



JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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Jefferson County Public Health Service Unveils 2025-2030 Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan, Shifting Focus to Root Causes and Social Determinants of Health

WATERTOWN, NY — The Jefferson County Public Health Service (JCPHS) announces the formal submission of its Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for the 2025-2030 cycle. Developed in alignment with the New York State 2025-2030 Prevention Agenda, this new roadmap represents a transformative shift in the State and County's approach to public health by centering the social determinants of health (SDOH).

The 2025-2030 plan marks a departure from traditional models, focusing instead on the environmental, social, and economic conditions that shape health outcomes. By addressing issues like housing, economic stability, and education, JCPHS and their hospital and community partners aim to eliminate the barriers that prevent residents from achieving their highest level of wellness.

Key Priorities for 2025-2030

Following a comprehensive data review and community engagement process, JCPHS and partners have identified seven core priorities:

1. **Poverty:** Focusing on individuals and families whose unmet social needs contribute to poorer health outcomes and reduced access to care.
2. **Suicide Prevention:** Directing resources toward youth and young adults disproportionately affected by mental health challenges and improving access to immediate crisis support.
3. **Tobacco and E-Cigarette Use:** Educating and combatting marketing practices that target residents, especially youth, at increased risk of starting tobacco or vaping use.
4. **Prevention of Infant and Maternal Mortality:** Expanding early prenatal care, screening, and home visiting services for Jefferson County residents, especially young mothers and low-income families.
5. **Chronic Disease Prevention and Control:** Including community voices in identifying changes and solutions for accessing self-management resources for those with hypertension, obesity, and diabetes.
6. **Oral Healthcare:** Communicating the importance of oral health and advocating for solutions to break down barriers to preventive dental care for rural households.
7. **Health and Wellness Promoting Schools:** Increasing opportunities for social-emotional learning to support students, especially those experiencing mental health challenges.

Targeted Impact Through Specialized Work Plans Embedded in the CHIP.

To drive these priorities, JCPHS and their community partners will implement four evidence-based work plans that provide the operational framework for the CHIP key priorities. These include the Maternal and Child Health Work Plan to support birthing persons; the JUUL Work Plan to combat youth nicotine use; the Youth Substance Use and Mental Health Work Plan for collaborative crisis intervention and prevention; and the Keep the North Country Smiling Oral Health Work Plan to expand oral health access and prevention methods. Together, these localized strategies translate broad community goals into direct, measurable action.

The CHA/CHIP was developed through extensive collaboration with Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization, local hospitals, and community-based organizations. Residents are encouraged to view the full plan on the Jefferson County Public Health Service [website](#).

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