

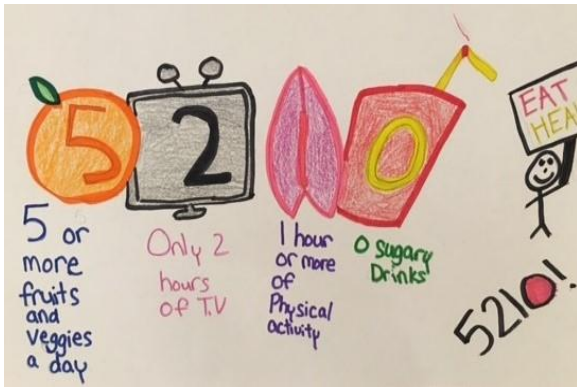
**Indian River County  
Community Health Improvement Plan  
Jan 2022 – December 2026  
Version 1.3**

Released January 1, 2022



Revised: February 20, 2024

# Indian River County Community Health Improvement Plan Jan 2022 – December 2026 Version 1.3



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## Executive Summary

The Indian River County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is the product of continuous improvement through diverse partner engagement. The broad spectrum of stakeholders dedicated time, energy and resources to creating an actionable five-year plan for Indian River County with the hope of improving the quality of life of residents in Indian River County.

The CHIP was developed in context of the vision, mission and values set forth by the Florida Department of Health in Indian River (DOH-Indian River). This community-driven plan is the result of ongoing input and participation of countless individuals, agencies and organizations.

An advisory committee composed of individuals representing county government, non-profit organizations and DOH-Indian River began meeting in March 2019 to develop a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), sometimes referred to elsewhere in the community as the Community Needs Assessment (CNA). The focus of the meetings was to analyze data and identify the health need priorities of the residents of Indian River County and make recommendations for future policy and systemic change.

Using the health need priorities identified by the advisory committee as a basis, work began on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), a framework and a plan of action to improve health outcomes of the residents of Indian River County over the next five years. Three working groups were formed to focus on each identified health priority. The working groups also integrated Health Equity as a component of each of the three health priorities.

The CHIP development process was facilitated by DOH-Indian River. The process included assessing the health needs of the community, prioritizing health needs, and devising an improvement plan through strategic planning. The identified health priorities outlined in this plan are based on the review of quantitative data and qualitative data from various key stakeholders and community members. The top health priorities identified during this process are:

- Health
- Housing
- Economic Opportunity & Employment

To appropriately align goals, objectives and strategies with the health priorities of the county, the advisory committee determined to identify the root causes of each priority. Factors contributing to the health priorities are reflected in the Indian River County CHIP. Successively, members of the advisory committee formulated goals and objectives, as well as outlined action steps for each health priority.

## Acknowledgments

The 2022-2026 Indian River Community Health Improvement Plan is a product of partnership and participation among a broad spectrum in the public health system that came together to improve the quality of lives of individuals residing in Indian River County. Stakeholders, along with community members, came together to improve services in Indian River County. The participation and dedication of these individuals, as advocates for their agencies and the populations they serve, brought tremendous value to the community health improvement planning process.

Florida Department of Health in Indian River wishes to extend our appreciation to all the organizations who committed to improving access to health care on behalf of the residents of Indian River County. Their insights were essential to identifying health need priorities and developing an improvement plan focused on creating a healthier Indian River County. Special recognition is due to the following entities and individuals that served on the advisory committee panels and/or played a valuable role in the community health improvement planning process:

- 211 Palm Beach / Treasure Coast
- CareerSource Research Coast
- City of Fellsmere
- Cleveland Clinic
- Coalition for Attainable Homes
- Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.
- Fellsmere Action Community Team (FACT)
- Fellsmere Community Prayer and Worship Center
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Head Start of Indian River County
- Homeless Children's Foundation of Indian River County
- Hope for Families Center
- Indian River County Board of County Commissioners
- Indian River County Chamber of Commerce
- Indian River County Community Development Department
- Indian River County Habitat for Humanity
- Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.
- Indian River County Human Services
- Indian River County Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Indian River County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Indian River County Parks and Recreation Department
- Indian River County Sheriff's Office
- Indian River Community Foundation
- Indian River Hospital District
- John's Island Community Service League
- Marsh Landing
- Mending Pieces
- Mental Health Association in Indian River County, Inc.
- Mental Health Collaborative of Indian River County
- Nurse Family Partnership of the Treasure Coast
- Robert Solari, Indian River County Board of County Commissioners, retired
- Senior Collaborative of Indian River County
- Senior Resource Association
- Substance Awareness Center of Indian River County
- Technology Partners
- The Arc of Indian River County
- The Mental Health Collaborative of Indian River County
- Treasure Coast Community Health
- Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, Inc.
- Treasure Coast Technical College
- United Against Poverty
- United Way of Indian River County
- Visiting Nurse Association of the Treasure Coast

## Introduction

In 2019, major funding organizations, donor groups, county government and community leaders came together to conduct a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Over a span of one year, the group worked together with an independent consultant to gather, review and analyze information. Over 50 nonprofit agencies participated through their leadership, their staff and their clients. Recent studies were included, and a wide range of subject matter experts were consulted. Surveys published in Creole, English and Spanish were distributed to residents from across the County, including those that are most economically challenged, giving them the ability to express their needs in writing, or verbally during focus groups.

This CHNA forms the foundation of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in Indian River County. The CHIP assessed the health needs of Indian River County through the collection, compilation and review of quantitative and qualitative data. The results of this assessment were used to aid in the identification of health needs priorities in Indian River County by a diverse group of stakeholders forming three working groups.

The CHIP is a strategic and actionable plan for improving health outcomes in Indian River County from 2022 to 2026. The CHIP is a set of goals, objectives and activities set forth by the working groups to help guide planning efforts for health policymakers, stakeholders and health care providers in Indian River County.

## Timeline

April 2019	A group of individuals representing county government, non-profit organizations and Florida Department of Health in Indian River (DOH-Indian River) engaged the Q-Q Research to facilitate the Collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) process.
January 2020	A Community Assessment Survey (CAS) was developed and distributed to Indian River County communities including: Fellsmere, Wabasso, Roseland, Orchid, Windsor, Oslo Park / Vero Highlands, City of Vero Beach, West Vero Beach, Gifford, West Wabasso, Winter Beach, Summer Place, Florida Ridge, Dixie Heights and Sebastian.
May 2020	Results of the CAS were collected, and recommendations were made based on the results of the survey and data compiled between 2014 and 2018.
November 2020	A Community Health Needs Assessment and Planning Stakeholders meeting was held to review the community health needs assessment and CAS results. Consensus on the top three priorities issues based on current data and changing needs were health, housing and economic opportunity and employment.
Early 2021	Three working groups were assembled as the foundation of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) from local organizations, government agencies and community members actively involved in the health, housing and economic improvement fields.
May 2021	The first meetings for each of the panels reviewed qualitative and quantitative data relating to health, housing and economic opportunity and employment in Indian River County.
June 2021	The second meeting of the panels identified and selected goals and objectives.
July 2021	The third meeting of the panels identified and selected objectives and actions.
October 2021	The fourth meeting of the panels reviewed and refined a draft of the CHIP.
November 2021	Florida Department of Health in Indian River (DOH-Indian River), Performance Management Council reviewed the draft CHIP and approved it for finalization and submission.
December 2021	Finalized CHIP.
2022 - 2026	CHIP implementation.

# Indian River County Snapshot

## Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile

- The 2020 population census in Indian River County was 159,788, comprising 0.74% of Florida's population, and has been steadily increasing since 2009.
- Nearly one third (32.4%) of residents in the county are 65 years or older, more than the rate of Florida, which is 20.4%.
- Just under one fifth (18.3%) of individuals in Indian River County are under 19 years of age.
- In 2019, 74.5% of the population identified as White and 9.3% identified as Black or African American. Additionally, 12.9% of residents in Indian River County identified as Hispanic.
- In 2019, 12.1% of Indian River County residents lived below the poverty level, which is under \$26,500 for a family of four.
- In 2019, 27.1% of residents who identified as Black or African American lived below the poverty line, higher than any other racial or ethnic group by at least 10%, which represents a racial disparity.
- Geographically, Fellsmere (32948) and Vero Beach (32960 and 32967) had over 25% of residents living below the federal poverty line in 2019.
- In Indian River County, 7.3% of the labor force was unemployed, higher than the state at 6.4%; however, percent unemployment has been decreasing steadily since 2014.
- In 2020 (pre-COVID), the protective factor prevalence rates (family opportunities and rewards for prosocial involvement, school opportunities and rewards for prosocial involvement, and religiosity) for middle and high school students was 51%.
- In the 2019-20 school year, the high school graduation rate in Indian River County was 93.4%, higher than that of Florida at 90.0%.
- In 2019, 10.6% of the population 25 years and older did not have a high school diploma or GED.
- In 2019, 33% of adults in the county were "housing cost-burdened" (paying more than 30% of their monthly income on rent or mortgage).

## Health Status Profile

- In 2019, nearly 3 out of 5 adults (59.7%) in Indian River County were overweight or obese. Of these, 58.0% were male and 51.9% were female.
- The rate of obesity among adults in Indian River County in 2019 was 25.6%, lower than the state's rate of 27.0%.
- In 2020, 68.1% of middle and high school students in Indian River County were at a healthy weight, compared to 65.3% statewide.
- From 2010 to 2020, the rate of students at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile in BMI in the county increased from 9.5% to 10.5% for middle school and decreased from 14.3% to 12.9% for high school.
- In 2019, 26.7% of Indian River County adults were sedentary. However, of non-Hispanic Black adults, 40.9% were sedentary; and individuals earning less than \$50,000 annually were also twice as sedentary as those earning more.
- In 2019, 20.5% of Indian River County adults engaged in heavy or binge drinking, the 8<sup>th</sup> highest county rate in Florida and higher than the state rate of 18.0%.



- In 2020 (pre-COVID), 20.9% of Indian River County high school students had been exposed to at least four ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences); exposure to four or more ACEs is considered a high level of trauma.
- In 2020 (pre-COVID), the ACE most frequently experienced by high school students was parents separated or divorced (40% of students). The next two most frequently experienced ACEs were mental illness in the household (32% of students) and substance abuse in the household (30% of students).
- Indian River County high school students with four or more ACEs report substance use rates that are substantially higher than students with fewer than four ACEs.
- In 2020 (pre-COVID), the percent of Indian River County middle and high school students, who, in the past year, felt sad or hopeless for two or more weeks in a row and stopped doing usual activities, was 30.3%. This is an increase from 23.0% in 2016 and 20.1% in 2012. This upward trend mirrors that statewide.
- In 2019, there were 1,137 hospitalizations for mood and depressive disorders.
- In 2019 there were 29 deaths by suicide by county residents, an age-adjusted rate of 16.5 per 100,000 residents, which was slightly higher than the state's rate of 14.5 per 100,000.
- The rate of hospitalizations from diabetes has been increasing since 2009 from 141.0 per 100,000 to 162.9 per 100,000 in 2019.
- In 2019, there were 1,260 live births in Indian River County, a rate of 8.1 per 1,000, which is lower than that of the state at 10.3.
- In 2019, the infant death rate was 5.6 per 1,000 live births for the county, significantly higher than the previous year and similar in comparison to the state at 6.0 per 1,000 live births. The 'Black and Other' infant mortality 3-year rate from 2017-2019 is much higher at 8.6 per 1,000 live births when compared to the 'White' infant mortality rate (3.6 per 1,000).
- The fetal death rate was 4.2 per 1,000, lower than Florida's (6.8 per 1,000), and decreasing since 2016.

## Health Resources Availability and Access Profile

- There are 3 licensed hospitals in the county, two in Vero Beach and one in Sebastian, with a total of 590 licensed beds (2020).
- There are 7 nursing homes in Indian River County with a total of 674 licensed nursing home beds (2019).
- In Indian River County, there are 21 assisted living facilities with a total of 965 beds, 19 home health agencies and 1 adult day care centers.
- There are two health department sites in the county, one in Vero Beach and one in Wabasso.
- There are 8 Federally Qualified Health Centers and one administrative site in Indian River County, all part of Treasure Coast Community Health, Inc.
- Indian River County has one Medically Underserved Population – Low-Income.
- In 2019, there were 17,811 uninsured individuals in the county, accounting for 27.8% of the workforce population, which was higher than the state (24.8%).

## Community Perspective

Community perspective was gathered during the Community Health Needs Assessment process, providing in-depth understanding of the issues residents and stakeholders felt were important, including how quality of life and health issues are perceived in the community.

### **Key Health Issues:**

- Mental health
- Substance abuse
- Overweight and obesity
- Poor nutrition / diet
- Lack of physical activity
- Aging population
- Social isolation, especially in seniors
- Affordable housing
- Lack of “living wage” employment
- Accessibility and affordability of health care coverage
- Availability, accessibility and affordability of health care services

### **Opportunities to Note:**

- Provide accessible and affordable health care and health care coverage
- Provide health education
- Increase awareness of access to resources in the community
- Provide additional funding and resources
- Use collaborative and strategic thinking to fill gaps
- Partner with local community-based organizations and agencies

### **Barriers to Care:**

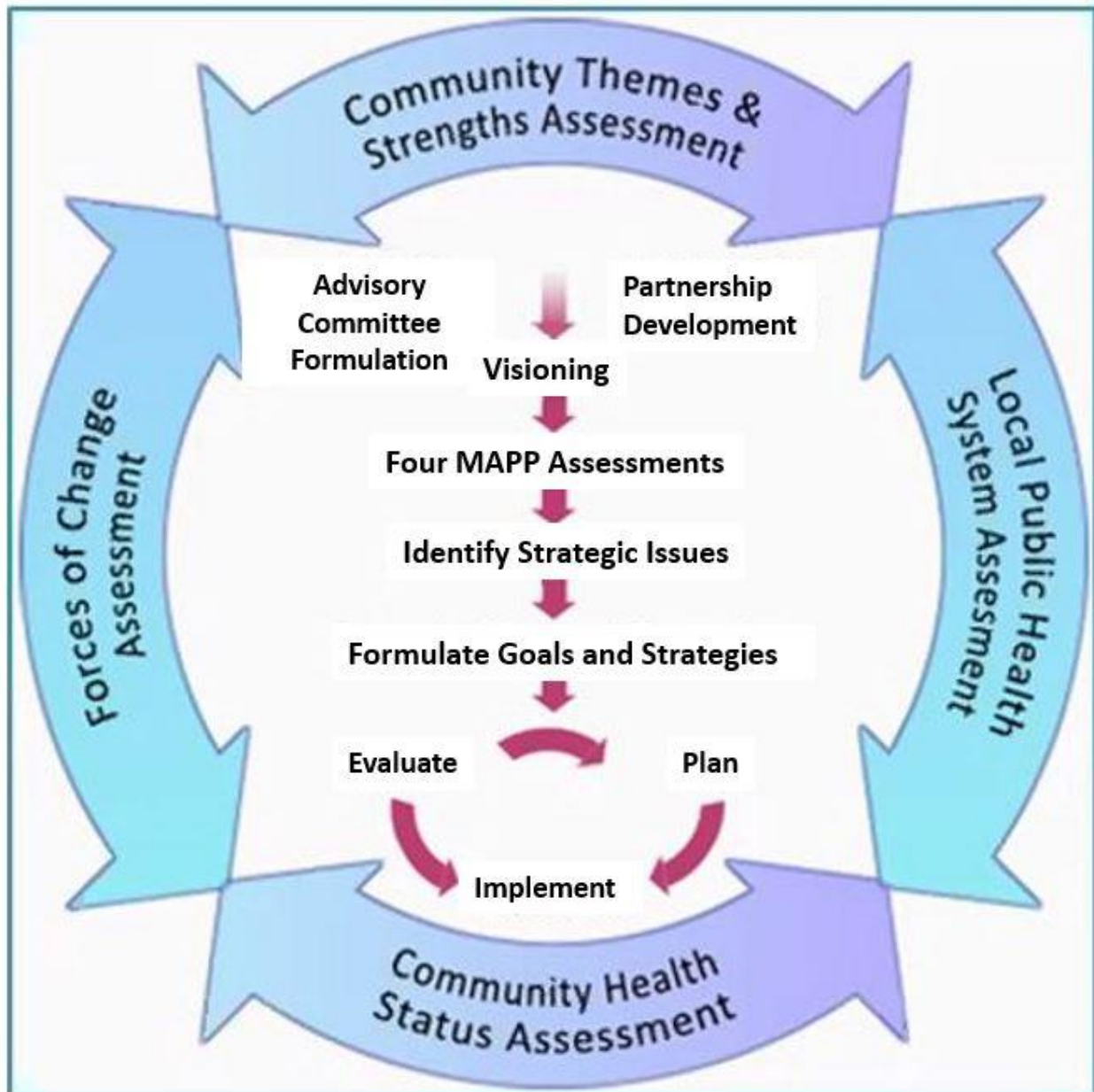
- Limited number of services, especially for mental health and substance use recovery
- High cost of health care coverage and health services, including medications
- Long waiting periods for services
- Transportation
- Lack of awareness of and access to resources in the community to maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Lack of knowledge and health education, especially prevention
- Disparities based on social and economic factors

### **Community Strengths / Assets:**

- Hospitals, health department, community clinics
- Parks, walking trails, playgrounds, beaches
- Transportation
- Food pantries / soup kitchens
- Local churches
- Social service programs
- Community-based organizations

## The Process

### Indian River County Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan Framework



Adapted from Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

## Community Health Needs Assessment

In 2019, DOH-Indian River, community leaders, county government, major funding organizations, and donor groups came together to conduct an Indian River County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), which identifies the most important health issues affecting county residents. This assessment, published in 2020, ensures that the priorities selected for the Indian River County Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) are shaped by data about the health status of all county populations, the effectiveness of the county's public health system in providing essential services, residents' perceived quality of life, and how factors outside of health impact health now and in the future.

Data was collected, compiled and analyzed for the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to enable and guide health care providers, local health department officials, health service and program planners and community leaders to identify the strategic health issues within Indian River County, gaps in services and opportunities for improvement. The information was used to develop and implement the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which focuses on developing partnerships to strengthen Indian River County's infrastructure and public health system.

DOH-Indian River also conducted a local assessment utilizing the National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS). This tool provided a framework to assess our activities, competencies, capacities and performance, identify areas for system improvement, and assess how well are providing the 10 Essential Public Health Services. By using the tool, DOH-Indian River was able to identify community assets and stakeholders, increase communication and collaboration between community members and partners, identify weaknesses or gaps in services, and find opportunities for improvements.

The implementation of the CHIP aims to improve health outcomes by identifying and utilizing community resources efficiently and forming collaborative partnerships for strategic action, while accounting for the community's needs and resources. This CHIP identifies the goals, objectives, actions, and performance measures for each of the selected priorities:

- Health
- Housing
- Economic Opportunity and Employment

The CHIP implements evidence-based strategies that align with the community's strategic health issues identified in the CHNA and issues identified through the NPHPS assessment. Social determinants of health as well as health inequities specific to the county were considered during the CHIP formulation, implementation, and prioritization process. Data regarding such inequities was analyzed and incorporated into the CHIP priorities. The purpose of the CHIP is not only to focus attention and resources on the three health priority areas selected, but to monitor and evaluate progress towards these priorities in a continuous improvement plan. It is a detailed, executable plan that is the product of collective brainstorming, discussion and review by dedicated community partners.

## Continued Improvement through Partnership

Participation from a broad spectrum of community stakeholders is essential in identifying effective strategies to address complex and multi-faceted community health issues and developing a comprehensive, community-driven improvement plan. Continuous and diverse community engagement improves results by garnering a shared commitment to improve health outcomes, developing a continuous stream of open communication, and creating a shared measurement and evaluation process to ensure efficient implementation and progress.

Community health improvement efforts are grounded in collaboration, partnership and cooperation to help achieve common priorities and goals through aligned objectives and strategies. Multi-sector community ownership is an essential component of both assessing a community's needs and developing a community health improvement plan.

The following sectors were represented during this health improvement planning process: health care, education, public health, senior services, mental health and substance abuse, law enforcement, county government, emergency services, parks and recreation, environmental health, business and industry, volunteer and non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and organizations known for serving underserved and vulnerable populations. Their continued involvement in the community is an invaluable component of the community health improvement plan.

Community partner agencies and individuals participating in the implementation of strategies to obtain the outlined objectives in this 2022-2026 Community Health Improvement Plan are held accountable through quarterly work group meetings, specific to each identified priority area. These quarterly work group meetings are scheduled and facilitated by DOH-Indian River staff and community partners are asked to report on the progress made on their affiliated objectives during that meeting. Additionally, regular contact by DOH-Indian River staff with community partner agencies and individuals takes place between quarterly work group meetings to identify and address issues, challenges and opportunities related to each objective. Quarterly meetings for each priority area work group continue through the lifetime of the plan until all identified objectives are met or are otherwise removed from the plan.

## Methodology

From early 2019 to the Fall of 2020, the Indian River County Community Health Needs Assessment and Planning Stakeholders composed of a broad spectrum of community members, convened to form an advisory committee to discuss and prioritize the strategic health issues in Indian River County. They reviewed the Community Health Needs Assessment to identify the top health needs priorities in Indian River County. In a meeting held in November of 2020 the community health needs assessment and planning stakeholders identified the top three health needs priorities that will be addressed in the 2022-2026 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

The CHIP set forth in this document aligns not only with the mission and vision of the Florida Department of Health in Indian River, but also with the Florida State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). Furthermore, the process took into consideration the opinions and insights of community members. The plan focuses on the top three health priorities that were selected by the community health needs assessment and planning stakeholders during a community-driven process. These three priorities are: Health; Housing; and Economic Opportunity and Employment. There were

other strategic health issues that emerged as well, and though they are not addressed herein, they are nonetheless important and are being integrated into future health planning activities in the community. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the economy, healthcare system, employment, cost of living, and more, making it a factor in all our health needs priorities.

Health Equity was also chosen as an essential tenet of health needs in the community; and community health needs assessment and planning stakeholders agreed that Health Equity should be interwoven into each priority during CHIP development and implementation. The stakeholders conducted a root cause analysis to identify the “root causes” and contributing factors of each priority, which aided in the development of goals, objectives, and strategies that align with each priority. These priority recommendations were passed to the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) working groups.

Members of the CHIP working groups, content experts from the economic, environmental health and mental health sectors, contributed additional information and insights on the economic, environmental health and mental health issues specific to Indian River County and identified gaps in services as well as barriers to addressing the issues.

Additionally, CHIP working group members discussed current activities and resources in the community related to the selected health needs priorities. Using strategic planning methods, members of these priority-specific work groups formulated goals and objectives. In subsequent meetings, the members discussed strategies and approaches, and ultimately established performance measures that could be employed to achieve the goals and objectives set forth within each priority area.

The strategies and activities outlined in this CHIP attempt to:

- Address the underlying causes of the identified health priorities
- Utilize data to identify priorities and to measure the impact of interventions
- Detail measurable objectives to evaluate progress
- Implement evidence-supported models for community health improvement
- Outline approaches that are relevant and realistic in the community, given the available time and resources
- Devise an action plan with a broad-reaching, community-wide impact
- Engage a broad range of community stakeholders
- Support ongoing efforts in the community
- Focus on improving health factors and health outcomes in the community

Descriptions of evidence-based programs and best practices related to the selected priorities are provided. An important element to any process is continued evaluation, which allows for monitoring of progression toward outcome goals and allows for adjustments to be made, if necessary. Evaluation of the CHIP throughout implementation will guide future planning activities in the community.

# Community Health Improvement Plan

## Overview

### **Health**

Goal 1: Improve the mental health of individuals in Indian River County.

- Objective: Decrease the number of hospitalizations in Indian River County for mood and depressive disorders by 10% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 1,137 in 2019.
- Objective: Decrease the number of suicide deaths in Indian River County by 10% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 29 in 2019.
- Objective: Decrease the percentage of Indian River County students who, in the past year, reported feeling sad or hopeless for two or more weeks in a row and stopped doing usual activities to 25% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 30.3% in 2020.
- Objective: Increase the number of partnership activities in Indian River County focused on stopping human trafficking from 0 in December 2023 to 3 by December 31, 2026.

Goal 2: Ensure individuals in Indian River County attain and maintain a healthy weight.

- Objective: Maintain the percentage of adults in Indian River County who have a healthy weight at the 2019 baseline level of 38% by December 31, 2026.
- Objective: Decrease the percentage of adults in Indian River County who reported that poor physical or mental health kept them from doing usual activities on 14 or more of the past 30 days (among adults who have had at least one day of poor mental or physical health) to 17% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 18.5% in 2019.
- Objective: Decrease the number of adults in Indian River County who are sedentary by 5% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 26.7% in 2019.
- Objective: Maintain the percentage of middle and high school students in Indian River County who have a healthy weight at the 2020 baseline level of 68.1% by December 31, 2026.

### **Housing**

Goal 1: Increase the number of affordable housing units by 1,500 in Indian River County.

- Objective: Increase the number of land parcels added to the Indian River County Urban Service Area to increase available land for affordable / workforce housing units from a baseline of 0 additional parcels in 2021 to greater than 0 additional parcels by December 31, 2026.
- Objective: Create 100 new affordable housing units, including rentals, in Indian River County by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 new units in 2021.
- Objective: Conduct one assessment on Community Land Trust feasibility and provider interest in Indian River County by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 assessments conducted in 2020.

Goal 2: Establish a comprehensive integration of support services around housing attainment and retainment in Indian River County.

- Objective: Provide 10 home ownership education and/or credit repair events annually in Indian River County by December 31, 2026 from a baseline of 0 new events in 2021.
- Objective: Research evidence-based, integrative support service models and implement one in Indian River County by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 in 2021.

## **Economic Opportunity and Employment**

Goal 1: Reduce barriers by creating economic opportunity and increased employment in Indian River County.

- Objective: Decrease the percentage of individuals in Indian River County 25 years and over with no high school diploma or GED by 1.5% year-over-year through December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 10.6% in 2019.
- Objective: Increase the average annual wage by 5% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of \$47,113 in 2020.

Goal 2: Decrease the individual poverty rate in Indian River County 10% by providing steps and a network of providers to advance out of the poverty cycle.

- Objective: Conduct an inventory of economic opportunity resources in Indian River County to include a county gap analysis by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 in 2019.
- Objective: Develop one Community Land Trust to be in operation in Indian River County from 0 in 2023 to one by December 31, 2026.
- Objective: Establish two community resource centers, each in a low-income community in Indian River County where no community resource center exists from a baseline of 0 centers in 2020 to 1 established by December 31, 2026.
- Objective: Decrease by 5% adults who are housing cost burdened in Indian River County (paying more than 30% of their monthly income for rent or mortgage) from 33% in 2019 by December 31, 2026.



# Priority 1: Health

## *Why is it a Priority?*

The upheaval of the last two years; the pandemic, school closures, isolation, separation from family and friends, racial trauma, and economic upheaval have accelerated alarming increases in mental health and healthy weight issues. The prolonged stress experienced by adults and children directly linked to the pandemic, is seriously affecting mental and physical health, including changes to weight, sleep and alcohol use.

According to the most recent Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data, adult obesity (body mass index of 30+) rates now exceed 35% in 16 states. Florida's rate of obesity in 2020 was 28.4%, part of a rising trend since 1990. From 2018 to 2020, the rate of students at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile in body mass index (BMI) in the county increased from 8.3% to 10.5% for middle school students and decreased from 14.3% to 12.9% for high school students. Furthermore, 59.7% of adults reported being either overweight or obese in Indian River County. These alarming rates are of significant concern in the Indian River community, particularly due to the projections that the trend of overweight and obesity will continue to increase because of the COVID-19 pandemic

Being overweight and obese has serious health consequences, including coronary heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, certain cancers, hypertension, stroke, liver and gallbladder disease, and sleep apnea. There are also economic consequences associated with being overweight and obese. In addition to the costs related to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of many of the associated comorbidities and conditions, there are indirect costs from decreased productivity and missed work and school, as well as costs associated with loss of future income due to premature death. There are several factors involved in being overweight and obese, which makes it a difficult issue to address. Health behaviors, such as exercise and diet, genes, the environment, certain medical conditions and medications can all play a part in causing individuals to become overweight and/or obese.

Obesity has been identified as a health issue across the nation and in the state of Florida. The State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) highlights obesity in its list of chronic diseases and conditions. The SHIP includes strategies to increase the availability, accessibility and affordability of healthy foods, which are complemented by the strategies that will be used in Indian River County to reduce the number of overweight and obese children and adults. Initiatives and evidence-based programs such as Protocol for Assessing Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH) and school-targeted interventions are strategies outlined in this CHIP under guidance of the SHIP.

Mental health is essential to personal well-being, family and interpersonal relationships, and the ability to contribute to the community. Mental health disorders are among the most common causes of disabilities in the nation. Poor mental health or the presence of mental illness often result in detrimental physical health and financial outcomes. Failure to access care is a significant issue among those suffering from mental health conditions. Stigma, lack of education and awareness, and missed opportunities for screenings and interventions are among the barriers for receiving appropriate care.

In Indian River County from 2017-2019, there was an increasing trend in inpatient discharges related to episodic mood disorders with a significant amount of inpatient discharges in the 10-14

and 15-19 age groups. Additionally, in 2019, there were 29 deaths by suicide in Indian River County, an age-adjusted rate of 16.5 per 100,000 residents, which was slightly higher than the state's rate and higher than the Healthy People 2030 target of 12.8 per 100,000. The highest rates are among the 45-64 age group and have been increasing since 2009. Due to the significant and impactful consequences, and the challenges and barriers experienced accessing care, the advisory committee deemed mental health a priority. Furthermore, mental well-being and substance abuse prevention have been outlined as a priority in Florida's State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), alcohol and substance abuse, and suicide highlighted as priority health issues and topic areas. The CHIP uses strategies to strengthen the integration of mental health services with primary care services, as well as to reduce barriers to accessing behavioral and mental health services. The strategies and objectives outlined in the Indian River County CHIP align with the SHIP with the hope towards the common goal of improving the behavioral and mental health of residents of the county and the state.

# Health Action Plan

<b>CHIP Priority Area: HEALTH</b>	
<b>Goal 1.A.</b> Improve the mental health of individuals in Indian River County.	
<b>Objective 1.A.1.</b> Decrease the number of hospitalizations in Indian River County for mood and depressive disorders by 10% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 1,137 in 2019. <i>(Data source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration/AHCA.)</i>	
<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Determine feasibility of a mental health full continuum of care in Indian River County by December 31, 2023.	IRC Healthy Start Coalition; Indian River Hospital District; Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; School District of IRC; Senior Collaborative; Senior Resource Association; Substance Awareness Center of IRC; Treasure Coast Community Health; VNA of the Treasure Coast; 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast; DOH-Indian River.
Expand the mental health continuum of care by 2 services by December 31, 2024.	IRC Healthy Start Coalition Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; Mental Health Association of IRC; Senior Resource Association; Substance Awareness Center of IRC.
Increase the number of individuals in Indian River County certified in Mental Health First Aid to 1,500 by December 31, 2026.	IRC Healthy Start Coalition; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC.

<b>CHIP Priority Area: HEALTH</b>	
<b>Goal 1.A.</b> Improve the mental health of individuals in Indian River County.	
<b>Objective 1.A.2.</b> Decrease the number of suicide deaths in Indian River County by 10% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 29 deaths in 2019. <i>(Data source: FL DOH Vital Statistics.)</i>	
<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Conduct analysis of suicide death and suicide attempt data in Indian River County to identify underlying factors by December 31, 2023.	Indian River Hospital District; Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; Senior Collaborative; Senior Resource Association; Substance Awareness Center; Treasure Coast Community Health; DOH-Indian River.
Increase awareness and education about mental health services in Indian River County by December 31, 2026.	Indian River Hospital District; Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; Nurse Family Partnership of the Treasure Coast; Senior Collaborative; Senior Resource Association; Substance Awareness Center; Treasure Coast Community Health; Tykes & Teens; DOH-Indian River.
Estimate the percentage of adults in Indian River County who suffer from loneliness by December 31, 2026.	Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; Senior Collaborative; Senior Resource Association; Treasure Coast Community Health; VNA of the Treasure Coast.
Research public suicide prevention campaign options and implement campaign by December 31, 2025.	Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; Treasure Coast Community Health; Whole Family Health Center.

**CHIP Priority Area: HEALTH****Goal 1.A.** Improve the mental health of individuals in Indian River County.**Objective 1.A.3.** Decrease the percentage of Indian River County students who, in the past year, reported feeling sad or hopeless for two or more weeks in a row and stopped doing usual activities to 25% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 30.3% in 2020. *(Data source: Florida Youth Tobacco Survey/FYTS.)*

<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Implement Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) awareness campaign by December 31, 2024.	Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; Substance Awareness Center; Tykes and Teens; DOH-Indian River.
Increase the number of providers who have received trauma informed care training by December 31, 2026.	Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; Substance Awareness Center; Tykes and Teens; Treasure Coast Community Health.
Increase the protective factor prevalence rates for middle and high school students to 60% by December 31, 2026.	IRC Healthy Start Coalition; Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; Nurse Family Partnership; School District of IRC; Substance Awareness Center; Tykes and Teens; DOH-Indian River.
Increase screening, referral, and engagement of perinatal mental health services for new parents by December 31, 2026.	IRC Healthy Start Coalition; Nurse Family Partnership; Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC.

**CHIP Priority Area: HEALTH****Goal 1.A.** Improve the mental health of individuals in Indian River County.**Objective 1.A.4.** Increase the number of partnership activities in Indian River County focused on stopping human trafficking from 0 in December 2023 to 3 by December 31, 2026. *(Data source: Local agencies.)*

<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Identify organizations that are working to stop human trafficking in Indian River County by September 30, 2024.	211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast; Substance Awareness Center of IRC; Vero Beach Police Department; Indian River County Sherriff's Office; Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; United Against Poverty; Treasure Coast Community Health; Tykes and Teens; DOH-Indian River.
Identify evidence-based services, education and communication tools to stop human trafficking by June 30, 2025.	211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast; Substance Awareness Center of IRC; Vero Beach Police Department; Indian River County Sherriff's Office; Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; United Against Poverty; Treasure Coast Community Health; Tykes and Teens; DOH-Indian River.
Select and implement evidence-based services, education and communication tools, focusing on industries with high rates of human trafficking by December 31, 2025.	211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast; Substance Awareness Center of IRC; Vero Beach Police Department; Indian River County Sherriff's Office; Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; United Against Poverty; Treasure Coast Community Health; Tykes and Teens; DOH-Indian River.

**CHIP Priority Area: HEALTH****Goal 1.B.** Ensure the individuals in Indian River County attain and maintain a healthy weight.**Objective 1.B.1.** Maintain the percentage of adults in Indian River County who have a healthy weight at the 2019 baseline level of 38% by December 31, 2026. *(Data source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System/BFRSS; FL Charts.)*

<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Implement Florida Blue Foundation Food Security grant education activities for adults in Indian River County by Aug 16, 2026.	DOH-Indian River; United Against Poverty; Senior Resource Association; Economic Opportunity Council of IRC; UF/IFAS Extension Indian River County; Sebastian Conference of St. Vincent de Paul.
Increase coordination between agencies to increase availability of healthy and affordable food to Indian River County residents by Aug 16, 2026.	DOH-Indian River; United Against Poverty; Senior Resource Association; IRC Human Services; Treasure Coast Food Bank; UF/IFAS Extension Indian River County; Sebastian Conference of St. Vincent de Paul; Economic Opportunity Council of IRC.
Recommend food policies be instituted to support local production, distribution, and purchasing of nutritious food by Aug 16, 2026.	IRC Human Services; UF/IFAS Extension Indian River County; Florida Farm Bureau Federation; United Against Poverty; DOH-Indian River.

**CHIP Priority Area: HEALTH****Goal 1.B.** Ensure the individuals in Indian River County attain and maintain a healthy weight.**Objective 1.B.2.** Decrease the percentage of adults in Indian River County who reported that poor physical or mental health kept them from doing usual activities on 14 or more of the past 30 days (among adults who have had at least one day of poor mental or physical health) to 17% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 18.5% in 2019. *(Data source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System/BFRSS.)*

<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Implement FL Blue Foundation park senior wellness programs and capital equipment installations in Indian River County by December 31, 2026.	IRC Parks and Recreation; DOH-Indian River; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; UF/IFAS Extension Indian River County.
Implement mental health walking clubs in at least four locations throughout Indian River County by December 31, 2026.	Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; IRC Parks and Recreation; Substance Awareness Center of IRC; DOH-Indian River.
Decrease percentage of adults who engage in heavy or binge drinking through substance use motivational interviewing by December 31, 2026.	Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; Whole Family Health Center; Mental Health Association; Substance Awareness Center of IRC; Treasure Coast Community Health.

<b>CHIP Priority Area: HEALTH</b>	
<b>Goal 1.B.</b> Ensure the individuals in Indian River County attain and maintain a healthy weight.	
<b>Objective 1.B.3.</b> Decrease the number of adults in Indian River County who are sedentary by 5% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 26.7% in 2019. <i>(Data source: FL DOH Public Health Statistics and Performance Management.)</i>	
<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Improve infrastructure, lighting, and sidewalks within low-income and under-resourced communities in Indian River County by December 31, 2026.	IRC Parks and Recreation; IRC Community Development; Robert Solari; DOH-Indian River; NAACP.
Include all free public park areas in Indian River County in online databases and promote to residents and health practitioners county-wide by December 31, 2026.	IRC Parks and Recreation; DOH-Indian River.
Implement Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) and Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSEMS) Program county-wide by December 31, 2026.	DOH-Indian River.

<b>CHIP Priority Area: HEALTH</b>	
<b>Goal 1.B.</b> Ensure the individuals in Indian River County attain and maintain a healthy weight.	
<b>Objective 1.B.4.</b> Maintain the percentage of middle and high school students in Indian River County who have a healthy weight at the 2020 baseline level of 68.1% by December 31, 2026. <i>(Data source: Florida Youth Tobacco Survey/FYTS.)</i>	
<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Implement 5210 in Indian River County schools by December 31, 2026.	DOH-Indian River; School District of IRC.
Implement 5210 in out-of-school programs in Indian River County by December 31, 2024.	DOH-Indian River; Tykes and Teens; Substance Awareness Center; Mental Health Collaborative; Treasure Coast Community Health.
Increase community capacity to provide support for people living with disordered eating by December 31, 2023.	Mental Health Collaborative; Whole Family Health Center; Indian River Hospital District; Cleveland Clinic; Substance Awareness Center; Treasure Coast Community Health.
Recommend food policies be instituted to support local production, distribution, and purchasing of nutritious food by Aug 16, 2026.	IRC Human Services; UF/IFAS Extension Indian River County; Florida Farm Bureau Federation; United Against Poverty; DOH-Indian River.

## Evidence-Supported Initiatives

### **Mental Health First Aid**

The Mental Health Collaborative in partnership with the John's Island Community Service League, initiated a program to certify volunteers as Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Instructors. The MHFA certification is the CPR of mental health. It teaches everyday people to identify signs and symptoms of mental health / substance use disorder issues and provides resource information to refer a person to appropriate professional help, just like CPR. This mental health literacy, evidence-based curriculum has been peer-reviewed in over 80 professional journals. Those who have been trained in MHFA have demonstrated:

- Increased knowledge of signs, symptoms and risk factors of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.
- Ability to identify multiple types of professional and self-help resources for individuals with a mental health or substance use challenge.
- Increased confidence in assisting and likelihood to assist a person in distress.
- Improved self-mental wellness.

### **FL Blue Grants: Senior Wellness**

The FL Blue Foundation's mission promotes health equity. All families and communities have a right to access resources and opportunities that will allow them to be at their best health. To ensure all communities have health equity, the foundation focuses on access to health and health care for underserved populations; provider awareness and education around the health inequity of patients; and access to health education. Funds provided by the Foundation support Senior Wellness activities and programming to reduce isolation and loneliness and installation of senior exercise equipment in parks located in underserved areas.

## Assets and Resources to Address Priority

LOCAL PHYSICIANS, SCHOOL DISTRICT, HOSPITALS, HEALTH CENTERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT; NONPROFITS AND PRIVATE BUSINESSES

Human Services, Indian River County  
Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition  
Indian River County Human Services  
Indian River County Parks and Recreation  
Indian River Hospital District  
Indian River County Sheriff's Department  
Indian River County Veterans Services  
Mental Health Association of IRC  
Mental Health Collaborative of IRC  
NAACP Indian River County  
Nurse Family Partnership - Treasure Coast  
St. Sebastian Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society

School District of Indian River County  
Sebastian Conference of St. Vincent de Paul  
Senior Collaborative of Indian River County  
Senior Resource Association  
Substance Awareness Center of IRC  
Treasure Coast Community Health  
Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council  
Tykes & Teens  
UF IFAS Extension Indian River County  
Vero Beach Police Department  
VNA of the Treasure Coast  
Whole Family Health Center  
211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast

### ***Mental Health Association of Indian River County***

The Mental Health Association seeks to strengthen and enrich the community by providing educational and crisis intervention programs and services that cultivate good mental health. The

Association strives to provide good, strong programs and service to benefit the county. The Mental Health Association has become a keystone in the quality of life and well-being of our residents by proudly sponsoring:

- Mental health walk-in center.
- Informational and referral – Our resource specialist.
- Diagnostic assessments.
- Counseling and therapy.
- Behavior modification classes and programs.
- Self-help programs.
- Advocacy<sup>1</sup>.

***The Mental Health Collaborative of Indian River County***

The Mental Health Collaborative of Indian River County is a group of dedicated individuals who have an interest in “cooperating to find mental health care solutions for [the] community.” The mission of the collaborative is “to establish a continuum of care for mental health made up of private and public funders, mental health providers and individuals who work in collaboration to increase access, decrease duplication, and facilitate community wide support of mental health issues.”<sup>2</sup> The Mental Health Collaborative is a forum for key stakeholders to:

- Identify gaps in the mental health care continuum and search for innovative ways to fill those gaps.
- Facilitate interagency relationships and cooperation, thereby decreasing turf issues, service duplication, and misallocation of funding.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mhairc.org/pageflip/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> [www.mentalhealthcollaborativeofirc.org](http://www.mentalhealthcollaborativeofirc.org)



## Priority 2: Housing

### *Why is it a Priority?*

Establishing and maintaining a healthy environment is central to increasing quality of life and years of healthy life. Environmental factors are diverse and far reaching. Without proper assessment, correction and prevention, environmental factors may adversely affect the health of present and future generations.

Having a secure, affordable home that is free of structural and environmental health issues such as mold or vermin is a necessity for a healthy life. Stable housing gives community members a chance to succeed as well as time and energy to focus on personal health and other community needs. The geographic location can have a considerable impact on access to jobs, education, recreation, transportation and jobs.

Lack of affordable housing in Indian River County and the percentage of individuals who are housing cost burdened continues to increase as the county grows. According to the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, data based on the U.S. Department of Housing Development, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), 33% of adults in Indian River were paying more than 30% of their monthly income on rent/mortgage payments in 2019. Having to choose between paying rent or a mortgage and basic needs such as food, health care, clothing or transportation is not uncommon in communities throughout Indian River County. Of the 57,636 households in Indian River County, 44% struggle to pay for basic needs.

Community planning that provides stable / affordable housing near reliable transportation, schools, medical services, health food sources and safe gathering places are key to allowing individuals to lead healthy lives with a high quality of life for all.

Availability and affordability of housing are issues that impact community health and are essential parts of the Indian River County's CHIP, as well as the SHIP. The SHIP's overarching framework highlights Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health. Priority health issues include economic stability, neighborhood and the built environment, and quality of and access to education. These priority issues in SHIP, such as access to education and improving neighborhoods and the built environment, are also incorporated into Indian River County's CHIP.

# Housing Action Plan

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<b>CHIP Priority Area: HOUSING</b>	
<b>Goal 2.A.</b> Increase the number of affordable housing units by 1,500 in Indian River County.	
<b>Objective 2.A.1.</b> Increase the number of land parcels added to the Indian River County Urban Service Area to increase available land for affordable / workforce housing units from a baseline of 0 additional parcels in 2021 to greater than 0 additional parcels by December 31, 2026. <i>(Data source: IRC Urban Service Area map.)</i>	
<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Conduct an urban service area education campaign by December 31, 2024.	IRC Metropolitan Planning Organization/MPO; IRC Affordable Housing Advisory Committee/AHAC; Robert Solari; Susan Adams; IRC Board of County Commissioners; DOH-Indian River; non-profit organizations.
Conduct an assessment of urban service area expansion alternative scenarios by December 31, 2025.	IRC Metropolitan Planning Organization/MPO.
Collaborate with Indian River County Metropolitan Planning Office in their visioning process to evaluate and promote appropriate urban service area expansion for affordable housing by December 31, 2026.	Robert Solari; IRC Affordable Housing Advisory Committee/AHAC; DOH-Indian River; non-profit organizations.

<b>CHIP Priority Area: HOUSING</b>	
<b>Goal 2.A.</b> Increase the number of affordable housing units by 1,500 in Indian River County.	
<b>Objective 2.A.2.</b> Create 100 new affordable housing units, including rentals, in Indian River County by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 new units in 2021. <i>(Data source: Certificates of Occupancy/CO from Indian River County Building Department.)</i>	
<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Work with cities within Indian River County to construct 6 affordable / workforce housing units in their available land areas by December 31, 2026.	Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Habitat for Humanity; Indian River County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC); John's Island Community Service League; DOH-Indian River; United Way of IRC.
Work with IRC non-profits and for-profit developers to acquire funds and construct housing by December 31, 2026.	Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Habitat for Humanity; Indian River County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC); John's Island Community Service League; United Way of IRC.
Work with IRC Affordable Housing Advisory Committee/AHAC to conduct an assessment of the percentage of rental housing by December 31, 2026.	Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Habitat for Humanity; John's Island Community Service League; United Way of IRC.

Recommend urban service area expansion and county zoning policy changes to allow for affordable / workforce housing development by December 31, 2026.	Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Habitat for Humanity; John's Island Community Service League; United Way of IRC; IRC Community Development.
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**CHIP Priority Area: HOUSING**

**Goal 2.A.** Increase the number of affordable housing units by 1,500 in Indian River County.

**Objective 2.A.3.** Conduct one assessment on Community Land Trust feasibility and provider interest in Indian River County by December 31, 2026 from a baseline of 0 assessments conducted in 2020. *(Data source: Completed assessment by local stakeholders.)*

<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Create a focus group containing non-profit and county members by December 31, 2023.	Indian River County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC); John's Island Community Service League; United Way of IRC; Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Coalition for Attainable Homes

**CHIP Priority Area: HOUSING**

**Goal 2.A.** Increase the number of affordable housing units by 1,500 in Indian River County.

**Objective 2.A.4.** Develop one Community Land Trust to be in operation in Indian River County from 0 in 2023 to one by December 31, 2026. *(Data source: Local stakeholders.)*

<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Complete non-profit structure work and fundraising by December 31, 2026.	Coalition for Attainable Homes; Treasure Coast Homelessness Services Council; John's Island Community Service League; United Way of IRC

**CHIP Priority Area: HOUSING**

**Goal 2.B.** Establish a comprehensive integration of support services around housing attainment and retainment in Indian River County.

**Objective 2.B.1.** Provide 10 home ownership education and/or credit repair events annually in Indian River County by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 new events in 2021. *(Data source: Number of educational events conducted.)*

<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Provide 10 home ownership education and/or credit repair events annually in Indian River County by December 31, 2026 from a baseline of 0 new events in 2021.	Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Habitat for Humanity; United Against Poverty; United Way of IRC; other agencies.
Hold 3 workshops in Indian River County to examine and promote diversification of industry by December 31, 2026.	United Against Poverty; Indian River Chamber of Commerce; Habitat for Humanity; Indian River State College; CareerSource Research Coast; Treasure Coast Technical College; Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council; NAACP; Economic Opportunities Council

**CHIP Priority Area: HOUSING****Goal 2.B.** Establish a comprehensive integration of support services around housing attainment and retainment in Indian River County.**Objective 2.B.2.** Research evidence-based, integrative support service models and implement one in Indian River County by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 in 2021. *(Data source: Number of support service models researched.)*

<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Identify effective housing support services in Indian River County for senior populations by December 31, 2025.	Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Livable Indian River/Senior Collaborative of Indian River; United Way of IRC.
Implement identified housing support service(s) in the county by December 31, 2026.	Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Livable Indian River/Senior Collaborative of Indian River; United Way of IRC.
Create paths to home ownership in Indian River County by December 31, 2026.	Habitat for Humanity; United Against Poverty; Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; IRC Community Development; United Way of IRC.
Conduct a gap analysis of services by December 31, 2026.	Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Livable Indian River/Senior Collaborative of Indian River; United Way; Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

## Evidence-Supported Initiatives

### Community Land Trusts

Community land trusts are nonprofit, community-based organizations designed to ensure community stewardship of land. Community land trusts can be used for many types of development (including commercial and retail) but are primarily used to ensure long-term housing affordability. To do so, the trust acquires land and maintains ownership of it permanently. With prospective homeowners, it enters into a long-term, renewable lease instead of a traditional sale. When the homeowner sells, the family earns only a portion of the increased property value. The remainder is kept by the trust, preserving the affordability for future low- to moderate-income families.

Ultimately, by separating the ownership of land and housing, this innovative approach prevents market factors from causing prices to rise significantly, and hence guarantees that housing will remain affordable for future generations. Today, there are approximately 277 community land trusts across the United States.

### Collaboration with Non-Profit Organization for Attainable Housing

Evidence of the effectiveness of collaboration between non-profit organizations and developers to construct affordable housing can be seen in low-income areas across the country. For-profit entities operate to produce returns for their owners or shareholders, and to create affordable housing that maximizes profit.

Non-profits, however, aim to serve the most vulnerable populations. Educating, organizing and advocating to ensure decent and affordable housing for everyone is a top priority.

## Gap Analysis of Indian River County Economic Opportunity Resources

A gap analysis process allows organizations to determine how best to achieve their stated goals. It compares the current state with any ideal state or goals, which highlights shortcomings and opportunities for improvement. The process includes a detailed examination of current conditions and future objectives to ensure that any actions taken are the result of fact finding and not assumptions. The parts of the process include:

- Analyze the current state.
- Define the objective / ideal state.
- Find the gap and evaluate solutions.
- Create and implement a plan to bridge the gap.

## Assets and Resources to Address Priority

FELLSMERE, SEBASTIAN AND VERO BEACH CITY GOVERNMENTS, COUNTY GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY CENTERS, SCHOOLS, CULTURAL AND FAITH-BASED GROUPS, HOME BUILDERS AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Coalition for Attainable Homes  
Hope for Families Center  
Indian River County Community Development  
Indian River County Human Services  
Indian River Habitat for Humanity  
John's Island Community Service League

Liveable Indian River of Indian River  
County/Senior Collaborative  
NAACP Indian River County  
Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council  
VA Medical Center (West Palm)  
United Against Poverty  
United Way of Indian River County

## Indian River County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC)

The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) assists the Board of County Commissioners to perform and complete the duties and functions set forth in Section 420.9076 of the Florida Statutes and Section 308.07 of the Indian River County Code, and review policies, procedures, ordinances, land development regulations, and other local housing matters. The committee comprises:

- One (1) citizen who is actively engaged as an advocate for low-income persons in connection with affordable housing.
- One (1) citizen who is actively engaged as a for-profit provider of affordable housing.
- One (1) citizen who is actively engaged as a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing.
- One (1) citizen who is a real estate professional in connection with affordable housing.
- One (1) citizen who actively serves on the county's local planning agency (Planning and Zoning Commission).
- One (1) citizen who resides within the county.

## Indian River County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

The Indian River County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), formed in April 1993, is a legislative agency responsible for transportation planning in the urbanized area of Indian River County. It has the power to develop and adopt plans and to set priorities for the programming of improvements to the County's transportation system. MPO planning includes:

- Unified planning work program.

- Long range transportation.
- Bicycle and pedestrian.
- Transit development.
- Congestion management.
- Disadvantaged business enterprise goal.
- Transportation disadvantaged service.
- Title VI program.

## Priority 3: Economic Opportunity and Employment

### *Why is it a Priority?*

For the first time in our history, the United States is raising a generation of children who may live sicker and shorter lives than their parents. In 2020, we witnessed the steepest plunge in life expectancy since World War II, largely fueled by the coronavirus pandemic. Reversing this trend will of course depend on healthy choices by each of us. But not everyone in America has the same opportunities to be healthy. We know that the drivers of inequitable social, economic, built, and physical conditions within and across place and race can dramatically reduce opportunities for better health and well-being.<sup>3</sup>

A 2015 Massachusetts General Hospital study published by the American Journal of Public Health found evidence that economic opportunity - the prospect that individuals may be able to improve their economic status - may have important effects on the health of a community. The researchers found that mortality rates were higher and that risk factors like obesity and smoking and the prevalence of hypertension and diabetes were greater in areas with the lowest levels of economic opportunity, based on a nationwide database.<sup>4</sup>

Equal access to employment and economic opportunity relies on removing barriers by increasing education, skills / technical training and apprenticeships, providing place-based resources in low-income areas, and recruiting companies with livable wage jobs.

The built environment and environmental health have been a priority for the Florida Department of Health in Indian River and part of the Indian River County CHIP since 2012 and it continues to be an essential part of the county's improvement plan. The SHIP also highlights Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health and names economic stability, education access and quality, neighborhood and the built environment, and social and community context as priority health issues. Social determinants of health / health equity affect community and individual activities. Our focus on these determinants of health continue to expand as studies reveal the important role they play in the successful outcomes for residents of Indian River County.

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<sup>3</sup> Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "Life Expectancy: Could where you live influence how long you live"  
<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/interactives/whereliveaffectshowlongyoulive.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/12/151221193410.htm>

# Economic Opportunity and Employment Action Plan

<b>CHIP Priority Area: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND EMPLOYMENT</b>	
<b>Goal 3.A.</b> Reduce barriers by creating economic opportunity and increased employment in Indian River County.	
<b>Objective 3.A.1.</b> Decrease the percentage of individuals in Indian River County 25 years and over with no high school diploma or GED by 1.5% year-over-year through December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 10.6% in 2019. <i>(Data source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey; FL Charts.)</i>	
<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Offer GED instruction on varied schedules, in convenient locations throughout Indian River County by December 31, 2026.	Treasure Coast Technical College; CareerSource Research Coast; Indian River State College; United Against Poverty
Offer ESOL instruction on varied schedules, in convenient locations throughout the county by December 31, 2026.	Treasure Coast Technical College; CareerSource Research Coast; Indian River State College; United Against Poverty
Increase the number of employers not requiring a GED or high school diploma of prospective employees who have work experience by December 31, 2026.	Treasure Coast Technical College; CareerSource Research Coast; Indian River State College; United Against Poverty; Indian River County Chamber of Commerce; DOH-Indian River

<b>CHIP Priority Area ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND EMPLOYMENT</b>	
<b>Goal 3.A.</b> Reduce barriers by creating economic opportunity and increased employment in Indian River County.	
<b>Objective 3.A.2.</b> Increase the average annual wage by 5% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of \$47,113 in 2020. <i>(Data source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey.)</i>	
<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Expand the scope, marketing, impact and candidate retention of paid apprenticeship programs in Indian River County by December 31, 2026.	United Against Poverty; Indian River County Chamber of Commerce; CareerSource Research Coast; Treasure Coast Technical College; Indian River State College
Host quarterly community resource fairs, rotated geographically across Indian River County, each year, by December 31, 2026.	United Against Poverty; Indian River County Chamber of Commerce; CareerSource Research Coast; Treasure Coast Technical College; Indian River State College; City of Fellsmere; School District of IRC
Recommend instituting state-mandated policy change to increase minimum wage (underway).	State of Florida.



<b>CHIP Priority Area: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND EMPLOYMENT</b>	
<b>Goal 3.B.</b> Decrease the individual poverty rate in Indian River County 10% by providing steps and a network of providers to advance out of the poverty cycle.	
<b>Objective 3.B.1.</b> Conduct an inventory of economic opportunity resources in Indian River County to include a county gap analysis by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 inventories and gap analyses conducted in 2019. (Data source: Gap analysis conducted; US Census Bureau, 2019 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates/SAIPE.)	
<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Establish an economic opportunity collaborative to assess needs and provide quantitative data by December 31, 2026.	CareerSource Research Coast; Indian River Chamber of Commerce; United Against Poverty; Indian River County Community Development; Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council; DOH-Indian River.

<b>CHIP Priority Area: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND EMPLOYMENT</b>	
<b>Goal 3.B.</b> Decrease the individual poverty rate in Indian River County 10% by providing steps and a network of providers to advance out of the poverty cycle.	
<b>Objective 3.B.2.</b> Establish two community resource centers, each in a low-income community in Indian River County where no community resource center exists from a baseline of 0 centers in 2020 to 1 established by December 31, 2026. (Data source: Establishment of a community resource center.)	
<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Assess the needs of underserved communities in Indian River County using Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH) by December 31, 2024.	DOH-Indian River.
Hold focus groups to determine feasibility and sustainability of community resource centers in Indian River County by December 31, 2025.	Fellsmere Action Community Team/FACT; City of Fellsmere; Marsh Landing Restaurant; NAACP; DOH-Indian River.
Hold monthly planning meetings to build community resource center in Fellsmere by Dec 31, 2026.	Fellsmere Action Community Team/FACT; City of Fellsmere; Marsh Landing Restaurant; NAACP; DOH-Indian River.

<b>CHIP Priority Area: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND EMPLOYMENT</b>	
<b>Goal 3.B.</b> Decrease the individual poverty rate in Indian River County 10% by providing steps and a network of providers to advance out of the poverty cycle.	
<b>Objective 3.B.3.</b> Decrease the percentage of adults who are housing cost-burdened (paying more than 30% of their monthly income for rent or mortgage) by 5% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 33% in 2019. (Data source: Shimberg Center for Housing Studies - US Dept of Housing Development Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy/CHAS.)	
<b>Strategies/Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Organization(s)</b>
Conduct financial literacy workshops throughout Indian River County by December 31, 2026.	United Against Poverty; Habitat for Humanity; Hope for Families Center; NAACP; other agencies.

Partner with the IRC Affordable Housing Advisory Committee/AHAC to implement affordable housing strategies by December 31, 2026.	Habitat for Humanity; Treasure Coast Homeless Services Coalition; Hope for Families Center; Coalition for Attainable Homes; IRC Community Development.
Recommend instituting state-mandated policy change to increase minimum wage (underway).	State of Florida.

## Evidence-Supported Initiatives

### **Protocol for Accessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH)**

PACE-EH is a result of a collaboration between the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). PACE-EH is a community involvement tool that guides communities and local health officials in conducting community-based environmental health assessments (CEHA) to identify local environmental health issues, set priorities for action, target populations most at risk, and address the issues identified in the assessment.

### **Apprenticeship Programs**

Apprenticeship programs that are a result of a collaboration between industry and academic institutions are a proven way to increase the likelihood of gainful employment for program participants. The technical, hands-on training acquired as part of an apprenticeship program, when combined with instruction in related coursework, advances not only the individual's knowledge, skills and abilities, it also increases their earning potential, marketability and prospects for long-term employment.

### **Community Resource Centers**

Community resource centers are place-based initiatives that address the needs that are specific to the communities of which they are a part. They are physical locations, staffed with people from the community, that remove the barriers preventing individuals and their communities from accessing services that allow them to reach their full potential.

This process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of those people produces positive results.

### **Gap Analysis of Indian River County Economic Opportunity Resources**

A gap analysis process allows organizations to determine how best to achieve their stated goals. It compares the current state with any ideal state or goals, which highlights shortcomings and opportunities for improvement. The process includes a detailed examination of current conditions and future objectives to ensure that any actions taken are the result of fact finding and not assumptions. The parts of the process include:

- Analyze the current state.
- Define the objective / ideal state.
- Find the gap and evaluate solutions.
- Create and implement a plan to bridge the gap.

## Assets and Resources to Address Priority

STAKEHOLDERS, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PACE-EH, EDUCATORS

CareerSource Research Coast  
City of Fellsmere  
Homeless Children's Foundation of IRC  
Indian River County Chamber of Commerce  
Indian River County Community Development

Indian River State College  
Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council  
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council  
Treasure Coast Technical College  
United Against Poverty

### **Indian River County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC)**

The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) assists the Board of County Commissioners to perform and complete the duties and functions set forth in Section 420.9076 of the Florida Statutes and Section 308.07 of the Indian River County Code, and review policies, procedures, ordinances, land development regulations, and other local housing matters. The committee comprises:

- One (1) citizen who is actively engaged as an advocate for low-income persons in connection with affordable housing.
- One (1) citizen who is actively engaged as a for-profit provider of affordable housing.
- One (1) citizen who is actively engaged as a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing.
- One (1) citizen who is a real estate professional in connection with affordable housing.
- One (1) citizen who actively serves on the county's local planning agency (Planning and Zoning Commission).
- One (1) citizen who resides within the county.

### **Indian River County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

The Indian River County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), formed in April 1993, is a legislative agency responsible for transportation planning in the urbanized area of Indian River County. It has the power to develop and adopt plans and to set priorities for the programming of improvements to the County's transportation system. MPO planning includes:

- Unified planning work program.
- Long range transportation.
- Bicycle and pedestrian.
- Transit development.
- Congestion management.
- Disadvantaged business enterprise goal.
- Transportation disadvantaged service.
- Title VI program.

## Health Equity

The World Health Organization defines health as a state of complete well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Health Equity is the attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Persisting legacies of social problems such as structural racism are hampering the attainment of health equity, causing economic loss, and most overwhelmingly, the loss of human lives and potential. Harmful inequities and other failures of the nation's health system have been underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has also highlighted "the urgency for strategic,

equitable investments in our public health infrastructure” and the need for a “bold reimagining” of the medical tradition’s policies and practices.<sup>5</sup>

This CHIP was developed with a health equity component in each of the priorities and aligns with the goals of the American Medical Association to push health equity forward by advancing policies on racism as a public health threat, and including health equity in medical education, health care delivery and research and practice.<sup>6</sup> The Indian River County Community Health Improvement Plan hopes to improve the accessibility, quality, and safety of health care; reduce costs while using resources efficiently; and improve the health and quality of life of the residents of Indian River County.

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<sup>5</sup> “Race, Racism and the Policy of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Medicine”, Mia Keeys, Joaquin Baca and Aletha Maybank, Yale Journal of Miology and Medicine, (2021)

<sup>6</sup> American Medical Association, House of Delegates November 2020 AMA Special Meeting

## Using the Plan

The implementation of the Indian River County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) will strengthen the public health system, guide planning of future efforts, build partnerships and ultimately promote the well-being and quality of life for Indian River County residents. The Indian River County CHIP, developed by community stakeholders and members, builds upon the foundation of local initiatives and seeks to improve the well-being of the residents of Indian River County. Below are some suggestions and strategies for your participation in achieving a healthier community.

- Raise awareness of the health priorities in the community and the CHIP.
- Support programs, policies, initiatives, resources, and campaigns aimed to address the health priorities in the community.
- Be an advocate and champion in the community for healthy behaviors and for health improvement.
- Share resources and promote collaboration to strengthen the health improvement efforts in the county.

## Get Involved

Community health improvement is a community-driven process. All stakeholders and residents are invited to improve the health and well-being of the county. For additional information or to get involved in the health improvement activities, please contact:

### **Miranda Swanson, MPH**

Administrator  
Florida Department of Health  
in Indian River County  
Miranda.Swanson@flhealth.gov  
772-794-7450

### **Julianne Price, RS**

Environmental Administrator  
Florida Department of Health  
in Indian River County  
Julianne.Price@flhealth.gov  
772-794-7445

### **Molly (Mary Catherine) Steinwald, MS**

Community Health Improvement Manager  
Florida Department of Health  
in Indian River County  
Mary.Steinwald@flhealth.gov  
772-794-7410

# Appendix A – Priority 1: Health Action Plan

Background: Due to the significant and impactful consequences and the challenges and barriers experienced accessing care, the advisory committee formed to direct the Indian River County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) deemed health a priority, specifically mental health and healthy weight. Furthermore, obesity, chronic disease risk and prevention, mental health, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), alcohol abuse and suicide have been outlined as a priority in Florida’s State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). The CHIP uses strategies to strengthen the integration of mental health services and healthy weight education with primary care services, as well as reduce barriers to accessing behavioral and mental health services. The strategies and objectives outlined in the Indian River County CHIP align with the SHIP with the hope towards the common goal of improving the physical, behavioral and mental health of residents of the county and the state.

In Indian River County from 2017-2019, there has been an increasing trend in inpatient discharges related to episodic mood disorders with a significant amount of inpatient discharges in the 10-14 and 15-19 age groups. Additionally, in 2019, there were 29 deaths by suicide in Indian River County, an age-adjusted rate of 16.5 per 100,000 residents, which was slightly higher than the state’s figures and higher than the Healthy People 2030 target of 12.8 per 100,000. The highest rates are among the 45-64 age group and have been increasing since 2009. Failure to access care is a significant issue among those suffering from mental health conditions. Stigma, lack of education and awareness, and missed opportunities for screenings and interventions are among the barriers for receiving appropriate care.

Background: According to the most recent Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data, adult obesity (body mass index of 30+) rates now exceed 35% in 16 states. Florida’s rate of obesity in 2020 was 28.4%, part of a rising trend since 1990. From 2018 to 2020, the rate of student obesity (at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile in body mass index (BMI)), in the county increased from 8.3% to 10.5% for middle school students and decreased from 14.3% to 12.9% for high school students. Furthermore, 59.7% of adults reported being either overweight or obese in Indian River County. These alarming rates are of significant concern in the Indian River community, particularly due to the projections that the trend of overweight and obesity will continue to increase because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## GOAL 1.A. IMPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH OF INDIVIDUALS IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY.

<b>SMART OBJECTIVE / MEASURE</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE</b>
<p>1.A.1. Decrease the number of hospitalizations in Indian River County for mood and depressive disorders by 10% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 1,137 in 2019.</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>Measure: % of decrease in data.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine feasibility of a mental health full continuum of care in Indian River County by Dec 31, 2023.</li> <li>• Expand the mental health continuum of care by 2 services by Dec 31, 2025.</li> <li>• Increase the number of individuals in Indian River County certified in Mental Health First Aid to 1,500 by Dec 31, 2026.</li> </ul>	<p>Mental Health Collaborative of Indian River</p>	<p>IRC Healthy Start Coalition; Indian River Hospital District; Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; School District of IRC; Senior Collaborative; Senior Resource Association; Substance Awareness Center of IRC; Treasure Coast Community Health; VNA of the Treasure Coast; 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast; DOH-Indian River.</p>	<p>Administration (Mary “Molly” Steinwald)</p>

<b>GOAL 1.A. IMPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH OF INDIVIDUALS IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY. CONT.</b>				
<b>SMART OBJECTIVE / MEASURE</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE</b>
<p>1.A.2. Decrease the number of suicide deaths in Indian River County by 10% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 29 deaths in 2019.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: # of suicide deaths.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct analysis of suicide death and suicide attempt data in Indian River County to identify underlying factors by Dec 31, 2023.</li> <li>• Increase awareness and education about mental health services in Indian River County by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Estimate the percentage of adults in Indian River County who suffer from loneliness by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Research public suicide prevention campaign options and implement campaign by Dec 31, 2025.</li> </ul>	Mental Health Collaborative of Indian River	Indian River Hospital District; Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; Senior Collaborative; Senior Resource Association; Substance Awareness Center; Treasure Coast Community Health; DOH-Indian River; Indian River Hospital District; Nurse Family Partnership of the Treasure Coast; Tykes & Teens; VNA of the Treasure Coast; Whole Family Health Center.	Administration (Mary "Molly" Steinwald)
<p>1.A.3. Decrease the percentage of Indian River County students who, in the past year, reported feeling sad or hopeless for two or more weeks in a row and stopped doing usual activities to 25% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 30.3% in 2020.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: % of reports of sadness or hopelessness.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) awareness campaign by Dec 31, 2024.</li> <li>• Increase the number of providers who have received trauma informed care training by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Increase the protective factor prevalence rates for middle and high school students to 60% by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Increase screening, referral and engagement of perinatal mental health services for new parents by Dec 31, 2026.</li> </ul>	Mental Health Collaborative of Indian River	Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; Substance Awareness Center; Tykes and Teens; DOH-Indian River; Treasure Coast Community Health; IRC Healthy Start Coalition; Nurse Family Partnership; School District of IRC.	Administration (Mary "Molly" Steinwald)
<p>1.A.4. Increase the number of partnership activities in Indian River County focused on stopping human trafficking from 0 in December 2023 to 3 by December 31, 2026.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: Number of partnerships activities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify organizations that are working to stop human trafficking in Indian River County by September 30, 2024.</li> <li>• Identify evidence-based services, education and communication tools to stop human trafficking by June 30, 2025.</li> <li>• Select and implement evidence-based services, education and communication tools, focusing on industries with high rates of human trafficking by December 31, 2025.</li> </ul>	Indian River County Sherriff's Office	211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast; Substance Awareness Center of IRC; Vero Beach Police Department; Indian River County Sherriff's Office; Mental Health Association of IRC; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; United Against Poverty; Treasure Coast Community Health; Tykes and Teens; DOH-Indian River.	Administration (Mary "Molly" Steinwald)

<b>GOAL 1.B. ENSURE INDIVIDUALS IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY ATTAIN AND MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WEIGHT.</b>				
<b>SMART OBJECTIVE / MEASURE</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE</b>
<p>1.B.1. Maintain the percentage of adults in Indian River County who have a healthy weight at the 2019 baseline level of 38% by December 31, 2026.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: % of individuals with a BMI of 18.5-24.9.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Florida Blue Foundation Food Security grant education activities for adults in Indian River County by Aug 16, 2026.</li> <li>• Increase coordination between agencies to increase availability of healthy and affordable food to Indian River County residents by Aug 16, 2026.</li> <li>• Recommend food policies be instituted to support local production, distribution, and purchasing of nutritious food by Aug 16, 2026.</li> </ul>	DOH-Indian River	DOH-Indian River; United Against Poverty; Senior Resource Association; Economic Opportunity Council of IRC; UF/IFAS Extension Indian River County; Sebastian Conference of St. Vincent de Paul; IRC Human Services; Treasure Coast Food Bank; Florida Farm Bureau Federation	Administration (Mary "Molly" Steinwald)
<p>1.B.2. Decrease the percentage of adults in Indian River County who reported that poor physical or mental health kept them from doing usual activities on 14 or more of the past 30 days (among adults who have had at least one day of poor mental or physical health) to 17% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 18.5% in 2019.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: 1.5% decrease in percentage of adults whose poor physical or mental health kept them from doing usual activities on 14 or more of the past 30 days.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement FL Blue Foundation park senior wellness programs and capital equipment installations by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Implement mental health walking clubs in at least 4 locations by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Decrease percentage of adults who engage in heavy or binge drinking through substance use motivational interviewing by Dec 31, 2026.</li> </ul>	DOH-Indian River	DOH-Indian River; Mental Health Collaborative of IRC; UF/IFAS Extension Indian River County; Substance Awareness Center of IRC; DOH-Indian River; Whole Family Health Center; Mental Health Association; Treasure Coast Community Health	Administration (Mary "Molly" Steinwald)
<p>1.B.3. Decrease the number of adults in Indian River County who are sedentary by 5% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 26.7% in 2019.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: % of sedentary adults.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve infrastructure, lighting, and sidewalks within low-income and under-resourced communities by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Include all free public park areas in Indian River County in online database and promote to residents and health practitioners county-wide by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Implement Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) and Diabetes Self-Management</li> </ul>	DOH-Indian River	IRC Parks and Recreation; IRC Community Development; Robert Solari; DOH-Indian River; NAACP.	Administration (Mary "Molly" Steinwald)



	Education and Support (DSEMS) Program county-wide by Dec 31, 2026.			
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**GOAL 1.B. ENSURE INDIVIDUALS IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY ATTAIN AND MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WEIGHT. CONT.**

<b>SMART OBJECTIVE / MEASURE</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE</b>
<p>1.B.4. Maintain the percentage of middle and high school students in Indian River County who have a healthy weight at the 2020 baseline level of 68.1% by December 31, 2026.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: % of individuals with a BMI of 18.5-24.9.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement 5210 in Indian River County schools by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Implement 5210 in out-of-school programs in Indian River County by Dec 31, 2024.</li> <li>• Increase community capacity to provide support for people living with disordered eating by Dec 31, 2023.</li> <li>• Recommend food policies be instituted to support local production, distribution, and purchasing of nutritious food by Aug 16, 2026.</li> </ul>	DOH-Indian River	DOH-Indian River; School District of IRC; Tykes and Teens; Substance Awareness Center; Mental Health Collaborative; Treasure Coast Community Health; Whole Family Health Center; Indian River Hospital District; Cleveland Clinic; IRC Human Services; UF/IFAS Extension Indian River County; Florida Farm Bureau Federation; United Against Poverty.	Administration (Mary "Molly" Steinwald)

## Appendix B – Priority 2: Housing Action Plan

Background: Indian River County is experiencing a high rate of growth and a dramatic increase in real estate prices. The combination of high demand and high prices creates a shortage of affordable housing. This shortage limits families’ and individuals’ choices about where they live, often relegating lower-income families to substandard housing in unsafe, overcrowded neighborhoods with higher rates of poverty and fewer resources for health promotion. The lack of affordable housing affects families’ ability to meet other essential expenses, placing many under tremendous financial strain. High housing-related costs place a particular economic burden on low-income families, forcing trade-offs between food, heating, medical care and other basic needs.

Considering evidence about the many ways housing can affect health, strategies must be multifaceted — focusing on availability of building sites, physical quality of housing, health-promoting conditions in neighborhoods, and access to affordable housing for everyone.

### GOAL 2.A. INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS BY 1,500 IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY.

<b>SMART OBJECTIVE / MEASURE</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE</b>
<p>2.A.1. Increase the number of land parcels added to the Indian River County Urban Service Area to increase available land for affordable / workforce housing units from a baseline of 0 additional parcels in 2021 to greater than 0 additional parcels by December 31, 2026.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: Number of additional land parcels available for affordable housing units as depicted in a revised, expanded Urban Service Area map.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct an urban service area education campaign by Dec 31, 2024.</li> <li>• Conduct an assessment of urban service area expansion alternative scenarios by Dec 31, 2025.</li> <li>• Collaborate with Indian River County Metropolitan Planning Organization (IRC MPO) in their visioning process to evaluate and promote appropriate urban service area expansion for affordable housing by Dec 31, 2026.</li> </ul>	<p>Indian River County Metropolitan Planning Organization IRC MPO</p>	<p>IRC Metropolitan Planning Organization/MPO; IRC Affordable Housing Advisory Committee/AHAC; Robert Solari; Susan Adams; IRC Board of County Commissioners; DOH-Indian River; non-profit organizations.</p>	<p>Administration (Mary “Molly” Steinwald)</p>

**GOAL 2.A. INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS BY 1,500 IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY. CONT.**

<b>SMART OBJECTIVE / MEASURE</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE</b>
<p>2.A.2. Create 100 new affordable housing units, including rentals, in Indian River County by December 31, 2026 from a baseline of 0 new units in 2021.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: Certificates of Occupancy issued by IRC Building Department.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with cities within Indian River County to construct 6 affordable / workforce housing units in their available land areas by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Work with IRC non-profits and for-profit developers to acquire funds and construct housing by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Work with Indian River County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) to conduct an assessment of the percentage of rental housing in the county by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Recommend urban service area expansion and county zoning policy changes to allow for affordable / workforce housing development by December 31, 2026.</li> </ul>	<p>Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p>Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Habitat for Humanity; Hope for Families Center; Indian River County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC); John’s Island Community Service League; United Way of IRC; IRC Community Development.</p>	<p>Administration (Mary “Molly” Steinwald)</p>
<p>2.A.3. Conduct one assessment on Community Land Trust feasibility and provider interest in Indian River County by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 assessments conducted in 2020.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: Completed Community Land Trust Feasibility Assessment Report.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a focus group containing non-profit and county members by Dec 31, 2023.</li> </ul>	<p>United Way of IRC</p>	<p>Indian River County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC); John’s Island Community Service League; United Way of IRC; Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Coalition for Attainable Homes</p>	<p>Administration (Mary “Molly” Steinwald)</p>
<p>2.A.4. Develop one Community Land Trust to be in operation in Indian River County from 0 in 2023 to one by December 31, 2026.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: One Community Land Trust in operation.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete non-profit structure work and fundraising by Dec 31, 2026.</li> </ul>	<p>Coalition for Attainable Homes</p>	<p>Coalition for Attainable Homes; Treasure Coast Homelessness Services Council; John’s Island Community Service League; United Way of IRC</p>	<p>Administration (Mary “Molly” Steinwald)</p>

**GOAL 2.B. ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATION OF SUPPORT SERVICES AROUND HOUSING ATTAINMENT AND RETAINMENT IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY.**

<b>SMART OBJECTIVE / MEASURE</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE</b>
<p>2.B.1. Provide 10 home ownership education and/or credit repair events annually in Indian River County by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 new events in 2021.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: Number of educational events conducted.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide 10 home ownership education and/or credit repair events annually in Indian River County by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 new events in 2021.</li> <li>• Hold 3 workshops to examine and promote diversification of industry by Dec 31, 2026.</li> </ul>	United Against Poverty	<p>Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Habitat for Humanity; Hope for Families Center; United Against Poverty; United Way of IRC; other agencies.</p> <p>United Against Poverty; Indian River Chamber of Commerce; Indian River State College; CareerSource Research Coast; Treasure Coast Technical College; Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council</p>	Administration (Mary "Molly" Steinwald)
<p>2.B.2. Research evidence-based, integrative support service models and implement one in Indian River County by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 in 2021.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: Number of models researched.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research housing support services for the senior population by Dec 31, 2025.</li> <li>• Implement identified housing support service(s) in the county by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Create paths to home ownership by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Conduct a gap analysis of services by Dec 31, 2026.</li> </ul>	Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council	<p>Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council; Livable Indian River/Senior Collaborative of Indian River; United Way of IRC; Habitat for Humanity; Hope for Families Center; United Against Poverty; IRC Community Development; Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council</p>	Administration (Mary "Molly" Steinwald)

## Appendix C – Priority 3: Economic Opportunity and Employment

**Background:** The prospect that individuals may be able to improve their economic status has important effects on the health of a community. Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital found that mortality rates were higher and that risk factors like obesity and smoking and the prevalence of hypertension and diabetes were greater in areas with the lowest levels of economic opportunity, based on a nationwide database. The study results -- based on data from almost 2,700 counties covering 97 percent of the U.S. population -- found strong associations between areas of low economic opportunity and higher mortality rates. Prevalence of smoking, obesity, hypertension and diabetes were all higher in lower-opportunity counties. All the associations were stronger in working age adults, particularly those ages 25 to 44, and among African Americans.<sup>7</sup>

In Indian River County the gap between the very rich and the very poor is very wide. Although Indian River is one of the top-10 richest counties in Florida, more than half of residents are severely financially stressed – either living in poverty, or one or two paychecks away from poverty. In 2019 21.1% of black and 30.9% of Hispanic residents 25 years or older did not hold a high school diploma (whites 9.5%) and 31% of black and 14% of Hispanic individuals live below the poverty level, compared with 14.8% of white individuals. Unemployment is higher among black residents (9.4%) and Hispanics (7.6%) than whites (6.2%). Indian River County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) sets goals and objectives to address these disparities.

### **GOAL 3.A. REDUCE BARRIERS BY CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND INCREASED EMPLOYMENT IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY.**

<b>SMART OBJECTIVE / MEASURE</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE</b>
<p>3.A.1. Decrease the percentage of individuals in Indian River County 25 years and over with no high school diploma or GED by 1.5% year-over-year through December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 10.6% in 2019.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: % of individuals with GED or high school diplomas.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase opportunities to achieve GED by offering classes with varied schedules, convenient locations and volunteer tutors by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Offer ESOL instruction on varied schedules, in convenient locations throughout the county by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Increase the number of employers not requiring a GED or high school diploma of prospective employees who have work experience by December 31, 2026.</li> </ul>	United Against Poverty	Treasure Coast Technical College; CareerSource Research Coast; Indian River State College; United Against Poverty; Indian River County Chamber of Commerce; DOH-Indian River	Administration (Mary “Molly” Steinwald)

<sup>7</sup> Massachusetts General Hospital 2015 study published in American Journal of Public Health

<p>3.A.2. Increase the average annual wage by 5% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of \$47,113 in 2020.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: Average annual wage.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the scope, marketing, impact and candidate retention of paid apprenticeship programs by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Host quarterly community resource fairs, rotated geographically across county, each year, by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Recommend instituting state-mandated policy change to increase minimum wage (underway).</li> </ul>	<p>United Against Poverty</p>	<p>United Against Poverty; Indian River County Chamber of Commerce; CareerSource Research Coast; Treasure Coast Technical College; Indian River State College; City of Fellsmere; School District of IRC; State of Florida</p>	<p>Administration (Mary “Molly” Steinwald)</p>
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**GOAL 3.B. DECREASE THE INDIVIDUAL POVERTY RATE 10% BY PROVIDING STEPS AND A NETWORK OF PROVIDERS TO ADVANCE OUT OF THE POVERTY CYCLE.**

<b>SMART OBJECTIVE / MEASURE</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE</b>
<p>3.B.1. Conduct an inventory of economic opportunity resources in Indian River County to include a county gap analysis by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 inventories and gap analyses conducted in 2019.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: Gap analysis documentation and inventory records.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish an economic opportunity collaborative to assess needs and provide qualitative data by Dec 31, 2026</li> </ul>	<p>Indian River Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>United Against Poverty; CareerSource Research Coast; Treasure Coast Technical College; Indian River State College; Indian River Chamber of Commerce; DOH-Indian River</p>	<p>Administration (Mary “Molly” Steinwald)</p>
<p>3.B.2. Establish two community resource centers, each in a low-income community in Indian River County where no community resource center exists from a baseline of 0 centers in 2020 to 1 established by December 31, 2026.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: # of community centers.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the needs of underserved communities in Indian River County using Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH) by December 31, 2024.</li> <li>• Hold focus groups to determine the feasibility and sustainability of community resource centers by Dec 31, 2025.</li> <li>• Hold monthly planning meetings to build community resource center in Fellsmere by Dec 31 2026.</li> </ul>	<p>DOH-Indian River</p>	<p>Fellsmere Action Community Team/FACT; City of Fellsmere; Marsh Landing Restaurant; NAACP; DOH-Indian River</p>	<p>Administration (Mary “Molly” Steinwald)</p>

**GOAL 3.B. DECREASE THE INDIVIDUAL POVERTY RATE 10% BY PROVIDING STEPS AND A NETWORK OF PROVIDERS TO ADVANCE OUT OF THE POVERTY CYCLE. CONT.**

<b>SMART OBJECTIVE / MEASURE</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE</b>
<p>3.B.3. Decrease the percentage of adults who are housing cost-burdened (paying more than 30% of their monthly income for rent or mortgage) by 5% by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 33% in 2019.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Measure: % of individuals paying more than 30% of their monthly income on rent or mortgage.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct financial literacy workshops by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Partner with Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) to implement affordable housing strategies by Dec 31, 2026.</li> <li>• Recommend instituting state-mandated policy change to increase minimum wage (underway).</li> </ul>	<p>DOH-Indian River</p>	<p>United Against Poverty; Habitat for Humanity; NAACP; Treasure Coast Homeless Services Coalition; Coalition for Attainable Homes; IRC Community Development; other agencies; State of Florida</p>	<p>Administration (Mary "Molly" Steinwald)</p>

# Appendix D - Revisions to the CHIP (Version 1.3)

The CHIP is reviewed quarterly by the Performance Management Council at committee meetings, workgroups, and it is reviewed by administration as needed. The CHIP is reviewed annually with external stakeholders at meetings such as the annual accreditation and LPHSA meeting. Revisions to the CHIP have been made after careful review of the goals, objectives, strategies and measures of the 2022-2026 CHIP. Any CHIP workgroup meeting minutes will be added to the annual CHIP report. Recommended changes are made based on the following parameters:

- Availability of data to monitor progress - performance measures that had county-level data available were preferred, etc.
- Availability of resources
- Community readiness
- Evident progress
- Alignment of goals
- Input received at community and stakeholder meetings
- DOH Indian River Performance Management Council’s periodic review of data

Changes to the CHIP will be listed as follows:

Page	Section	Change	Date Changed
Throughout	Throughout	Grammatical, spelling, format, pagination, and contact information corrections. Slight text modification of several sentences and Objectives to clarify meaning. Modified text so document consistently referred to as “Community Health Needs Assessment”. Added text to Executive Summary noting that document “sometimes referred to elsewhere in the community as the Community Needs Assessment (CNA).”	03/08/2022
10	The Process	Added text in “Continued Improvement through Partnership” section to describe the process of community partners being held accountable for implemented strategies outlined in the plan.	03/08/2022
16-19; 23-25; 28-30; 40-41	Health, Housing and Economic Opportunity and Employment Action Plans	For each Objective, added the following: 1) “Partners” section, listing individuals and organizations responsible for implementing strategies; 2) “Policy Changes Needed” section, listing policy changes needed to accomplish objective, where applicable); 3) Month and day to target date years; and renamed “Key Action Steps” section headers to “Key Action Steps/Strategies”.	03/08/2022
14 and 34; 16 and 34, 17 and 35	Health Priority, Action Plan, and Appendix	Corrected 2018 middle school student obesity rate by replacing 8.6% with 8.3% and 2018 high school student obesity rate by replacing 10.6% with 14.3%. In Objective 1.A.1: Corrected “1,500” to “1,200” in	03/08/2022



		Key Action Step/Strategy". In Objective 1.A.3: Corrected Objective statement by replacing "by" with "to".	
25 and 39	Housing Action Plan and Appendix B	In Objective 2.B.2: Corrected measure and benchmark by replacing "Gap analysis conducted" with "Number of support service models researched" and "A minimum of one support service model researched," respectively.	03/08/2022
34	Appendix A	For Objective 1.B.2, replaced measure of "From % of sedentary adults" to correct measure of "1.5% decrease in percentage of adults whose poor physical or mental health kept them from doing usual activities on 14 or more of the past 30 days."	03/08/2022
44	Appendix F	Wrote out entire Goal statement for each Goal. Removed "Mental Health First Aid" from table.	03/08/2022
6	Indian River County Snapshot	Replaced "Gifford" with "Wabasso" in sentence referencing location of health department sites in the county.	03/31/2023
33	Get Involved	Administrator's last name and email updated.	03/31/2023
16-17 and 44	Health Action Plan and Appendix A	"SNAP-Ed" and "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" replaced with "Florida Blue Foundation Food Security grant" due to change in funding source.	03/31/2023
19 and 44	Health Action Plan and Appendix A	Under Key Action Steps/Strategies, "SNAP-Ed, including 5210" replaced with "5210". Under Evidence-Supported Initiatives, removed "SNAP-Ed" paragraph.	03/31/2023
16-33	Action Plans	To align with DOH CHIP Standard H, PHAB v2022: For each Action Plan, renamed "Community Resources" section to "Assets and Resources to Address Priority" and expanded list of resources.	02/20/2024
16-33 and 35-44	Action Plans and Appendix A-C	Renamed "Key Action Step" to "Strategy/Key Action Step" and "Key Action Steps" to Strategies/Key Action Steps".	02/20/2024
16-33 and 35-44	Action Plans and Appendix A-C	Updated responsible organizations to include new partner organizations addressing Objectives and Strategies/Key Action Steps	02/20/2024
16-33	Action Plans	Reformatted Action Plans to be easily readable while aligning with DOH CHIP Standard 5, PHAB v2022.	02/20/2024
16-23 and 35-44	All Action Plans and Appendix A-C	Added timeframe dates and designated responsible organizations to all Strategies/Key Actions, to align with DOH CHIP Standard 5, PHAB v2022.	02/20/2024
12-13, 16-21, 35-38	Overview, Health Action Plan and Appendix A	Added Objective 1.A.4 and Strategies/Key Action Steps focused on stopping human trafficking.	02/20/2024
16-21, 35-38	Health Action Plan and Appendix A	Under Objective 1.B.1 and 1.B.4, "Policy Change Needed" revised to a "Strategy/Key Action Step" to align with DOH CHIP Standard 6, PHAB v2022.	02/20/2024

16-21, 35-38	Health Action Plan	Removed evidence-supported initiatives no longer applicable.	02/20/2024
16-21, 35-38	Health Action Plan and Appendix A	Under Objective 1.A.1, revised Strategy/Key Action Step to "Increase the number of individuals in Indian River County certified in Mental Health First Aid to 1,500."	02/20/2024
16-21, 35-38	Health Action Plan and Appendix A	Under Objective 1.A.2, added new Strategy/Key Action Step: "Research public suicide prevention campaign options and implement campaign."	02/20/2024
16-21, 35-38	Health Action Plan and Appendix A	Under Objective 1.A.3, revised Strategy/Key Action Step to: "Implement Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) awareness campaign."	02/20/2024
16-21, 35-38	Health Action Plan and Appendix A	Under Objective 1.B.2: revised Strategy/Key Action Step to: "Decrease percentage of adults who engage in heavy or binge drinking through substance use motivational interviewing."	02/20/2024
16-21, 35-38	Health Action Plan and Appendix A	Under Objective 1.B.3, revised Strategy/Key Action Step to: "Implement Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) and Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSEMS) Program county-wide."	02/20/2024
22-27 and 39-41	Housing Action Plan and Appendix B	Under Objective 2.A.1, added new Strategy/Key Action Step: "Conduct an assessment of urban service area expansion alternative scenarios."	02/20/2024
12, 22-27 and 39-41	Overview, Housing Action Plan and Appendix B	Revised Objective 2.A.2 to: "Create 100 new affordable housing units, including rentals, by 2023 from a baseline of 0 in 2021." And under Objective 2.A.2, revised Strategy/Key Action Step to: "Work with IRC non-profits and for-profit developers to acquire funds and construct housing."	02/20/2024
22-27 and 39-41	Housing Action Plan and Appendix B	Under Objective 2.A.2, "Policy Change Needed" revised to a "Strategy/Key Action Step" to align with DOH CHIP Standard 6, PHAB v2022.	02/20/2024
22-27 and 39-41	Housing Action Plan and Appendix B	Added new Objective 2.A.4: "Develop one Community Land Trust to be in operation in Indian River County from 0 in 2023 to one by December 31, 2026." And under Objective 2.A.4, added new Strategy/Key Action Step: "Complete non-profit structure work and fundraising."	02/20/2024
12-13, 22-27 and 39-41	Overview, Housing Action Plan and Appendix B	Revised Objective 2.B.1 and one Key Action Step/Strategy under Objective 2.B.1 to: "Provide 10 home ownership education and/or credit repair events annually in Indian River County by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 new events in 2021."	02/20/2024
12-13, 22-27 and 39-41	Overview, Housing Action Plan and Appendix B	Revised Objective 2.B.2 to "Research evidence-based, integrative support service models and implement one in Indian River County by December 31, 2026, from a baseline of 0 in 2021." And under Objective 2.B.2, added new Strategy/Key Action Step: "Implement identified housing support service(s) in the county by December 31, 2026."	02/20/2024

29-32 and 42-44	Economic Opportunity and Employment Action Plan and Appendix C	Under Objective 3.A.2 and 3.B.3, "Policy Change Needed" revised to a "Strategy/Key Action Step" to align with DOH CHIP Standard 6, PHAB v2022.	02/20/2024
29-32 and 42-44	Economic Opportunity and Employment Action Plan and Appendix C	Under Objective 3.A.1, added new Strategies/Key Action Steps: - "Offer ESOL instruction on varied schedules, in convenient locations throughout the county." - "Increase the number of employers not requiring a GED or high school diploma of prospective employees who have work experience."	02/20/2024
12-13, 29-32 and 42-44	Overview, Economic Opportunity and Employment Action Plan and Appendix C	Revised Objective 3.B.2 to: "Establish two community resource centers, each in a low-income community in the county where no community resource center exists." And under Objective 3.B.2, added new Strategy/Key Action Step: "Hold monthly planning meetings to build community resource center in Fellsmere."	02/20/2024
45 and 49	Appendices	Re-lettered last two appendices to correct error of there not being an appendix named "D" in initial version.	02/20/2024
49	Appendix E	Removed "National Strategy for Suicide Prevention" information	02/20/2024
52-61	Addendum	Added "DOH-Indian River Health Equity Plan, June 2022-June 2025" Addendum.	02/20/2024

# Appendix E: CHIP (Version 1.3) Alignment with Local, State, and National Improvement Plans

CHIP Priority & Goal	QI Project	Plan Alignment	Aligned Priority Area
<b>Priority 1: Health -</b> Improve the mental health of individuals in Indian River County. (Goal #1)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHD PMQI Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Agency PMQI Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Health Improvement Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHD Strategic Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Strategic Plan <input type="checkbox"/> CHD Workforce Development Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Workforce Development Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy People 2030 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Strategy for Suicide Prevention	<u>DOH-Indian River Strategic Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority: Healthy Thriving Lives</li> <li>• Goal: Increase the number of direct service programs to address suicides by individuals over the age of 65</li> </ul> <u>SHIP</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority: Mental Wellbeing and Substance Abuse Prevention</li> </ul> <u>Healthy People 2030</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: Increase the proportion of people with substance abuse and mental health disorders who get treatment for both</li> <li>• Goal: Increase the proportion of primary care visits where adolescents and adults are screened for depression</li> <li>• Increase the proportion of adolescents who have an adult they can talk to about serious problems</li> </ul>
<b>Priority 1: Health -</b> Ensure individuals in Indian River County attain and maintain a healthy weight. (Goal #2)	<b>Programmatic - Population Based:</b> Florida Blue Foundation Food Security grant	<input type="checkbox"/> CHD PMQI Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Agency PMQI Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Health Improvement Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHD Strategic Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Strategic Plan <input type="checkbox"/> CHD Workforce Development Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Workforce Development Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy People 2030	<u>DOH-Indian River Strategic Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal Enhance Health Promotion Activities</li> <li>• Goal: Increase the implementation of 5-2-1-0 programming in 3 sectors</li> </ul> <u>FDOH Agency Strategic Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority: Healthy, Thriving Lives</li> <li>• Goal: Enhance health promotion activities</li> </ul> <u>SHIP</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority: Chronic Diseases and Conditions- obesity, chronic disease risk and prevention factors</li> </ul> <u>Healthy People 2030</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: Reduce the proportion of children and adolescents with obesity</li> <li>• Goal: Increase the proportion of adults who do enough aerobic physical activity for substantial health benefits</li> </ul>
<b>Priority 2: Housing –</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> CHD PMQI Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Agency PMQI Plan	<u>SHIP</u>

CHIP Priority & Goal	QI Project	Plan Alignment	Aligned Priority Area
<p>Increase the number of affordable housing units by 1,500 in Indian River County. (Goal #1)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Health Improvement Plan</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHD Strategic Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agency Strategic Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> CHD Workforce Development Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agency Workforce Development Plan</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy People 2030</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority: Social &amp; Economic Conditions Impacting Health, neighborhood and built environment</li> <li><u>DOH-Indian River Strategic Plan</u></li> <li>• Goal: Implement strategies to minimize disparities in social determinants of health</li> <li>• Goal: increase percentage of clients screened for social determinants of health</li> <li><u>Healthy People 2030</u></li> <li>• Goal: Reduce the proportion of families that spend more than 30% of income on housing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority 2: Housing –</b> Establish a comprehensive integration of support services around housing attainment and retention in Indian River County. (Goal #2)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> CHD PMQI Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agency PMQI Plan</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Health Improvement Plan</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHD Strategic Plan</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agency Strategic Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> CHD Workforce Development Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agency Workforce Development Plan</li> </ul>	<p><u>SHIP</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority: Social &amp; Economic Conditions Impacting Health, social and community context</li> <li><u>DOH-Indian River Strategic Plan</u></li> <li>• Priority: Improve public health in rural, minority and underserved communities</li> <li>• Goal: increase percentage of clients screened for social determinants of health</li> <li><u>FDOH Agency Strategic Plan</u></li> <li>• Priority: Access to Equitable Care</li> <li>• Goal: Identify &amp; Implement strategies to minimize disparities in social determinants of health</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority 3: Economic Opportunity and Employment</b> Reduce barriers by creating economic opportunity and increased employment in Indian River County. (Goal #1)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> CHD PMQI Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agency PMQI Plan</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Health Improvement Plan</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHD Strategic Plan</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agency Strategic Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> CHD Workforce Development Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agency Workforce Development Plan</li> </ul>	<p><u>SHIP</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority: Social &amp; Economic Conditions Impacting Health, education access and quality</li> <li><u>DOH-Indian River Strategic Plan</u></li> <li>• Priority: Communication and Partnership Capacity Building</li> <li>• Goal: Increase the number of community partnerships engaged with Health Equity Coalition</li> <li><u>FDOH Agency Strategic Plan</u></li> <li>• Priority: Access to Equitable Care</li> <li>• Goal: Identify &amp; Implement strategies to minimize disparities in social determinants of health</li> <li><u>Healthy People 2030</u></li> <li>• Goal: Increase employment in working-age people</li> </ul>

CHIP Priority & Goal	QI Project	Plan Alignment	Aligned Priority Area
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: Increase the proportion of high school graduates in college the Oct. after graduating</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority 3: Economic Opportunity and Employment</b>  Decrease the individual poverty rate in Indian River County by 10% by providing steps and a network or providers to advance out of the poverty cycle.  (Goal #2)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> CHD PMQI Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Agency PMQI Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Health Improvement Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHD Strategic Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agency Strategic Plan <input type="checkbox"/> CHD Workforce Development Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Workforce Development Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy People 2030	<p><u>SHIP</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority: Social &amp; Economic Conditions Impacting Health, social and community context</li> </ul> <p><u>DOH-Indian River Strategic Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: Improve public health in rural, minority and underserved communities</li> <li>• Goal: Increase the number of community partners who receive targeted health equity communications</li> </ul> <p><u>FDOH Agency Strategic Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority: Communications &amp; Partnership Capacity Building</li> <li>• Goal: Enhance interagency and community collaboration</li> </ul> <p><u>Healthy People 2030</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: Reduce the proportion of people living in poverty</li> <li>• Goal: Increase employment in working-age people</li> </ul>



# DOH - INDIAN RIVER HEALTH EQUITY PLAN

June 2022 – June 2025

ADDENDUM TO THE DOH-INDIAN RIVER  
COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)  
JANUARY 2024

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***This is an addendum to the Community Health Improvement Plan and specific to the original DOH-Indian River Health Equity Plan (also referred to as the Minority Health Plan). Click [HERE](#) for the complete, original DOH-Indian River Health Equity Plan. The terms, “Social Determinants of Health” and “Social and Economic Barriers” are used interchangeably in various DOH-Indian River documents.***



## I. VISION

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The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as a state of complete well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Health Equity is the attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Persisting legacies of social problems such as structural racism are hampering the attainment of health equity, causing economic loss and, most overwhelmingly, the loss of human lives and potential. Harmful inequities and other failures of the nation’s health system have been underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has also highlighted “the urgency for strategic, equitable investments in our public health infrastructure” and the need for a “bold reimagining” of the medical tradition’s policies and practices.<sup>8</sup>

The Health Equity Task Force is a subset of the Indian River County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and is rooted in three priorities: housing, health, and economic opportunity and employment. The CHIP was developed with a health equity component in each of its priorities and aligns with the goals of the American Medical Association to push health equity forward by advancing policies on racism as a public health threat, health equity in medical education, health care delivery and research and practice.<sup>9</sup> The Task Force furthers these efforts to improve the accessibility, quality, and safety of health care; reduce costs while using resources efficiently; and improve the health and quality of life of the residents of Indian River County.

The Florida Department of Health in Indian River engages community partners and stakeholders in assessing the health needs of underserved communities, prioritizing health needs and devising an action plan through strategic planning. Task Force members include representatives from the fields of healthcare, social services, education, community development, philanthropy, city and county government, hospitality, and business.

The Task Force held a series of meetings chaired by the Community Health Improvement Manager, from DOH-Indian River and including the Minority Health Liaison. Task Force members contributed their knowledge and viewpoints. The identified health inequities outlined in this plan are based on the review of quantitative data and qualitative data from various key stakeholders and community members including the Indian River County Health Needs Assessment, Healthy People 2030, Asset-Limited Income-Constrained Employed (ALICE) reporting, Florida Health Charts, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) among others.

Discussions about health disparities and gaps in education and services to under-resourced communities of color resulted in a consensus that all efforts to attain health as defined by the World Health Organization must include addressing equity to be successful at attaining a state

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<sup>8</sup> “Race, Racism, and the Policy of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Medicine”, Mia Keeys, Joaquin Baca and Aletha Maybank, Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine, (2021)

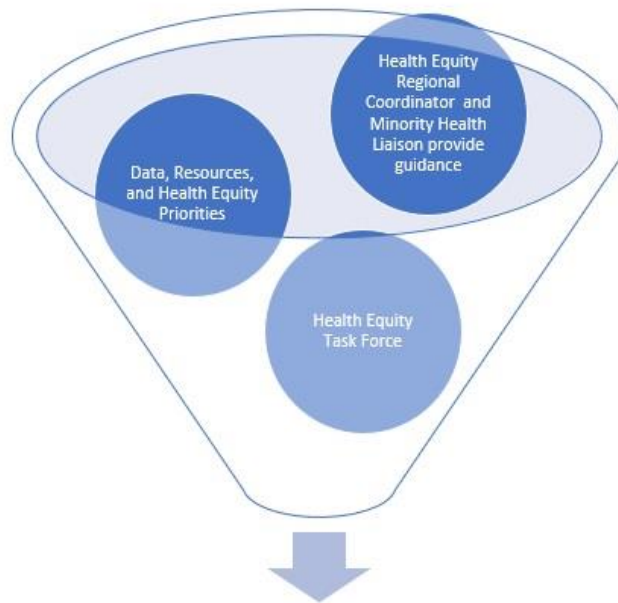
<sup>9</sup> American Medical Association, House of Delegates November 2020 AMA Special Meeting

## DOH-Indian River

*Health Equity Plan Addendum – January 2024*

of complete wellbeing for our community. A series of draft vision statements were discussed, but ultimately, “Achieve Health Equity for Indian River County” was chosen because it is targeted, brief and powerful.

The participation and dedication of the individuals that comprise the Task Force, as advocates for their agencies and the populations they serve, brought tremendous value to this visioning process.



**Health Equity Vision**

**Achieve Health Equity for Indian River County**

## II. PURPOSE OF THE HEALTH EQUITY PLAN

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**Health Equity is achieved when everyone can attain optimal health.**

The Florida Department of Health’s Office of Minority Health (OMH) works with government agencies and community organizations to address the barriers inhibiting populations from reaching optimal health. This requires recognizing and eliminating the systemic barriers that have produced disparities in achieving wellness. In response to Chapter 2021-1700 of the Florida Statute, effective July 1, 2021, each county health department (CHD) has been provided resources to create a Health Improvement Plan to address health disparities in their communities.

## DOH-Indian River

*Health Equity Plan Addendum – January 2024*

The purpose of the Health Equity Plan is to increase health equity within Indian River County. To develop this plan, the Department of Health in Indian River (DOH-Indian River) followed the Florida Department of Health's approach of multi-sector engagement to analyze data and resources, coordinate existing efforts and establish collaborative initiatives. This plan addresses key Social and Economic Barriers indicators affecting health disparities within Indian River County. This Health Equity Plan is not a county health department plan; it is a county-wide Health Equity Plan through which the Health Equity Task Force, including a variety of government, non-profit, and other community organizations, align to address the Social and Economic Barriers that impact health and well-being in the county.

### III. COLLABORATION

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Cross-sector collaborations and partnerships are essential components of improving health and well-being. Such collaborations interconnect to form the whole cloth from which the Health Equity Plan was formed and play an integral part in creating a community effort to eliminate health disparities and promote equity in all Social and Economic Barriers. Subsequently, uncovering the impact of education, health care access and quality, economic stability, social and community context, neighborhood and built environment and other factors influencing the well-being of populations. Cross-sector partners provide the range of expertise necessary to develop and implement the Health Equity Plan.



DOH-Indian River and the Health Equity Task Force work with partner organizations throughout the county to increase the reach of programs and potential solutions.

Communication between providers and between providers and clients is essential when working to address Social and Economic Barriers. Each Task Force member shares information within DOH-Indian River as well as with coalition members and community partners.

Through these associations, DOH-Indian River strengthens its collaboration with community organizations, professionals and specialists and extends its reach and impact in underserved communities.

## **A. Florida State University School of Medicine**

A cross-sector partnership was formed between Florida State University (FSU) School of Medicine, the DOH-Wabasso site, Treasure Coast Food Bank and DOH-Indian River with a goal of education and awareness of healthy behaviors and good nutrition among children in underserved areas within Indian River County. FSU sends medical students to DOH-Indian River for a public health training rotation, much like a brief internship. While at DOH-Indian River, these medical students review health data and determine effective measures to reduce health disparities. DOH-Indian River provides data sources, information about public health services and programs in the area as well as information about the history of the underserved communities in Indian River County.

The results of this collaboration are beneficial for all partners. The FSU medical students receive an education on public health services, but more importantly, they are exposed to living conditions that will have lasting effects on the health of the patients they interact with. Each medical student learns the value of considering the social and economic barriers as well as medical diagnosis when dealing with their patients. They are also made aware of doctor shortages and the need for accessible health care in underserved communities.

## **B. Nurse Family Partnership**

The Nurse Family Partnership program operates jointly with Head Start and DOH-Indian River to provide expecting and new mothers the best chance of a healthy life. They partner with CareNet for physical checkups, Early Learning Coalition for childcare, Career Source Research Coast for job training and employment, Safe Space for intimate partner violence, Kids Closet for clothing, baby seats and other essentials and assist their clients with mental health evaluations in partnership with the Mental Health Collaborative. These partners provided insights on the Social and Economic Barriers to service, common health problem statistics, usage rates for services and communication blocks between agencies.

## **C. Mental Health Professionals**

Another example of Health Equity Task Force member collaboration: Indian River County's mental health professionals, Mental Health Collaborative and the Mental Health Association provided speakers and materials for distribution to the Senior Resource Association and Senior Collaborative to combat isolation and depression. The Mental Health Collaborative is also providing train the trainer classes in Mental Health First Aid to members of the community.

## **D. DOH-Wabasso No-Cost Programs and Services**

DOH-Indian River has extended its reach by establishing a community resource center in Wabasso. The programs and services include:

1. **Florida Blue Educational Gardening Program** – On-site Educational Garden - Nutrition Education workshops and trainings on specific topics such as reading food labels, preparing healthy meals, the “Healthy Plate” concept and healthy lifestyle. DOH partners with other organizations (Douglas Head Start and St. Vincent de Paul) to help cultivate their own gardens.

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2. **Indian River County Human Services** – Provides rental, utilities, prescription, and indigent cremation assistance to qualifying applicants.
3. **Indian River County Parks & Recreation Fitness** – Bi-weekly classes for Seniors involving walking, aerobics, weights and bands.
4. **Senior Resource Association (SRA)** – Daily Congregate Meals for Seniors to socialize and enjoy lunch with other community members. Nutrition education materials provided with topics: Facts on Fats, Sodium, Magnesium, Heart Health, Exercise, etc.
5. **Treasure Coast Food Bank (TCFB) Nutrition Education Classes** – Monthly Presentations to Senior Resource Association Clients including food preparation demonstrations and recipes with topics such as: Nutrition Labels, Setting Goals, Serving Sizes, Seasonal Foods, etc.
6. **Treasure Coast Food Bank (TCFB) Pantry** – TCFB provides frozen and nonperishable foods, fresh produce, household, baby and personal items for the pantry. Clients have access to the pantry once a month to choose items according to the number of people in households and limits of inventory. Currently serving over 107 families (250 individuals).
7. **Senior Collaborative Program** – UPSLIDE: Utilizing and Promoting Social Engagement for Loneliness, Isolation and Depression in the Elderly - “Friends Connection Group” for men and women (60+) who want to socially connect with others. The program offers: individual counseling, peer sharing groups, social support engagement, congregate meals, and transportation.

## IV. HEALTH EQUITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

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Defining Health Equity as the attainment of the highest level of health for all people and making it a part of the vision for DOH-Indian River is a big undertaking. Understanding social and economic barriers to health care, evaluation of gaps in services and recognizing the level of understanding of health equity are first steps to achieving this vision.

Social and economic barriers to health care are continuously identified and addressed through actions taken by Coalition members in CHIP working group meetings, Health Equity Task Force meetings and in DOH- Indian River Program Management Council and Expanded Management meetings.

DOH-Indian River’s Minority Health Liaison (MHL) is fully engaged in under resourced communities providing health information, connecting people to assistance for food, utilities, mortgage or rent and collecting community feedback. The MHL also engages community partners to accomplish our health equity goals and objectives and tracks DOH-Indian River’s progress towards meeting these goals.

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The Office of Minority Health and our Regional Health Equity Coordinator provide training and technical support to the MHL on topics such as: the health equity planning process and goals, facilitation and prioritization techniques, reporting requirements and taking a systems approach to address health disparities. Eliminating gaps in services are key to providing effective care and the attainment of the highest level of health. An effective treatment for a health issue is worthless if those who need the treatment cannot access it because of transportation issues, internet only access or costs.

Education is key to achieving health equity. DOH-Indian River understands that training in health equity and cultural competency are critical for creating a sustainable health equity focus. Each year, DOH-Indian River identifies worthwhile training opportunities and notifies staff of these opportunities. Participation is on a voluntary basis in some instances, mandatory in others.

DOH-Indian River recognized the need to determine the level of understanding about health equity among staff and the level of integration of health equity in DOH-Indian River programs and services. Evaluations began with senior leadership. In July 2023 the Program Management Council (PMC) used, “Improving Health equity: Assessment Tool for Health Care Organizations” from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement to assess leadership’s understanding of health equity and determine how leadership is integrating and supporting health equity efforts in programs and services.

This evaluation reinforced a need for education and expanded discussions about the role of health equity in all staff functions. DOH-Indian River has increased the number of mandatory classes with equity and cultural competency focus for management and staff, used bulletin boards and Teams sites to promote equity awareness and is including discussions about the role of health equity in staff meetings.

Our community partners work shoulder to shoulder with us to expose and reduce social and economic barriers to health care. DOH-Indian River shares grant opportunities, educational materials and our vision, goals and objectives for health equity with this coalition.

Outreach is essential for both community input and education. DOH-Indian River and the MHL work with our community partners to organize and present health fairs, screening events and panel discussions about areas of community interest such as chronic disease and food security.

Since the development of the DOH-Indian River Health Equity Plan in June of 2022, many events have been conducted:

- **December 10, 2022** - Pathway to Homeownership (DOH-Wabasso site) - Presentations from a low-income housing provider, mortgage broker, legal expert and realtor.
- **January 27, 2023** - Health Screening Event (DOH-Wabasso site) - Including blood pressure, blood sugar, A1C, comprehensive eye exams, cancer screening, nutrition education, diabetes education, flu vaccinations, and HIV tests.

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- **April 22, 2023** - Minority Health Month Event (DOH-Wabasso site) focused on raising awareness of Sickle Cell Disease, the disparities in Indian River County, and the importance of blood donation. The event featured a panel discussion including SCD Survivors, a Case Manager and Minority Health Regional Coordinator.



During the Minority Health event, supportive DOH Partners provided incentives, health and wellness education information, and health tests and screenings:

- 1) Sickle Cell Disease Foundation
- 2) Cleveland Clinic IR Hospital
- 3) Visiting Nurses Association
- 4) Treasure Coast Food Bank
- 5) United Against Poverty
- 6) DOH-HIV/AIDS Prevention
- 7) Friends After Diagnosis
- 8) WIC Florida
- 9) One Blood - Big Red Bus

- **June 29, 2023** - Food Security Summit (Gifford Youth Achievement Center, Vero Beach) - Representatives from food producers, vendors and consumers discussed issues in food distribution, communication between providers and gaps in service to under-resourced communities.
- **December 1, 2023** - World AIDS Day Event (DOH/Wabasso site) – Partners provided free health screenings, flu vaccinations, Body Mass Index (BMI) evaluations, health information, blood donations and HIV/AIDS testing.

## V. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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To appropriately align goals and objectives with the health equity priorities of the county, the Task Force determined to identify the root causes of each priority. DOH-Indian River and the Health Equity Task Force work with partner organizations and professionals on common goals to implement programs and provide services focused on assessing and addressing Social and Economic Barriers.

<b>GOAL#1</b>	
Establish a DOH site in Wabasso as a community and Health Equity Resource Center	
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> By July 30, 2024, provide place-based services and information, increasing the number of residents who receive assistance due to Social and Economic Barriers on an annual basis at FLDOH site in Wabasso from 0 in February 2024 to 240.	<b>STATUS:</b> Completed/Met
<b>GOAL #2</b>	
Institute policy, system and environmental structures to address Social and Economic Barriers and mitigate disproportionate burden from emergencies on vulnerable communities.	
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> By September 30, 2024, engage community members in setting health equity priorities through the use of PACE-EH Methodology's 13 steps starting from 0 in September 2021.	<b>STATUS:</b> Ongoing/On Track
<b>GOAL #3</b>	
Increase the number of agencies in Indian River County that provide assistance to SCD patients and caregivers from 0 in 2022 to 1.	
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> By December 30, 2025, increase the number of agencies in Indian River County that provide assistance to SCD patients and caregivers from 0 in 2022 to 1.	<b>STATUS:</b> On Track
<b>GOAL #4</b>	
Significantly reduce barriers to care	
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> By December 30, 2025, identify and reduce the effects of Social and Economic Barriers to care for underserved communities including patients and their care givers from 0 known barriers in February 2022.	<b>STATUS:</b> On Track
<b>GOAL #5</b>	
Reduce the number of SCD crises requiring hospitalization	
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> By June 30, 2026, decrease Emergency Department Visit Rate for Sickle Cell Disorders with Vaso-Occlusive Crises as Primary Diagnosis by 10% from 22.1 per 100,000 in 2020.	<b>STATUS:</b> In Process
<b>GOAL #6</b>	
<b>Improve the mental and physical health, housing, economic opportunities and employment for people in Indian River County</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> By December 30, 2026, local partners will develop and execute a sustainable Community Health Improvement Plan that focus on five new health and economic issues from no focus in these areas in September 2021.	<b>STATUS:</b> On Track