

2025-2029 Adams County **COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Executive Summary



ADAMS COUNTY
**THRIVING COMMUNITIES
COLLECTIVE**
Creating a Healthier Future Together



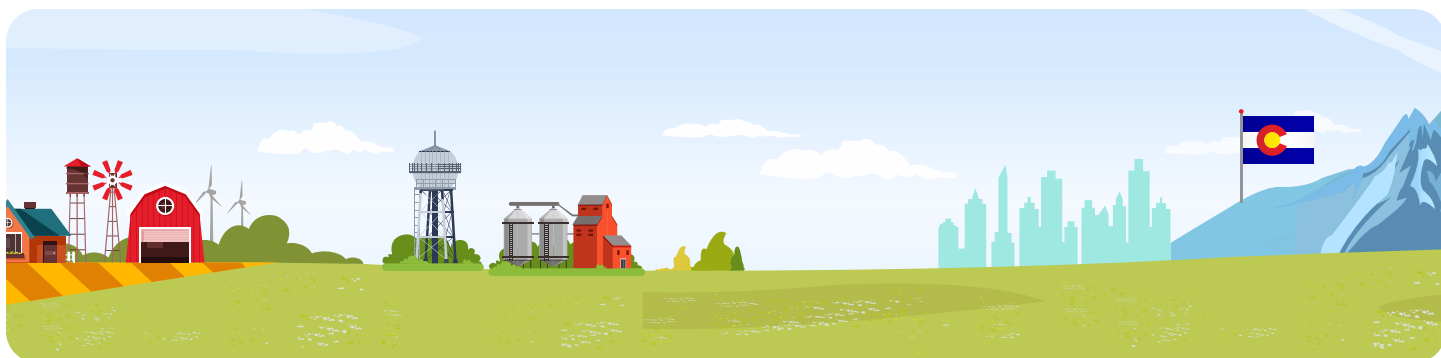
**ADAMS COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
Your Health. Our Mission.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are so thankful for the people and organizations who have contributed to the development of this plan. This plan is better for your partnership and we look forward continuing this work together during implementation. The organizations with which those partners are affiliated are listed below.

A very special thanks to our participating Community Members!

ACCESS Housing	Communities that Care - Bennett
Adams 12 Five Star Schools	Crawford Elementary School, Aurora Public Schools
Adams County Department of Human Services	Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)
Adams County Community & Economic Development	Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County
Adams County Community Safety & Well-Being	East Colfax Community Collective
Adams County Health Department	The Family Tree
Adelante Community Development	Food for Hope
Almost Home, Inc.	Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church Food Pantry
Arapahoe County Public Health	Growing Home
Aurora Economic Opportunity Center	Henderson Community Church
Aurora Public Schools	Maiker Housing Partners
The Aurora Housing Authority	Montview Elementary School, Aurora Public Schools
Bennett Parks and Recreation District	NAMI Colorado
Brothers Redevelopment	Northglenn United Church of Christ
Caring and Sharing	Platte Valley Medical Center, Intermountain Health
City of Commerce City	Rocky Mountain Partnership
City of Westminster	St. Anthony North Hospital
Clinica Family Health	UCHealth
Colorado Access	Village Exchange Center
Community Reach Center	



INTRODUCTION

“Public Health is what we do together as a society to ensure the conditions in which everyone can be healthy.” – Public Health 3.0¹

“The preconditions of everyone’s health are communal and systemic, and the field of public health must address them as such.” – APHA Public Health Code of Ethics²

Adams County Health Department (ACHD) officially opened its doors in January 2023 as the local governmental public health agency serving Adams County, Colorado. One of the first activities of ACHD was to collaborate closely with community to identify Adams County’s health priorities and to develop the 2025-2029 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

What is a Community Health Improvement Plan?

A Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a community-owned strategic plan to address community health needs and public health challenges. identified through a Community Health Assessment (CHA). The CHIP is a guiding light, embodying the long-range vision for the Adams County community. Local public health departments are required by the 2008 Colorado Public Health Act to build a CHIP as part of the Colorado Public Health Assessment and Planning System ([CHAPS](#)).

What is a CHIP?

- Community-centered plan to address Adams County’s health priorities for the next 5 years
- County-wide priorities with potential for local strategies and local action
- Guided by and implemented through collective action
- Addresses health concerns identified through the Adams County Community Health Assessment
- Required by the state of Colorado every 5 years

Who is involved in our CHIP?

- Created, guided, and implemented by a community-led coalition: the Adams County Thriving Communities Collective (ACTCC)
- Facilitated and evaluated by Adams County Health Department

We would like to thank the 44 partner community organizations and members for their active role in developing this plan by providing vital information, thought partnership, and guidance throughout the process. We are so thankful for the 131 community members who joined partner-led focus groups and the 1,333 community members who responded to our community survey. This plan better addresses community needs because of your partnership and leadership.

1. DeSalvo KB, Wang YC, Harris A, Auerbach J, Koo D, O’Carroll P. Public Health 3.0: A Call to Action for Public Health to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2017;14:170017. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd14.170017>

2. American Public Health Association. *Public Health Code of Ethics*. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association; 2019.

The Adams County Community Health Improvement Plan exemplifies the vision and values of Adams County Health Department:

ADAMS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT VISION STATEMENT

A community-led county where everyone has the opportunity to be healthy, valued, safe, and thriving.

What Are Our Community Health Improvement Priorities for Adams County?

After extensive community engagement, research, and discussion throughout 2023, three priority areas were selected by the Adams County Thriving Communities Collective for the 2025-2029 Community Health Improvement Plan: Economic Security, Health and Housing, and Access to Care. These priority areas were approved by the Adams County Board of Health in January 2024.

Please visit the section titled **“HOW DID WE DEVELOP THE CHIP PLAN?”** for more details.

Adams County 2025-2029 Community Health Improvement Plan—Priority Areas

Economic Security



Housing



Access to Care



How do we define Economic Security, Housing, and Access to Care?

Economic Security:

The ability of individuals, households, and communities to meet their basic and essential needs sustainably; these needs include food, shelter, clothing, health care, education information, livelihoods, and social protection.¹

Housing:

The spaces where people live and call home. A home can be an apartment, mobile home, house, shelter, car, hotel, condo, townhome, or a tiny home.

Access to Care:

The ability of people to get timely health care they need that meets their individualized needs, including primary care, mental and behavioral care, urgent care, dental care, vision care, and specialty care.

1. Global Social Development Innovations (GSDI): <https://gsdi.unc.edu/our-work/economic-security/>



*I am excited to present Adams County Health Department's inaugural Community Health Improvement Plan. The goals presented here are the result of thoughtful planning, honest conversation, and the hard work of so many in our community: residents, organizational partners, and County staff. By dedicating time, partnership, and resources to **Economic Security, Housing, and Access to Care**, we will improve the health and wellbeing of Adams County today and for years to come.*

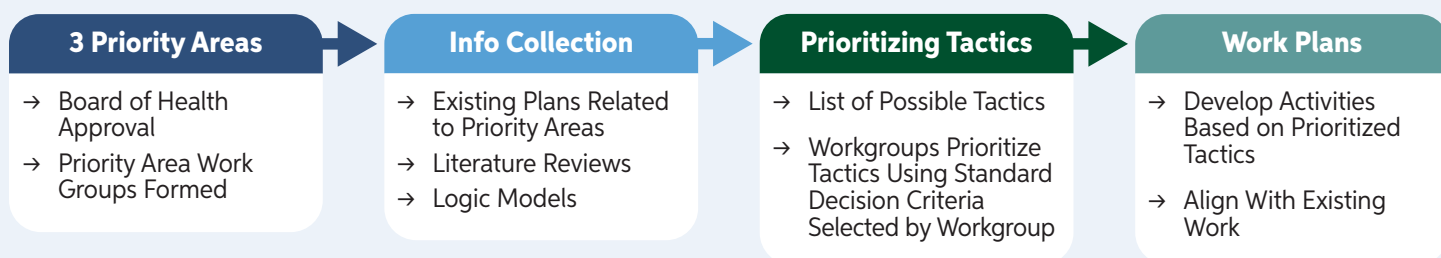
Dr. Kelly N. Weidenbach, DrPH, MPH
Adams County Health Department Executive Director

HOW DID WE DEVELOP THE CHIP PLAN?

Process Overview

The 2025-2029 CHIP grew from data and research shared in the [2022 Adams County Community Health Assessment \(CHA\)](#) completed by Tri-County Health Department. The assessment included information about 13 health topics, topics like *Substance Use and Health* and *Health and Education*, and was the product of the third of eight phases that make up the Colorado Health Assessment and Planning System (CHAPS), a process required by the State of Colorado to ensure that Local Public Health Agencies continually addresses the community's health priorities in addition to providing core public health services.

With the initiation of the Adams County Thriving Communities Collective (ACTCC), ACHD facilitated this community group through Phases 4 to 6 of the CHAPS: listening to and speaking with community and local partners about health needs, understanding existing data, conducting root cause analyses, and identifying gaps and opportunities (Figure 1, page 6). In January 2024, the Adams County Board of Health approved the three ACTCC-recommended priority areas: Access to Care, Housing, and Economic Security. Beginning in February 2024, the ACTCC formed a work group for each priority, and each started to focus on understanding existing work, community (not just health department) capacity, and logical first steps to tackle these broad health priorities. By systematically gathering and synthesizing information, conducting literature reviews and creating logic models, and further prioritizing and refining (Figure 2, page 6), the ACTCC has identified goal areas, tactics, and activities for the 2025 work plans of the CHIP priority areas.

FIGURE 1. Process of Health Topic Area Prioritization in 2023**FIGURE 2. Process of Capacity Assessment and Work Plan Development in 2024**

Community Engagement & Partnership

Leading with our agency values of justice and collaboration, we engaged with community—partners, colleagues, and community members—throughout the process. The 2022 Community Health Assessment qualitative data-gathering process included a survey in 2021 of 1,259 people living in and serving Adams County and input from seven focus groups. We conducted additional surveys in 2023 (in collaboration with Zencity) of 84 partners and 1,333 community members, as well as coordinated 16 additional focus groups with the support and thoughtful partnership of local organizations with existing trusted relationships with community. These data were synthesized and presented to the ACTCC for discussion and further prioritization. Together, facilitated by ACHD, ACTCC members prioritized the initial 13 health topics down to three health topics: Economic Security, Housing, and Access to Care.

ADAMS COUNTY THRIVING COMMUNITIES COLLECTIVE

The ACTCC, first established in July 2023 as the Adams County Community Health Improvement Coalition, is the community-based decision-making group behind the CHIP. The ACTCC currently consists of 41 organizations and over 70 people who come together monthly to collectively address our community health priorities. In addition to organizational partners, the ACTCC has included as many as seven community members who participate as equal members of the ACTCC; ACHD recognizes and values lived experience and community leadership and pays community members for their time and expertise. Once the three priority areas were approved by the Board of Health in January 2024, members opted into one of the three work groups or chose to participate in regular, larger ACTCC meetings (Figures 3 and 4). The ACHD

Public Health Planning and Evaluation Team facilitated and coordinated the groups, supported by subject matter experts in each group. These internal-to-the-County subject matter experts—the Internal Planning and Advisory Group—regularly convened to advise activities and planning, and coordinate between work groups.

The work of the CHIP will be completed by the ACTCC through a collective impact approach. In this method, organizations come together to purposefully align efforts, leveraging their collective work for greater impact. The 2025 work plans bring together work under each priority area across ACTCC member organizations, including four County departments. Work is and will continue to be codified through Memorandums of Understanding and purchasing agreements.

FIGURE 3. Adams County Thriving Communities Collective (ACTCC) Structure, 2024

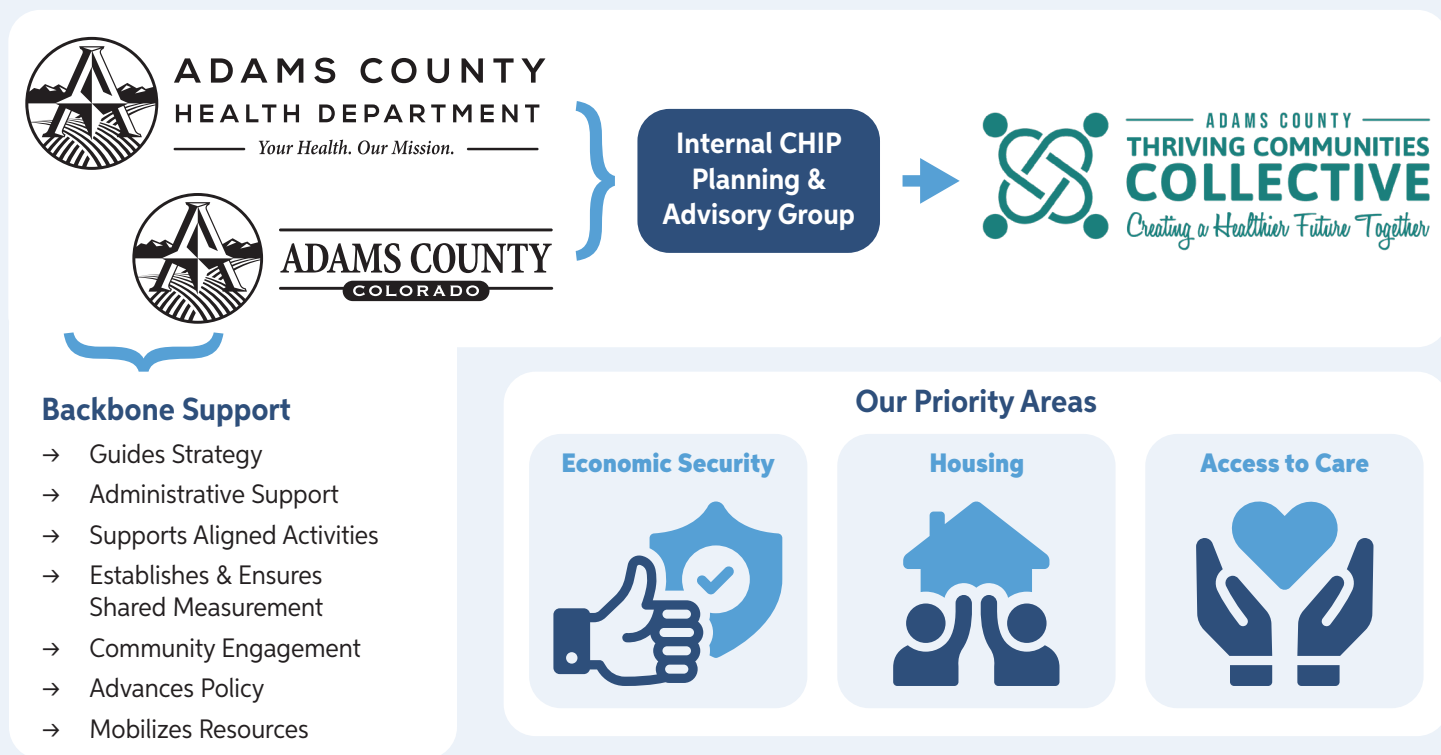


FIGURE 4. 2024 ACTCC Work Group Membership*

*Not all ACTCC members participate in a work group

ECONOMIC SECURITY	HOUSING	ACCESS TO CARE
ACHD	ACHD	ACHD
AdCo Community & Economic Development	Adams 12 School District	AdCo Community Safety & Well-Being
AdCo Community Safety & Well-Being	AdCo Community & Economic Development	Adelante Community Development
AdCo Dept. of Human Services	AdCo Community Safety & Well-Being	Aurora Public Schools
Adelante Community Development	Almost Home, Inc.	Clinica Family Services

Continued on Page 8 →

FIGURE 4, Continued

ECONOMIC SECURITY	HOUSING	ACCESS TO CARE
Aurora Economic Opportunity Coalition	Arapahoe County Public Health	Colorado Access
Aurora Public Schools (Montview Elementary)	Aurora Housing Authority	Community Reach Center
Bennett Parks and Recreation	City of Westminster	Henderson Community Church
City of Westminster	Colorado Access	Platte Valley Hospital, Intermountain Health
Colorado Access	Growing Home	St. Anthony North Hospital, CommonSpirit Health
Communities That Care, Bennett	Henderson Community Church	UCHealth
Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County	Maiker Housing Partners	Community Members
Food for Hope	Platte Valley Hospital, Intermountain Health	
Platte Valley Hospital, Intermountain Health	St. Anthony North Hospital, CommonSpirit Health	
Rocky Mountain Partnership	The Family Tree	
St. Anthony North Hospital, CommonSpirit Health	UNE Colorado	
Community Members	Village Exchange Center	
	Community Members	

***ACTCC members not actively participating in a work group**

- ACCESS Housing
- Caring and Sharing
- City of Commerce City
- Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)
- East Colfax Community Collective
- Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church Food Pantry
- NAMI Colorado
- Northglenn United Church of Christ

Community partners consulted but not actively participating in the ACTCC

- Brighton Housing Authority
- Brothers Redevelopment
- Colorado Fiscal Institute
- Commerce City Housing Authority

NEXT STEPS

The full CHIP report, detailed work plans, and finalized evaluation plans are coming in early 2025. Implementation will begin in early 2025.

For more information, please visit:



**ACHD's Our
Community
Health Status
and Priorities**



**NEW! ACHD
CHIP Website**

**JOIN US!**

We welcome community members and partners to join the **Adams County Thriving Communities Collective!**

Contact us at CommunityPlan@adcogov.org



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