



Department of Health and
Environmental Control
Office of Community Health
Improvement

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This series is dedicated to recognizing the South Carolina organizations that are leading the way in the improvement of health outcomes for ALL people in South Carolina.

Coalitions or organizations highlighted in the “Coalitions’ Work Series” are actively working to improve outcomes in the five priority areas of the Alliance: Improve the health of babies, improve the health of children, prevent chronic disease, improve access to high quality primary care, and improve access to behavioral health services.

To share your coalition’s work in support of Alliance Goals contact agallego@scha.org

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

ABOUT THE OFFICE

The Office of Community Health Improvement (CHI) within the Bureau of Community Health and Chronic Disease Prevention (BCHCDP) at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control ensures coordination between the bureau's central office staff and public health regions that results in a cohesive approach to community health improvement across the state.

The office promotes Community Health Improvement through statewide partnership development and the coordination of community assessment work through the local DHEC Public Health Regions.

WHAT DOES THE OFFICE DO?

CHI staff coordinates with DHEC central office and regional staff to support the implementation of community health work plans in the four public health regions. It ensures activities are synchronized and mutually supportive of region and community efforts in order improve health outcomes.

- Work with internal and external partners.
- Lead efforts to continue work related to broad community health assessment (CHA), and community health improvement planning (CHIP).
- Develop trainings and technical assistance resources that build and enhance effective outreach and partnership development skills.
- Facilitates linkages with other program areas within the Bureau of Community Health and Chronic Disease to facilitate sharing of information and resources pertaining to community health improvement.
- Develop and publish summaries of community health assessments and improvement plans for all 46 counties in the state.

THE COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT TOOLKIT

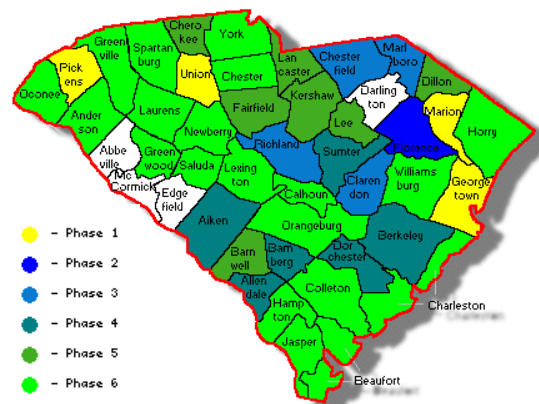
The Community Health Improvement Toolkit is based on Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP). The toolkit provides guidance through a six step process, beginning with the mobilization of community partners, and culminating in the implementation of a comprehensive plan designed to improve the health of the community. Each phase is thoroughly detailed and includes resources, tools and suggestions on how to proceed through each step.

Toolkit Phases	
1	Organize for success/Partnership development
2	Visioning
3	Three key assessment areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Community voices ii. Community health snapshot iii. Forces of change
4	Identify strategic issues
5	Formulating goals and strategies
5	The Action Cycle

The Toolkit provides structured guidance for communities to determine assets and needs, to develop and implement plans to improve on agreed upon priorities.

The Toolkit takes into account the unique circumstances of each county with a focus on forming effective partnerships for strategic action. Community Health Assessment data helps to identify priority issues, develops and implements strategies for action, and establishes accountability to ensure measurable health improvement.

This work has started in **42 out of the 46 counties in the state.** See map to identify the stage of implementation in each county.



SUCCESS STORY

The toolkit has been successfully used in Orangeburg to build a joint community health improvement plan between the Hospital (Regional Medical Center) and the community.

The goal of this Community Health Needs Assessment is to help identify the greatest health concerns in the three county areas of Bamberg, Calhoun and Orangeburg. You are invited to review the health data and the findings by visiting https://www.trmchealth.org/news_publications/community_health_needs_assessment.aspx

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THIS EFFORT

If you are interested in reaching out to a community, or in doing a community needs assessment, connect with the DHEC Public Health Regions or the Office of Community Health Improvement. They can connect you to local coalitions and community health needs assessment work that is in progress.

By working with the existing coalitions that partner with DHEC, you will save time in assessment and be able to more directly engage in community health improvement work.

If you are a hospital:

The Toolkit offered by the Office of Community Health Improvement is compatible with the IRS-required Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for non-profit hospitals.

CONNECT

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