

Community Health Improvement Plan

2025 Annual Report



Essex County, New York

THE
University of Vermont
HEALTH NETWORK

Elizabethtown Community Hospital

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Introduction

Annual Report Overview

Adopting an 'Implementation Strategy' and evaluating the impact of our Community Benefit programs is a requirement of our health system's tax-exempt status. This demonstrates our commitment, accountability and effectiveness in addressing our communities' identified health priorities.

An annual progress report is best practice for Community Benefit. This report spotlights programmatic highlights, investments made, and collaboration with our key partners to improve the health of our community in 2025.

2025 Community Health Prioritization Process

In 2025, Elizabethtown Community Hospital strengthened its community presence through free wellness events and clinician investments and partnered with the Essex County Health Department to complete the 2025–2027 CHA/CHNA/CHIP. Essex County Health Partnership prioritized health needs using demographic and health indicators by domain, community and stakeholder surveys, partner engagement, and a locally adapted MAPP 2.0 prioritization matrix that incorporated community readiness and local assets. Draft priorities were shared with the Essex County Board of Supervisors/ Board of Health, Essex County Health Department Public Health Advisory Committee, hospital boards, and Essex County community members and final decisions were made based on their feedback. Although not all domains were selected as priorities, many continue to be addressed through cross-cutting strategies and ongoing programs such as suicide prevention, immunization efforts and other health department and partner initiatives.

To learn more, visit UVMHealth.org/CHI-ECH.

About Us

University of Vermont Health Network – Elizabethtown Community Hospital is a critical access hospital with locations in Elizabethtown and Ticonderoga, along with six community-based primary care centers serving Essex County and the Adirondack Park region. We provide essential care with a focus on compassion, accessibility and community connection.

2025-2027 Priority Areas Identified for Essex County, NY

Domain: Economic Stability

Priorities:

- ▶ Poverty
- ▶ Unemployment
- ▶ Nutrition Security

Domain: Social and Community Context

Priorities:

- ▶ Depression
- ▶ Primary Prevention, Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention
- ▶ Tobacco/E-Cigarette Use
- ▶ Healthy Eating

Domain: Neighborhood and Built Environment

Priorities:

- ▶ Access to Community Services and Supports

Domain: Health Care Access and Quality

Priorities:

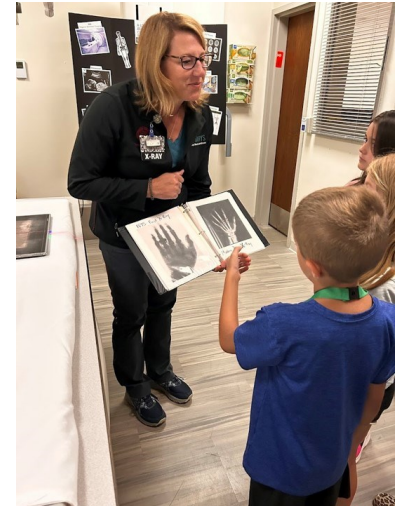
- ▶ Preventative Services for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control

Summary of Accomplishments

This annual report for calendar year 2025 details key actions taken to advance population health initiatives and community health priorities.

Highlights

- ▶ Collaborated with Essex County Health Department and partners on robust 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and 2026-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) cycle with partners, facilitated by Essex County Health Department.
- ▶ Hosted 15 community health and wellness events FY2025, reaching 283 total participants, increased from 189 in FY2024.
- ▶ Diverse Elizabethtown Community Hospital staff and providers contributed more than 159 hours to tabling events. Included: educational material and giveaways along with conversations regarding services offered and access, offered free blood pressure screenings at Essex County Fair.
- ▶ ECH staff and providers contributed 109 hours at a student career fair and STEM events. Hosted 67 3rd & 4th grade students to educate them on healthcare operations.
- ▶ Spring into Health, Heart Health, and Fall Health Screening events offered.
- ▶ Hosted quarterly blood drives with standing partner Adirondack Regional Blood Bank.
- ▶ Hosted annual Wellness Fair at one of Essex county's largest employers each year, Sylvamo.
- ▶ Held annual Women's Health event in October partnering with Cancer Services Program of Northeastern New York to offer free breast exams, mammograms and pap smears to uninsured or under-insured community members.
- ▶ 277 families with 630 individuals served by the food pantry operated out of the Crown Point Health Center, welcoming any community members who live in Essex County and/or receive care from ECH.
 - ▶ 17.9% increase in total families served compared to 2024.
 - ▶ 10.3% increase in total individuals served compared to 2024.
 - ▶ Food distribution grew to 9,249 lbs. in 2025, reflecting an 8.5% increase compared to the 8,522 lbs. provided in 2024."
 - ▶ Offered cooking demonstration and education in partnership with Clinton County Cornell Cooperative Extension regarding healthy, inexpensive food preparation.
- ▶ Wellness Rx supported 78 participants in 2025, a 23.8% increase from 2024, with 11 lb. average weight loss, and 0.6% reduction in A1C for 2025.



Community Health Investment

2025 Investment Awards

Regional Food Bank Grants 2024/2025, \$800

FY25 Community Health Investment Fund:

North Country Health Heart Network - Get Healthy Essex County, \$10,000

Get Healthy North Country (GHNC), led by The Heart Network, is working to expand access to chronic disease prevention and self-management programs for diabetic and prediabetic residents. GHNC will support program delivery partners and volunteer leaders, and increase the number of available programs. The initiative also focuses on strengthening healthcare provider referrals and engaging organizations that serve hard-to-reach populations.

North Country Rural Development - Neighbors Helping Neighbors, \$2,200

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) is a rapid-response initiative that provides emergency home repair assistance to homeowners facing urgent issues they cannot afford to fix. The program awards funding to eligible residents to address critical repairs such as electrical hazards, plumbing failures, or heating system breakdowns. These timely interventions help prevent unsafe living conditions, further property damage, and potential displacement. When needed, NHN leverages a trusted network of local professionals to quickly assess and resolve issues

The Prevention Team – EPIC ADK Youth Challenge, \$7,800

The E.P.I.C. (Essex People Impact Community) ADK Youth Challenge is a bold, community-driven initiative to strengthen youth resiliency and health in Ticonderoga. This one-year pilot will reinvest in prevention education and early intervention strategies to address urgent behavioral health needs identified in the 2023 Bach Harrison Prevention Needs Survey. After nearly two decades without dedicated funding for prevention services, Ticonderoga Central School District is partnering with the Prevention Team to restore critical programming and build a supportive ecosystem around every young person

Ticonderoga Area Backpack Program – Backpack Program, \$5,000

The Ticonderoga Area Backpack Program provides weekend and summer food support to children from low-income families in Ticonderoga and Crown Point, helping reduce food insecurity and promote wellness. During the school year, students receive backpacks with nutritious food for 34 weekends, and in summer, families pick up weekly packages for 8 weeks. The program currently serves 92 students and reaches 300 children total through a matching funds campaign supporting five additional schools. Delivering over 22,000 meals annually, success is measured by meal distribution and feedback from families and educators. The program strengthens health, academic outcomes, and long-term community resilience.

Total: \$25,800

Work Underway/Anticipated for 2026

Summarized from the Essex County CHIP Action Plan

Domain: Economic Stability

Priorities:

► Poverty

- Maintain EMR and embedded workflows to ensure SDOH screening occurs.
- Implement/update/maintain SDOH screening, provide staff training, and monitor quality metrics to confirm screening completion.

► Unemployment

- Build on existing health care and educational partnerships, like New Visions, to increase exposure to health care careers.
- Direct the alignment of training programs to career fields and open pathways to employment.

► Nutrition Security

- Participate in Well Fed Coalition, research grant opportunities, and secure funding for expansion of fruit and vegetable incentive programs.

► Housing Stability & Affordability

Domain: Social and Community Context

Priorities:

► Depression

- Allocate staff and promote Mental Health First Aid training in community and health care settings.

► Primary Prevention, Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention

- Increase the availability of naloxone by maintaining supply in emergency department and health clinic settings.

► Tobacco/E-Cigarette Use

- Maintain prompts in the EMR work flows to screen patients 18+ for tobacco use, maintain EMR functionality, and employ clinicians performing the screening.
- Increase tobacco use assessments for health-center-based primary care patients 18+ by 5%.

► Healthy Eating

- **Expand Food as Medicine program:** Increase number of participants in the Wellness Rx Program, increase the redemption rate of Wellness Rx coupons and work with vendors to increase the number of sites participating.



Domain: Neighborhood and Built Environment

Priorities:

- ▶ Access to Community Services and Supports
 - ▶ Work as a partners to maintain the programs, staff, and leadership and participation on the task force/ coalitions that advance age-friendly approaches.

Domain: Health Care Access and Quality

Priorities:

- ▶ Preventative Services for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control
 - ▶ Allocate staff and space for free community screening events and partner on NYS Cancer Services.
 - ▶ Conduct free community screening events quarterly (at minimum) at the Elizabethtown and Ticonderoga campus locations.



Thank You Community Partners!

- ▶ Essex County Health Department
- ▶ Essex County Mental Health
- ▶ Essex County Office for the Aging
- ▶ Alliance for Positive Health
- ▶ Healthy Heart Network
- ▶ Cancer Services Program of Northeastern NY
- ▶ Champlain Valley Family Center
- ▶ Adirondack Rural Health Network
- ▶ Adirondack Health Institute
 - ▶ Substance Abuse Prevention Team
- ▶ Adirondack Community Action Program (ACAP)
- ▶ Cornell Cooperative Extension
- ▶ Mercy Care of the Adirondacks
- ▶ Network partners
- ▶ Wellness RX partners, include:
 - ▶ Juniper Hill Farms
 - ▶ Keeseville Farmacy
 - ▶ Northern Orchard
 - ▶ Pray's Farmers Market
 - ▶ Ticonderoga Natural Foods Co-op
 - ▶ Village Meat Market
 - ▶ Wild Work Farm
 - ▶ Drinkwine Produce



Elizabethtown Community Hospital

Community Health Improvement



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