



What is a CHA?

A COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT (CHA)

gathers information about a defined community to understand important health needs, uncover public health gaps, and highlight existing strengths and community assets.

"In our community, I have observed remarkable generosity in terms of time, talent, and resources dedicated to helping others. Numerous local organizations and committees work tirelessly on fundraising and outreach initiatives to support those in need. This demonstrates a profound generosity of spirit within our community."

*Celine Servatius, MPH,
Island County Resident*



Social Drivers of Well-Being

Key Health Needs Identified

The community survey, focus groups, and interviews revealed 4 key health concerns:



Mental Health Care
Service Availability
Health Care



Housing Access and
Affordability



Health Care Access and
Availability



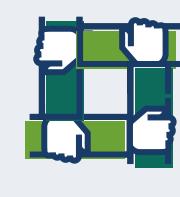
Senior Health
and Supports

What You Said About Living in Island County

We asked you to share what you think are the greatest assets, strengths, and values in Island County. Interview data showed these as the top three assets and strengths.



Philanthropy
or Charity



Sense of
Community

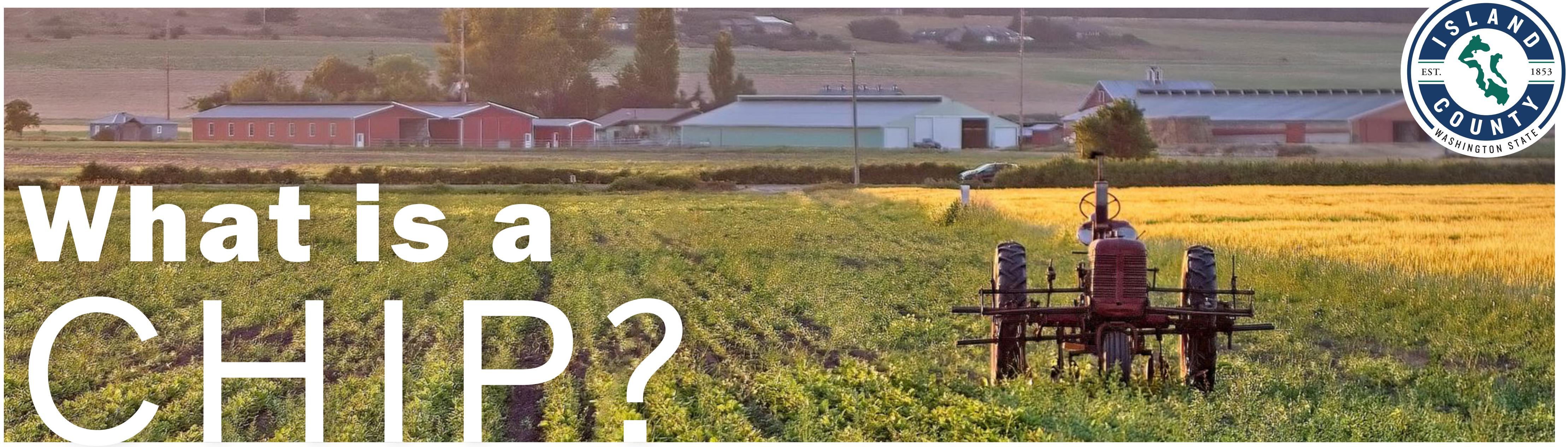


Natural
Environment



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What is a CHIP?

A COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)

is a strategic roadmap to improve health outcomes and quality of life for all residents over the next 3-5 years. It addresses key issues identified in the CHA and other priority issues.

Benefits of a CHIP



Community-driven
Based on local input and data



Collaborative
Aims to grow relationships across all sectors

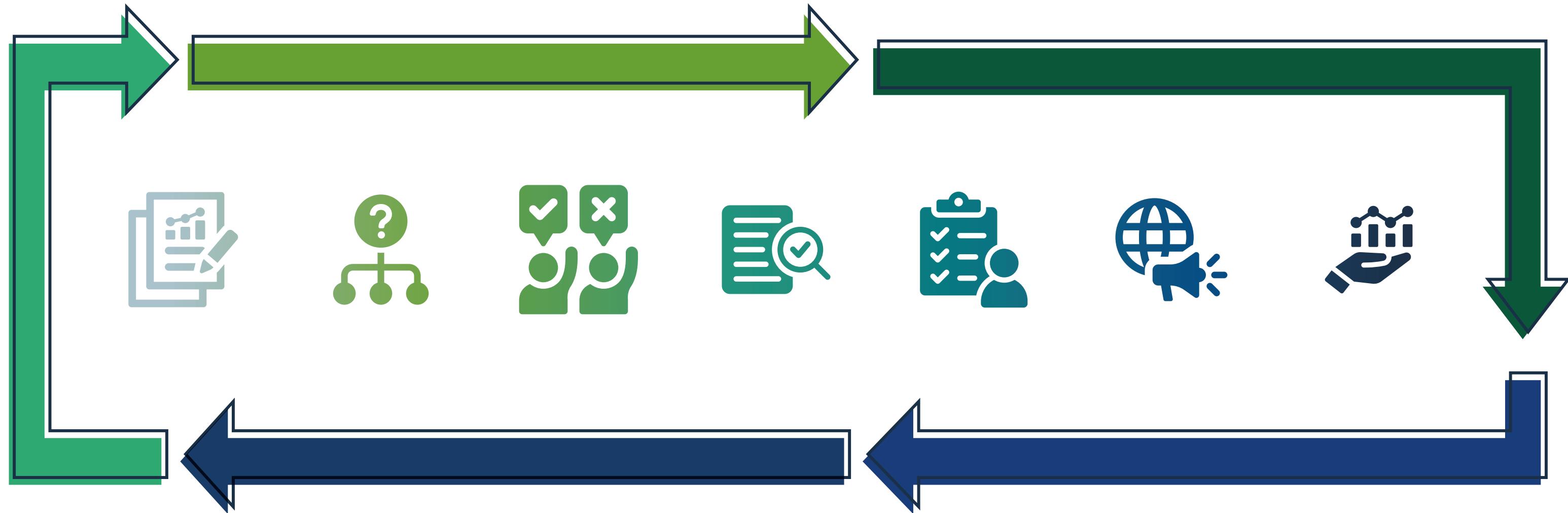


Equity-focused
Addresses gaps in health access and care



Action-oriented
Builds upon your Community Health Assessment

CHIP LIFECYCLE



1. Assess Community Health Needs

conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA)

2. PRIORITIZE

our CHIP focus areas

3. ENGAGE

community agencies, organizations, and groups who align with our priorities

4. SHARE

what we learned and what we plan to do through community engagement

5. REPORT

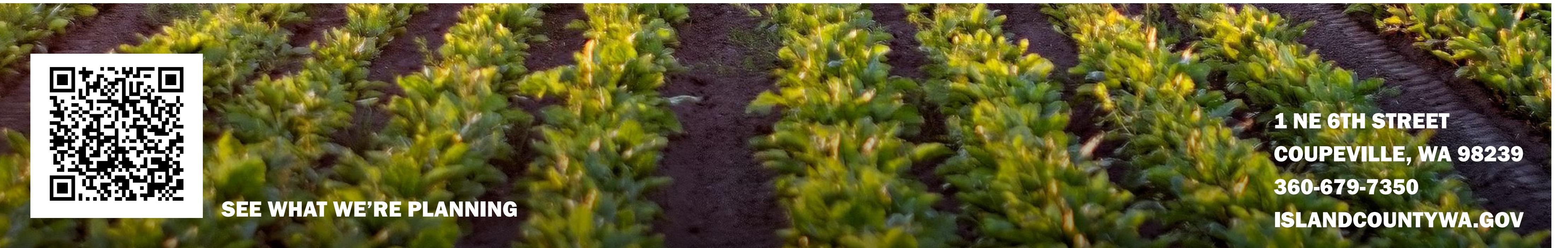
our plan and highlight work in progress with a summary and annual community data snapshot

6. REVIEW

and adjust as we assess data and our progress

7. PLAN

our next Community Health Assessment (CHA)



SEE WHAT WE'RE PLANNING

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Our Key PRIORITIES

#1

Housing Septic & Modernization Support

#2

Health Care Access & Links to Care

#3

Senior Wellness & Aging-in-Place

#4

Mental Health Links to Care

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The following matrix was co-developed through internal leadership meetings, community partner workshops, Board of Health input, and Community Health Advisory Board collaboration

How did we choose these priorities?

We looked at two things:

1. What the community said matters most | **2. Where Island County Public Health can make the biggest impact**

	What is the organizational capacity to support this need directly?	Is there existing infrastructure in place to support this need?	Are there established relationships or partners to support or address this need?	Is there ongoing investment (\$) or otherwise) in place or available to support this need?	Was this previously a CHIP focus area (if applicable)?	Was this a priority from previous CHA? (if applicable)
 Housing Access and Affordability (Housing Septic & Modernization Support)	Public Health: Septic infrastructure support  Human Services: Housing assistance and affordable housing 					
 Health Care Access and Availability (Health Care Access & Links to Care)	Public Health, Human Services: Care coordination and linkages 					
 Senior Health and Supports (Senior Wellness & Aging-in-Place)	Public Health: Partner collaboration and resource sharing for senior health 					
 Mental Health Care Service Availability (Mental Health Links to Care)	Public Health  Human Services 					

We chose these priorities by listening to what the community needs and looking at where we can help the most. Some issues—like childcare and mental health services—are important but better handled by partner organizations. We'll support their work while focusing our resources on areas where we can make the biggest direct impact.



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Our Key PRIORITIES

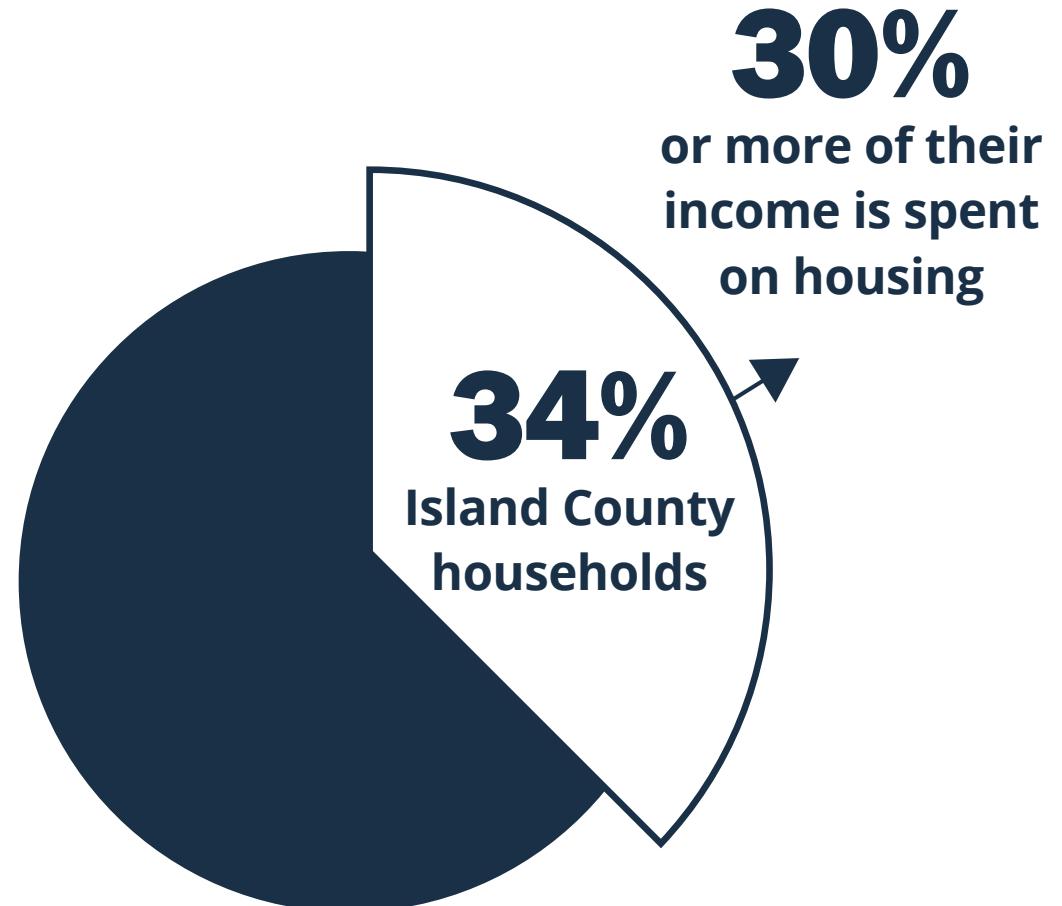


Housing Septic & Modernization Support

This includes: Supporting septic repairs and home improvements that keep housing safe, healthy, and accessible.

What we know about housing:

\$621,000
2024 MEDIAN HOME PRICE



131
UNHOUSED individuals in Island County.

319
Water Availability VERIFICATIONS (WAVs) for wells issued in 2024

16% of all homes in Island County are vacant

11% of those homes are for seasonal, recreational or occasional use

That is
66% of the total vacant homes

689
PERMITS ISSUED through the Liquid Waste Onsite Septic Team in 2024

123
LIQUID WASTE LICENSES were issued to vendors to support Island County residents

Sources: Island County Public Health Data, 2025 | WA Center for Real Estate Research, 2024 | WA Department of Commerce, Point in Time Count, 2023 | US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2023

"No sé si es igual en toda la isla, pero si yo necesito una cita en la clínica me la van a dar en dos o tres meses. Entonces esos walk in clinics que pusieron, pues sí nos han servido mucho. Especialmente si de repente necesito llevar a un niño, nos pueden atender más pronto."

Grupo de enfoque, Coupeville

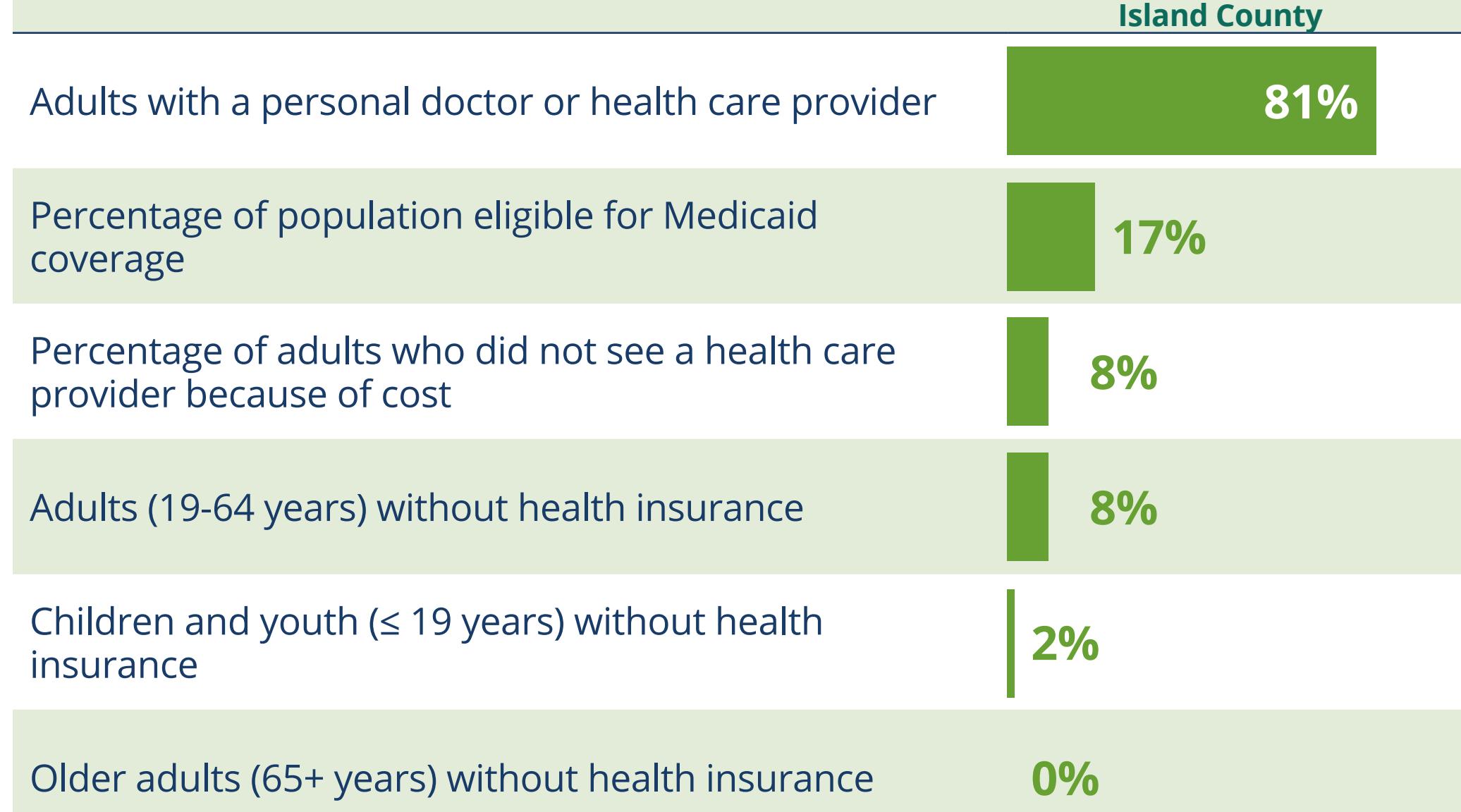


Health Care Access & Links to Care

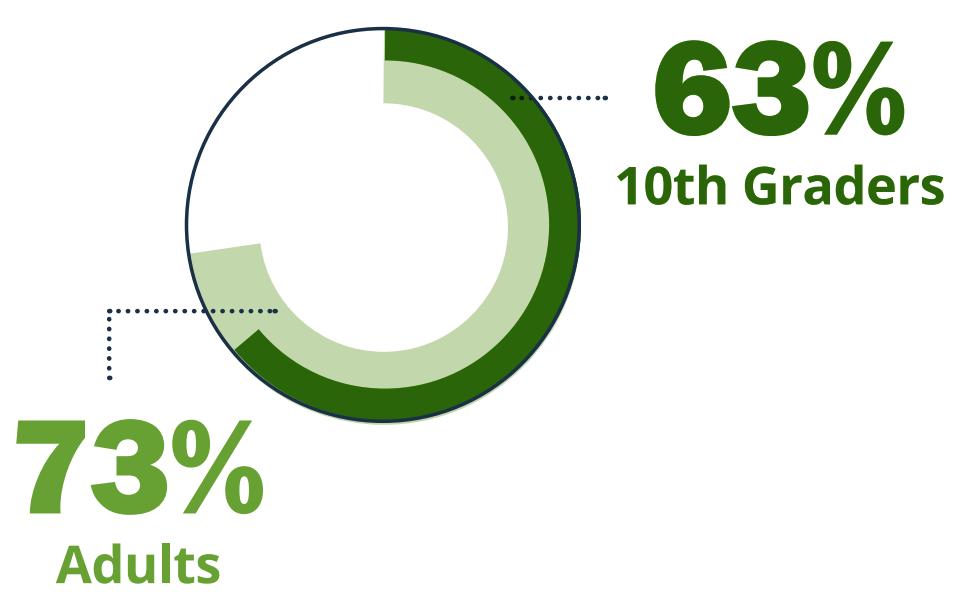
This includes: Connecting people to health care providers and services when they need them, where they need them.

What we know about health care:

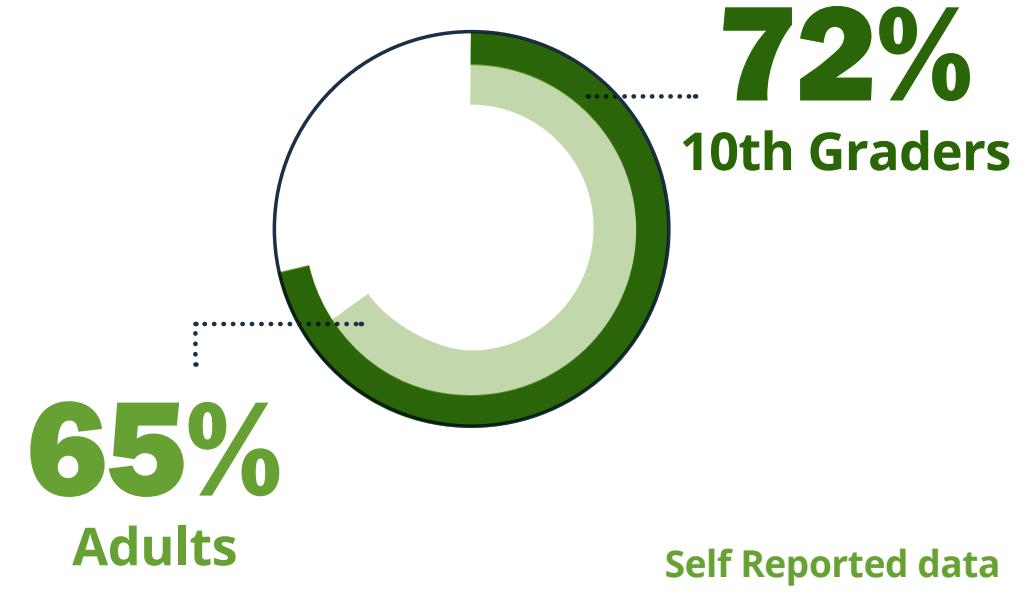
HEALTH INSURANCE STATUS



ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UPS



ANNUAL DENTAL CHECK-UPS



HEALTH CARE PROVIDER RATIOS

	Island County
Primary Care Providers	1:2280
Dentists	1:1230

17%

Island County are Medicaid eligible

Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2012-2022 | County Health Rankings, 2022 | Healthy Youth Survey, 2023 | US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2018-2022

7.5%

do not have any insurance

"I don't know if it's the same all over the island, but if I need an appointment at the clinic, they'll give it to me in two or three months. So those walk-in clinics they set up have really helped us a lot. Especially if I suddenly need to take a child, they can see us sooner."

Coupeville Focus Group



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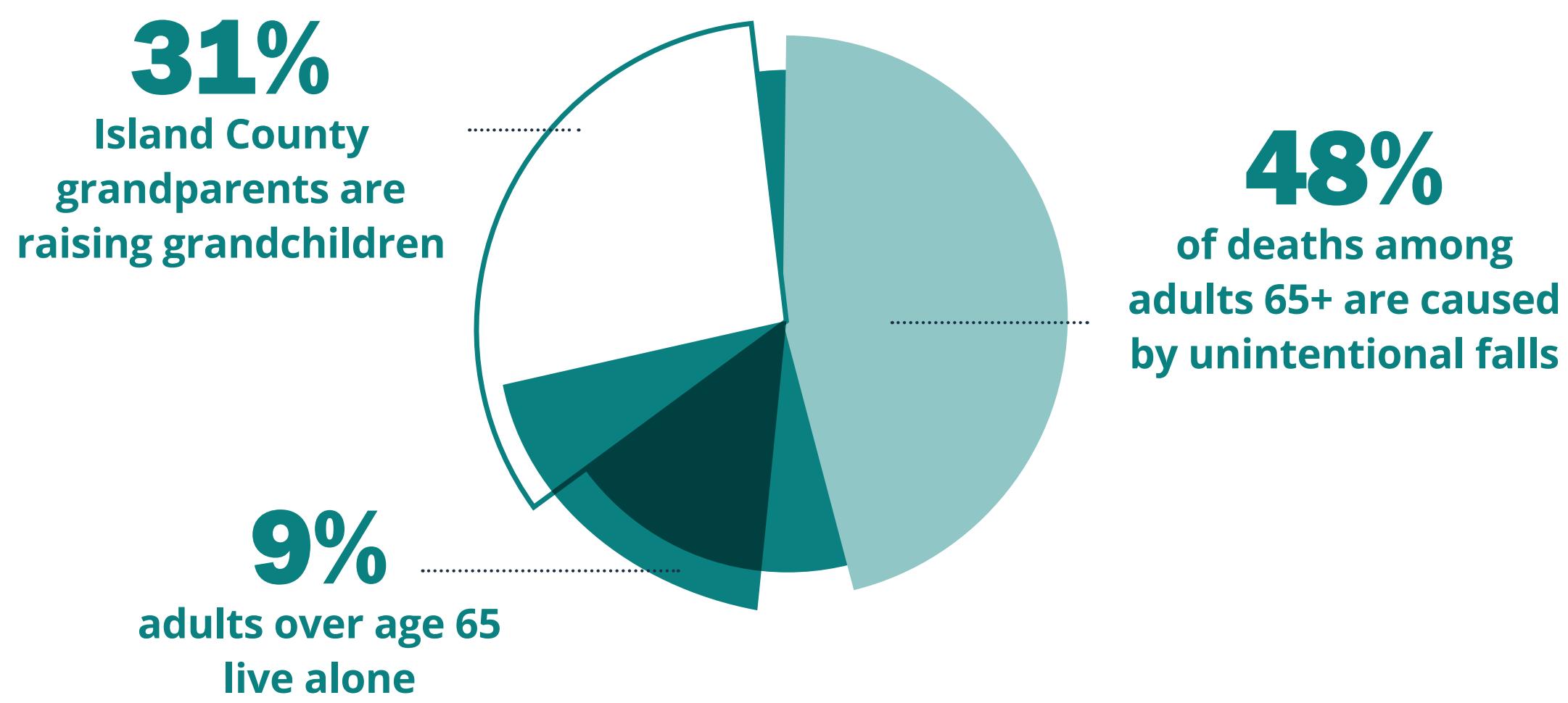
Our Key PRIORITIES

Senior Wellness & Aging-in-Place

This includes:

Supporting older adults to stay healthy, connected, and independent in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

What we know about senior wellness & aging-in-place:



Sources: US Census Data Form DP02 (American Community Survey 5-year estimates) | Washington Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data, 2024

"I think for the older population having access to support like caregivers [is a need]. We hear about it a lot because it's hard to find people to come help in your home. For some it's just too expensive. But for others it's just literally hard to find somebody who's available to help with either caregiving, or mowing your lawn, or helping with home repairs."

Karen Conway, Program Director, Camano Center

Mental Health Links to Care

This includes:

Helping residents find and access mental health support when they need it, including crisis services and ongoing care.

What we know about mental health care:

"Mental health support, just like everywhere, [there] is a lack of available resources or knowing how to navigate those resources. If kids are not old enough [it's] getting the adults to go advocate for those resources. It's very tricky."

Doug Standish, Teen Director, Community Resource Center of Stanwood-Camano

MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER RATIOS STATUS

Primary Care Providers

Island County

1:320

COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DATA

Island County

32

Rate of non-fatal self-inflicted injuries, per 100,000 population (age-adjusted)

0.6

Rate of hospitalizations due to mental illness, per 1,000 population (age-adjusted)

25%

COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DATA

Island County

70%

Percentage of adults ever diagnosed with depression

Percentage of Medicaid beneficiaries aged 18+ who were treated with antidepressant medication, had a diagnosis of major depression, and who remained on an antidepressant medication treatment (acute treatment)

"Aquí no hay consejeros que hablan español." Grupo de enfoque, Oak Harbor

"Here there are no counselors who speak Spanish." Oak Harbor Focus Group

Sources: Community Health Assessment Tool, 2021 | County Health Rankings, 2022 | WA Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 5-year estimates, 2021 | WA Health Care Authority, 2022

Childcare Access

We know this is a huge priority for the community, so we want to mention it here. Community partners are leading initiatives to support childcare capacity in Island County. Public Health and Human Services are working with community partners whenever possible.

Sources: Childcare Aware of WA, 2023 | Dept. Of Children, Youth & Families, 2024

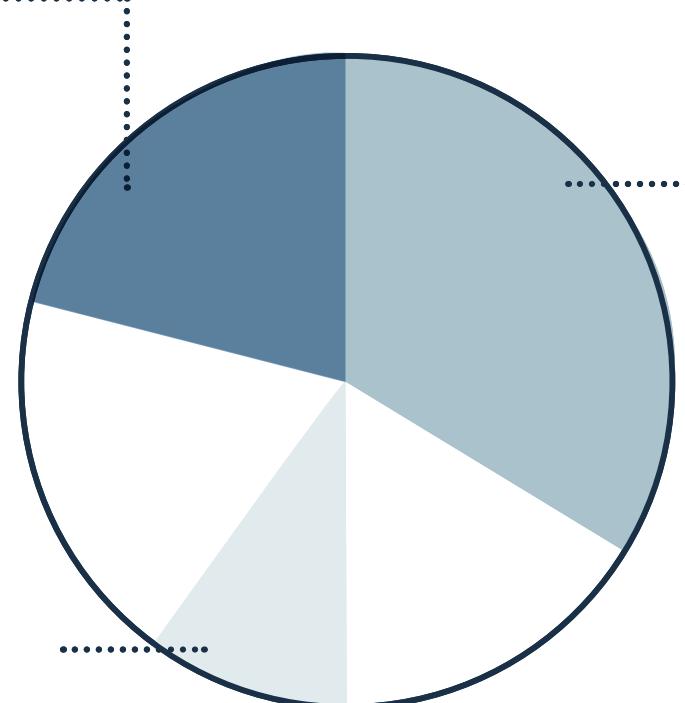
30
LICENSED CHILDCARE PROVIDERS
in Island County

12
of which have
SPOTS AVAILABLE

12%
of the estimated
need for toddlers
(ages 12-29 months)
is being met

4%
of the estimated need
for infant (ages 0-11 months)
care is being met

UNMET NEEDS



20%
of the estimated
need for
preschoolers
(ages 3-5 years)
is being met



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What We're ALREADY DOING

Below are programs and initiatives that we are either planning to do, or already doing, to address our key priorities. Reach out to learn more about this work!



Housing Septic & Modernization Support

- Human Services-led housing development and housing assistance program
- Improving septic and water permitting, and groundwater monitoring for housing development



Health Care Access & Links to Care

- Thrive Island County Resource Guide
- Island County Wellness Wagon (Outreach Van)
- Partners: WhidbeyHealth expansion of primary care services with Rural Health Clinics



Senior Wellness & Aging-in-Place

- Falls Prevention Coalition and Community Classes on balance and falls prevention
- Partners: The Center (run by the City of Oak Harbor), WhidbeyHealth, Island Senior Resources (ISR) & Camano Center Services and Programs



Mental Health Links to Care

- Improving access to care through integrated navigation systems and shared referral systems
- Human Services Behavioral Health Outreach & Counseling

What Comes NEXT?



This is Your Community Data!

Look for the CHIP report and an annual community data snapshot to be published later this year.

Check out our website and social media for further updates on Community Health Planning for Island County!



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We Want YOUR INPUT!

We've identified four key health priorities for Island County, and we need your help deciding where to focus our efforts. Your perspective as a community expert will help shape how we address Island County's most pressing health needs.

Review the four health priorities and use your colored dots to tell us:

 Purple: What matters most?

 Yellow: What would make the biggest difference for our community?

 Orange: What needs attention now?

 Brown: What is our community ready to tackle?

Housing Septic & Modernization Support

This includes: Supporting water systems, septic development, and home improvements that keep housing **safe, healthy, and accessible**.

Health Care Access & Links to Care

This includes: **Connecting people to health care providers and services** when and where they need them.

Senior Wellness & Aging-in-Place

This includes: Supporting older adults to stay healthy, connected, and independent **in their homes and communities for as long as possible**.

Mental Health Links to Care

This includes: Helping residents find and access mental health support when they need it, **including crisis services and ongoing care**.



[SEE WHAT WE'RE PLANNING](#)

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