



**Hendricks County**  

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**Health Partnership**

**2026**

**Community Action Plan**

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## **Introduction & Methods**

### **Introduction**

The Hendricks County Health Partnership (HCHP) exists to improve the health and wellness of all Hendricks County residents.

Our values include:

- Education - We believe that learning not only has the power to change one's health behaviors, but also to change the whole world.
- Advocacy - We believe that every member of our community deserves to be heard in regards to their own needs and opportunities.
- Collaboration - We believe that working together is the only way to innovate and initiate improvement in our community.

We have been collaborating to achieve our mission in Hendricks County since 2010, and we are eager to continue our good work throughout our community in the year of 2026 and beyond!

The following document is our strategic plan for 2026 which contains our collaboratively chosen priority areas, goals, and tasks to guide our efforts this year. Your participation is welcome and encouraged – we are in this together!

### **Methods**

In Autumn of 2025, Chase Cotten and Michael Aviah, Co-Coordiators of the HCHP, completed a review of available secondary data for Hendricks County residents' health behaviors, health outcomes, and related social determinants of health. Data sources included available State-based resources such as the County Health Rankings website, the Indiana Department of Health data explorer, and the most recent local Community Health Needs Assessment recently completed by IU Health West and Hendricks Regional Health.

Based on this data review, Cotten and Aviah led a collaborative strategic input and planning session on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 open to all HCHP members and community members to participate in. During the session, participants had the opportunity to vote upon and choose the Partnership's top two focuses within each of our three state-mandated Priority Areas for 2026, as well as to submit suggested project ideas.

The following Community Action Plan is the summary of these participants' collaborative voices, and shall be considered the guiding strategic document for HCHP in the year of 2026. It will be utilized to prioritize grant-funding decisions for the Local Coordinating Council – Drug Free Community Fund, to guide collaborative work projects, and to inspire related progress toward our chosen evidence-based goals.

## **2026 Priority Area Descriptions**

*Our 3 Priority Areas are mandated by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute's guidelines for Local Coordinating Councils.*

### **Priority Area 1 – Youth, Prevention, & Education**

For HCHP, the mantra of “Prevention is the best intervention” holds weight and influence. According to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics, “Users who try an illegal drug before age 15 are 6.5 times more likely to develop a substance use disorder than those who wait until age 21 or later.” *Data from the 2024 Indiana Youth Survey (INYS) shows that students in Indiana are using substances at a 30-year low – which indicates efforts like ours across the State are working! According to the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), depression is widespread, with 47% of high school students reporting they experienced it within the past year, in trend with the 2021 survey (46.9%). Among Indiana's 9th to 12th graders, a third of students reported poor mental health "most of the time or always," an increase from the previous survey year (30.7%). The survey indicated a rise in the number of high school students that made a suicide plan (23.6%) and who actually attempted suicide (15.7%) from the previous year; 11.8% and 22.2% respectively.* Nearly all available and related national research studies suggest that the earlier education or intervention is provided in a young person's life, the likelier one can prevent adult mental health or substance use struggles later in their life. We strive to work upstream on both systemic issues and age-appropriate programming to make a meaningful long-term impact in our community.

### **Priority Area 2 –Treatment & Intervention**

According to County Health Rankings, Hendricks County 17% of residents experience “frequent mental distress,” 32% experience “feelings of loneliness,” and 25% “sometimes, rarely or never get the social and emotional support that they need.” Additionally, the County currently has a ratio of 1 mental health professional available per 580 people, which is actually a significant improvement to the past 5 years' ratios; though still a larger negative ratio compared to the State and the Nation. Although we are better-resourced than many Counties in Central Indiana, we still have work to do in order to continue decreasing the rate of mental health struggles and substance use County-wide. Much of the need exists at the system-to-system level, ensuring warm referrals for treatment at any “access point” an individual may find themselves at, so nobody falls through the cracks.

### **Priority Area 3 – Law Enforcement & Restorative Justice**

The National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics states that “40% of state prisoners and jail inmates said they used drugs at the time they were arrested,” and “1/3rd of all state prisoners and jail inmates committed their crimes in order to get drugs or get money for drugs.” Additionally, “Persons previously abusing drugs and recently released from prison

are at the highest risk for overdose as their tolerance to the drug has dropped while being incarcerated.” Law Enforcement agencies play an important role in reducing the supply of substances in the County, in interrupting underage use, and in reducing the rate of use of illegal substances. Restorative justice efforts that prioritize treatment-enforcement partnerships are key to making a positive impact that not only holds people accountable for crimes committed, but also connects them to mental health and substance use treatment to treat the underlying cause of criminality and reduce recidivism.

## **Goals, Tasks, & Projects for 2026**

The following pages are easy-to-read charts describing our primary goals for each of our 3 Priority Areas. Each goal contains a number of tasks and suggested projects to help guide us towards collaborative positive impact in our community as a Partnership.

We acknowledge that our resources and capacity are limited in some regards; however, we intend to work hard together in order to achieve as much as we possibly can for the benefit of every individual that lives, works, plays, or prays in Hendricks County. If you have additional project ideas, support you can offer for accomplishing a task, or any other comments on the following goals, your feedback is welcome!

## Priority Area 1 – Youth, Prevention & Education

**Goal 1.1 – To support the facilitation of at least 10 school-based prevention education sessions and/or programs related to mental health and addiction for students in local high schools, middle schools, and elementaries by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

**Measures 1.1 – Number of Sessions/Programs; Number of Attendees/Participants; Attendee/Participant Feedback on Quality**

<b>Task &amp; Projects</b>	<b><sup>1</sup>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
Engage School Resource Officers as potential facilitators or co-facilitators for both new and existing programs.	BCSC, ACSC, PCSC, DCSC, MCCSC, NWHSC, HCSO	
Support peer-led extracurricular clubs and groups related to MH/SU in local high schools.	BCSC, ACSC, PCSC, DCSC, MCCSC, NWHSC	
Incorporate physical activity in at least 2/10 educational sessions and/or programs as a core component.	BCSC, ACSC, PCSC, DCSC, MCCSC, NWHSC	

**Goal 1.2 – To support the facilitation of at least 4 public community-based prevention education sessions and/or programs related to adolescent mental health and addiction for parents and families living in Hendricks County by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

**Measures 1.2 – Number of Sessions/Programs; Number of Attendees/Participants; Attendee/Participant Feedback on Quality**

<b>Task &amp; Projects</b>	<b><sup>2</sup>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
Increase awareness and participation in local support groups.	PAL, HRH, BPGYP, HCSS	
Support the hosting of two public educational events related to trauma-informed parenting, which include Q+A panels of local experts.	HCPC, HRH, HBH, HC, CBHS, CTC	
Continue supporting local mentoring programs/events, especially related to violence prevention and parental engagement.	HCYAP, TMWW, SW, CTC	

<sup>1</sup> Brownsburg Community School Corporation, Avon Community School Corporation, Plainfield Community School Corporation, Danville Community School Corporation, Mill Creek Community School Corporation, North West Hendricks Community School Corporation, Hendricks County Sheriff's Office

<sup>2</sup> Parents of Addicted Loved Ones, Hendricks Regional Health, Brooke's Place for Grieving Young People, Hendricks County Phoenix Collaborative, Hendricks Behavioral Hospital, Hamilton Center, Cummins Behavioral Health System, Care to Change, Hendricks County Youth Assistance Program, The Miles We Walk, Hendricks County Senior Services

## Priority Area 2 – Treatment & Intervention

**Goal 2.1 – To support the increase of access to and usage of peer support services and groups throughout Hendricks County by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

**Measures 2.1 – Number of Wraparound Referrals to Peer Support Services; Number of Resource Guide Searches for Peer Support Services; Number of Peer Support Jobs Added County-Wide; Reduction in Annual Overdose Count/Rate**

<b>Task &amp; Projects</b>	<b><sup>3</sup>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
Improve and promote peer support information and resource listings on HCHP Resource Guide.	HCHP / HCHD	
Engage with local 12-Step and other recovery-based peer support groups.	IndyAA, Faith Communities, CTC	
Raise awareness about local MAT services and peer coaching services.	Local treatment providers	
Develop and implement a printed short-hand version of the HCHP Resource Guide to be distributed to soon-to-be-released incarcerated individuals.	HCSO, HCHP, SOFR	

**Goal 2.2 – To support the facilitation of 4 specific suicide prevention efforts/events/programs in Hendricks County by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

**Measures 2.2 – Number of Efforts/Events/Programs; Number of Attendees/Participants Engaged; Attendee/Participant Feedback; Reduction in Annual Suicide Count/Rate**

<b>Task &amp; Projects</b>	<b><sup>4</sup>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
Outreach and support to higher-risk demographic groups including veterans and suicide survivors.	SOFR, HCVSPC	
Improve the visibility of and participation in local grief-support services.	HCHP, BPGYP, HCSS	
Support the hosting of a Mental Health Awareness Month event that's more collaborative than years' past.	HCHP, MHA, CTC, & other local treatment providers	
Support the hosting of a combined Suicide Prevention and Recovery Awareness Month event that's more collaborative than years' past.	HCHP, MHA, TWC, CTC, Local treatment providers	

<sup>3</sup> Hendricks County Health Partnership, Hendricks County Health Department, Hendricks County Sheriff's Office, Suicide Overdose Fatality Review Team

<sup>4</sup> Hendricks County Veterans Suicide Prevention Coalition, Brooke's Place for Grieving Young People, Mental Health America, Care to Change, The Willow Center

## **Priority Area 3 – Law Enforcement & Restorative Justice**

**Goal 3.1 – To continue supporting the expansion of the Hendricks County Crisis Intervention Training program for Law Enforcement Officers by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

**Measures 3.2 – Number of Participants Trained (Per Agency & Total); Program Evaluation/Feedback; 9-1-1 Callout Data**

<b>Task &amp; Projects</b>	<b><sup>5</sup>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
Research and discuss potential barriers and incentives to participation in CIT for local Law Enforcement departments.	HCSO, CIT Committee	
Support a public awareness project to bring more public attention to CIT.	HCSO, CIT Committee, HCHP	
Implement “CIT Continuing Education” presentations with local LE departments.	HCSO, CIT Committee	

**Goal 3.2 – To support increased collaboration and participation in restorative justice efforts County-wide by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

**Measures 3.2 – Number of Participants Reached; Number of New Programs or Partnerships Initiated; Number of Student Expulsions Prevented**

<b>Task &amp; Projects</b>	<b><sup>6</sup>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
Increase access to and participation in reentry services, skills development, and MH/SUD treatment for currently incarcerated individuals.	HCSO, TWC, CBHS, CTC	
Explore local collaboration opportunities for peer recovery coach assistance in crisis or emergency situations related to SUD/OD.	HCSO, HC911, Local treatment providers	
Explore local collaboration opportunities for improving long-term case management after corrections involvement to reduce recidivism.	HCDC, HCSO, HCP, Local treatment providers	
Continue supporting restorative responses to substance use offenses (vaping, drinking, etc.) via SROs in local public schools.	BCSC, ACSC, PCSC, DCSC, MCCSC, NWHSC, HCSO	

<sup>5</sup> Hendricks County Sheriff’s Office, Crisis Intervention Committee, Hendricks County Health Partnership

<sup>6</sup> Hendricks County Sheriff’s Office, The Willow Center, Cummins Behavioral Health Systems, Care to Change, Hendricks County Drug Court, Hendricks County School Corporations, Hendricks County Probation

## **Conclusion**

It is the overarching goal of the Hendricks County Health Partnership to complete the entirety of this Community Action Plan by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. We are eager to get to work and excited to make a positive difference.

We cannot do this alone! Are you willing to play a role in improving our community? Email [hendrickshealthpartnership@gmail.com](mailto:hendrickshealthpartnership@gmail.com) to learn more and get involved in our efforts.