

**TITLE:** The North Douglas County Community Health Needs Assessment - A Rural Health Success Story Starts to Unfold

**AUTHOR(S):** Diane Reid, Callie Lambarth

**PRESENTER(S):** Diane Reid, Callie Lambarth

**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Rural Health, CBPR, Social Determinants of Health, Advocacy

**ABSTRACT:** Accessing health and other support services is an ongoing challenge in Oregon's rural communities. In 2016 the Children's Institute funded a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in North Douglas County (NDC). It was a community based participatory process facilitated by researchers at Portland State University's Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services. The project's purpose was to identify health service needs and access barriers, identify programs and resources that were most important to families with young children, and serve as a planning/advocacy tool to build regional support systems for families with young children. As part of this work, the community developed and administered a regional health survey which identified the following community priorities: expanded health, dental and mental health services locally in the NDC region, improved housing and food security, and stronger parenting and family supports. Since 2017, the CHNA findings have been used to build a strong base of cross-sector local support to advocate for, develop, and expand local health and social determinants of health-related services in the community-identified priority areas.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Describe a community driven CHNA process. Identify rural health needs for families with young children in the North Douglas County region. Discuss how the CHNA process and findings informed recent developments and expansion of locally provided health services, food security programming, and additional family support services.

---