explored ways to sustain and enhance services for the broader community through the updated plan. Senior leadership from Penn Highlands Healthcare, Penn Highlands Huntingdon, and Penn Highlands State College contributed to the CHNA/ISP working group. Moving forward, senior leaders will regularly evaluate the strategy plan, making adjustments as needed to better align with the community's evolving health needs.

The CHNA for Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College highlighted the following community needs. This assessment evaluated the community's health status and developed direct initiatives and planning strategies to enhance it. Through this assessment, new partnerships were established, and existing relationships with local and regional agencies were strengthened, all with the overarching goal of improving health outcomes for residents in the region.

PENN HIGHLANDS HUNTINGDON AND PENN HIGHLANDS STATE COLLEGE CHNA NEEDS

ACCESS TO CARE Infrastructure Lack of Primary Care Physicians/Physician Specialists Specialty Care	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	CHRONIC DISEASES/CONDITIONS Health Behaviors Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY ADDITIONAL NOTES

The ISP is not meant to provide an exhaustive list of how each hospital addresses the community's needs. Instead, it highlights specific actions the hospital commits to pursuing and tracking in response to the identified priorities. While the strategy tables list internal and external partners, numerous clinical departments will collaborate on these efforts. Their involvement may include participation in clinical programs and protocols or contributing to educational outreach by sharing knowledge individually or as a team, all with the goal of addressing the community's health needs.

PENN HIGHLANDS HEALTHCARE HOSPITALS

Each Penn Highlands Healthcare hospital conducted a CHNA and ISP; however, each report varies because of the distinct characteristics and needs of each hospital's primary service area and the research and discovery process used to determine the community health needs. A workgroup of representatives from the Penn Highlands Healthcare hospitals collaborated to define a consistent format and approach to the CHNA and ISP.

ACCESS TO CARE

Access to healthcare is essential for fostering a healthy community by ensuring individuals receive timely and appropriate medical services. It involves factors such as the availability of healthcare providers, affordability of services, transportation options, and insurance coverage. When access is optimized, people can benefit from preventive care, manage chronic conditions effectively, and receive urgent treatment, leading to improved health outcomes and reduced healthcare costs. However, barriers to access can result in delayed diagnoses, untreated conditions, and increased reliance on emergency services, negatively impacting health and driving up medical expenses. The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion emphasizes the importance of comprehensive, high-quality healthcare services in preventing disease, managing chronic conditions, and promoting health equity. Meeting these challenges is becoming increasingly complex, particularly in states like Pennsylvania, where physician shortages are projected to exacerbate access issues. The Association of American Medical Colleges predicts a nationwide shortage of 86,000 physicians by 2036 because of a growing elderly population and physician retirements.¹⁰ To maintain current care levels, Pennsylvania will need an additional 1,039 primary care physicians by 2030, an 11% increase from the 2010 workforce.¹¹

Primary and specialty physicians are essential for comprehensive healthcare management, with primary care providers often serving as the first point of contact, offering preventive care, routine checkups, and early intervention for common conditions. On the other hand, specialty physicians provide advanced expertise for diagnosing and treating complex conditions requiring specialized care. Access to these services reduces the burden on emergency departments and ensures more cost-effective and efficient healthcare. Specialty care, such as cancer treatment and women's health services, is critical in addressing unique health needs by offering early detection and tailored treatment plans, significantly improving patient outcomes. However, transportation challenges can pose significant barriers to accessing care, especially for vulnerable populations in rural and low-income areas. Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College are committed to overcoming these barriers by expanding primary and specialty care availability, enhancing specialty services, and addressing transportation gaps to ensure equitable access to healthcare. This focus on community-specific needs fosters sustainable health improvements and promotes overall well-being for the populations it serves.

¹⁰ [Association of American Medical Colleges](#)

¹¹ [The Robert Graham Center](#)

Goal: Improve access to care to residents within the Penn Highlands Healthcare service area.

CHNA Need	Subcategory	Target Population	Objectives/Strategies	Evaluation Methods/Metrics (Goals)	Partners
Access to Care	Infrastructure	Huntingdon County/Centre County residents who do not have a PCP.	Expand accessibility, awareness and promotion of PCP and Urgent Care facility in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of community events/fairs in which PHHD/PHSC participates and social media postings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social media PHH PCP Providers
	Infrastructure	Huntingdon County residents, PHSC Community	Distribute informational material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of community events/ fairs in which PHHD/PHSC participates and social media postings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huntingdon County CBOs, Centre County CBOs
	Infrastructure	Huntingdon County residents, PHSC Community	Engage community partners at health fairs and school district functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of functions in which Penn Highlands Huntingdon and PH State College participates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huntingdon County CBOs, Centre County CBOs Local school districts
	Infrastructure	Huntingdon County residents, PHSC Community	Recruit primary and specialty care providers using PHH recruitment plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of providers recruited. Number of transfers out of Penn Highlands Huntingdon/ State College. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHH PHHD medical staff
	Infrastructure	Huntingdon County residents	Increase number of Huntingdon County residents that receive care at Urgent Care by 2% per FY.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase visits by 2% in FY25, 26, 27 to equal 6% increase. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing PHH
	Infrastructure	Huntingdon County residents, PHSC Community	Expand hours and locations for urgent care according to market data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase urgent care visits. Track volumes per times/dates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing PHH
	Infrastructure	Patients in need of higher level of care services in Huntingdon County/ Centre County	Provide ambulance transportation to patient held in emergency room needing higher level of care, provide sources of transportation/listing of transportation options to residents of county, PHH Connect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in ED through output data. The number of hospital funded transports. Increase number of support transport offered from system to ensure timely discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local EMS PHH Connect AAA CART Taxi
	Lack of PCP/ Specialist	PHSC Community/PHHD residents	Expand pulmonology services to the PHSC market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand service 1 day/week. Number of low dose lung screenings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHSC PHHD
	Lack of PCP/ Specialist	Provide and enhance cancer care services to Huntingdon County residents and PHSC area residents	Recruit oncology services, provide treatment options within the Penn Highlands Huntingdon, PHSC system such as infusion services to prevent patients from traveling out of county for treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of PHHD/PHSC providers recruited. The volume of patients served in the infusion center. Number of patients using screening tools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Practices PHHD/PHSC

Goal: Early Detection and Prevention

CHNA Need	Subcategory	Target Population	Objectives/Strategies	Evaluation Methods/Metrics (Goals)	Partners
Cancer	Specialty Care	Adults Elderly and at-risk population Residents with suspected cancer conditions	Increase community awareness and engagement regarding cancer prevention and screening.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of public speaking events. Number of attendees Pre-and post-test results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physicians APP's Registered nurses
	Specialty Care	Adults Elderly and at-risk population	Seek opportunities for public speaking engagements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of speaking events Number of attendees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physicians APP's Registered nurse
	Specialty Care	Elderly and at-risk population Residents with suspected cancer conditions	Feature monthly awareness campaigns to the community regarding specific cancer month. Example: March Colon and October Breast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the number of colonoscopies conducted across PHHD Increase in the number of mammograms across PHHD/PHSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharm companies Area Agency on Aging Practice Management
	Specialty Care	General population	Increase cancer awareness among influential groups and the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of presentations made Number of participants reached 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physicians APP's Registered nurses



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Behavioral health, encompassing mental health and substance use disorders, plays a vital role in shaping overall community health and well-being. Conditions such as depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder, along with substance use disorders, can lead to significant physical health problems, disability, and reduced productivity. In Pennsylvania, nearly 20% of adults reported experiencing a mental illness in the past year, with mental health-related issues increasing over time.¹² The percentage of adults reporting poor mental health for 14 or more days in a month rose from 12% in 2014 to 14% in 2021, with higher rates among those earning less than \$15,000 and individuals identifying as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. Suicide remains a pressing public health issue, with 1,686 Pennsylvanians dying by suicide in 2020, marking a 5% increase over the previous decade. Particularly concerning are rising suicide rates among Black, Hispanic, and older adults. Concurrently, Pennsylvania continues to grapple with the opioid crisis, recording 5,168 overdose deaths in 2021, underscoring the urgency of addressing behavioral health issues.¹³

Including behavioral health in CHNAs allows communities to better understand the prevalence and impact of these conditions, facilitating targeted interventions and resource allocation. Stigma, lack of insurance, and insufficient provider availability often prevent individuals from accessing necessary behavioral health services, with rural areas facing an acute shortage of mental health professionals. By identifying these gaps, communities can advocate for increased funding, policy reforms, and implementing programs that improve access to behavioral health services. A multifaceted approach to behavioral health involves integrating services with primary care to provide holistic treatment, expanding access through telehealth, and reducing financial barriers. Fostering support networks, such as peer and family support programs, can strengthen community resilience. Through these strategies and leveraging data to address service gaps, communities can enhance behavioral health outcomes, promote well-being, and build healthier, more resilient populations.

¹² [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#)

¹³ [Pennsylvania Department of Health: The State of our Health, A Statewide Health Assessment of Pennsylvania](#)

Goal: Collaborate with community substance abuse providers to reduce substance abuse.

CHNA Need	Subcategory	Target Population	Objectives/Strategies	Evaluation Methods/Metrics (Goals)	Partners
Behavioral Health	Behavioral Health	Residents of Huntingdon County	Address barriers that impede the ability to meet the assessment and treatment demand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of ED patients seeking D&A treatment • Number of outreach meetings with SPORT 40 grant, D&A taskforce in which Penn Highlands Huntingdon staff participate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream Counseling • Juniata County D&A • SPORT 40 Consortium members • SPORT 40 members (opioid abuse/disorders – grant funded program) • Broad Top Group • VISTA program
	Behavioral Health	People presenting at the local emergency room	Identify available transportation to treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four partnerships developed with local transportation providers, Constable, Uber, and D&A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constables • Uber (GO Dezi), PHH Connect, Keep Safe • Drug and Alcohol treatment providers
	Behavioral Health	Patient of PHH facilities	Identify treatment options available locally for warm handoffs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with PHH intake center to provide patients with substance abuse disorder a warm handoff to services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient D&A treatment centers, Inpatient Services

CHRONIC DISEASES/CONDITIONS

Chronic diseases are long-lasting conditions that develop gradually, significantly affecting an individual's quality of life. These health issues, which persist for over a year and require ongoing medical attention or limit daily activities, include heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and respiratory conditions. Chronic diseases are the leading causes of death and disability worldwide, driven by a combination of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. Key risk factors—such as poor nutrition, physical inactivity, smoking, and excessive alcohol consumption—exacerbate these conditions. In the United States, chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are significant contributors to healthcare costs, with 90% of the nation's \$4.5 trillion annual healthcare expenditure going toward treating individuals with chronic and mental health conditions.¹⁴ However, engaging in healthy behaviors—such as regular physical activity, a balanced diet, and eliminating tobacco and alcohol use—can reduce the risk of chronic disease and improve quality of life.

Healthy lifestyle choices, including physical activity and balanced nutrition, are essential for managing chronic diseases and maintaining overall well-being. Although regular physical activity can help prevent conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity, only one in four U.S. adults meets recommended physical activity guidelines.¹⁵ Obesity affects 20% of children and 42% of adults, increasing their risk for chronic conditions, and more than 25% of young people aged 17 to 24 are too overweight to qualify for military service.¹⁶ Effective management of chronic diseases involves regular screenings, patient education, and adherence to treatment plans. At Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College, a comprehensive approach includes monitoring patients' health, promoting education, and coordinating care among providers. Community-based programs focused on lifestyle changes, such as improved nutrition and increased physical activity, have led to better management of diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. These initiatives have resulted in fewer hospital admissions, enhanced quality of life, and reduced healthcare costs. Collaboration among healthcare providers, government agencies, and community organizations fosters a supportive environment, encouraging residents to participate actively in their health management and promoting sustainable, positive health outcomes.

¹⁴ [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

¹⁵ [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

¹⁶ [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)



Goal: Expand awareness and services to promote preventive health and wellness throughout the community.

CHNA Need	Subcategory	Target Population	Objectives/Strategies	Evaluation Methods/Metrics (Goals)	Partners
Chronic Diseases/ Conditions	SDOH	Hospital physician offices Nursing home employees Patient visitors Physicians Other cafeteria guests	Promote healthy selections in the hospital cafeteria for visitors and employees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinction of Healthy choice on menu. • Customer survey of foods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC • Food vendors • Marketing
	SDOH	Local residents of communities served	Increase availability of food resources to address food insecurities of local residents, support local food pantries, volunteer at local food lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold two food drives per year for local pantries, food box located at PHH facilities to provide patients with needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Food Pantries • Marketing
	Health Behaviors	Residents of PHHD and PHSC communities	Chronic Disease Focus to bring new items to address to the table including follow up calls with pts to address needs post hospital stay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure of new services offered addressing chronic disease management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHH staff • Local Vendors

STRATEGIES

NO LONGER BEING ADDRESSED

Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College streamlined and combined some strategies from their implementation planning documents to enhance the report's clarity, focus, and overall effectiveness. By consolidating overlapping or related strategies, the ISP document avoids redundancy and presents a more cohesive and unified approach to achieving the desired goals. The final report helps to simplify the execution process by aligning resources and efforts, reducing confusion or fragmentation across different teams. It also enables clearer communication of priorities to stakeholders, making it easier to track progress and measure success. Furthermore, integrating strategies allows for better allocation of resources, as efforts are concentrated on the most impactful actions, improving overall efficiency. A more streamlined report also demonstrates a strategic vision, showcasing an organization's ability to adapt, innovate, and implement solutions in a coordinated, impactful manner.

Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College acknowledged a number of health needs that emerged from the CHNA process. Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College focused on areas of need where effective use of existing knowledge and resources offered the greatest potential impact. Accordingly, some objectives and strategies from the previous ISP were discontinued or are no longer offered because of unforeseen challenges, including resource constraints, lack of engagement, shifting priorities, and insufficient resources (staffing limitations and financial limitations/restrictions). As such, Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College can no longer implement the following:

ACCESS TO CARE:

- Recruit ten providers per year for 3 years.
 - The hospital cannot recruit the number of proposed physicians due to the unrealistic timeframe and insufficient funding to support the recruitment process.

CANCER:

- Progressively expand advocacy groups, including community volunteers and patient groups, to cover all regions
 - Unable to address due to the decreased number of unavailable volunteers to provide this service.
- Tri-county Sunday Education articles for The Community Radio Education Spots
 - Unable to address as there is uncertainty that the service is available in the area.
- Monthly Social Committee Meetings
 - Unable to address during COVID and not being held in our area.
- Engage and mobilize key stakeholders within the cancer community who will champion the development and implementation of an awareness plan for cancer prevention
 - Unable to address due to practice just opening and currently working on staffing and building patient census.
- Develop relationships with stakeholders within the cancer community
 - Unable to address due to current work on building patient census and practices.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:

- Develop a list of hospital detox beds and rehabs in the area.
 - This has been completed.

CHRONIC DISEASES/CONDITIONS:

- Expand diabetes services by offering weekly individual diabetes education.
 - Unable to address due to loss of the diabetic educator during Covid.
- Maintain enrollment as a Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Provider.
 - Unable to address due to loss of the diabetic educator during COVID.
- Prevent T2 and provide programming to help patients with weight loss.
 - Unable to address due to program no longer being offered.
- Offer diabetes prevention programming throughout the PHH service area by beginning with 1 cohort per year.
 - Unable to address due to lack of diabetic educator.
- Create education material, including menus/grocery lists for PHH patients on healthy eating at the local dollar stores.
 - Discontinued due to insufficient staffing resources.
- Provide menus electronically to partners for distribution to their recipients.
 - Unable to address due to staffing and inability to provide this resource.
- Implement CDC's red, yellow, green label program
 - Unable to address due to new dietary group, which does not use this program.

Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College will continue supporting community partners with the expertise, capacity, and focused resources to address the region's needs effectively.

MOVING FORWARD

The Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College community health needs identified in the CHNA are multifaceted. Reducing/decreasing, eliminating, or improving access to care, behavioral health, and chronic diseases/conditions requires continued collaboration among the local health, human, and social services agencies, community partners, and residents.

With continued alignment and partnership with organizations and community residents, Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College will continue to engage residents as part of the CHNA and ISP. The implemented strategies and initiatives will strengthen Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College for all citizens within the service area.

RESOURCE COMMITMENT

Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College will commit in-kind and financial resources during this CHNA cycle to implement the identified initiatives and programs. Resources may include clinical and non-clinical services, partnerships, collaboration for solutions, dedicated staff time to advance the Penn Highlands Huntingdon and Penn Highlands State College work, charitable contributions, and volunteerism that will occur naturally within the ISP phase.

Penn Highlands Healthcare welcomes and values your feedback regarding the Community Health Needs Assessment and the Implementation Strategy Plan. Your insights are essential in helping us better understand the community's needs and ensuring our strategies effectively address them. Please share your thoughts, suggestions, or concerns to help us refine our efforts and create a healthier, more vibrant community.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a mound of dark, rich soil. To the right of the hand, a small, vibrant green seedling with several leaves is growing out of a mound of soil. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green field, suggesting a garden or farm setting. The lighting is warm and natural, highlighting the textures of the soil and the freshness of the plant.

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