

# 2023-2024

## Community Health Improvement Plan Progress Report

City of  
**Gainesville**



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# Introduction

The City of Gainesville, in collaboration with Gainesville Fire Rescue, put together a plan to build community resiliency and self-sufficiency through partnership with residents, healthcare providers, community organizations, and public health and human services agencies to improve overall community health. The purpose of this document is to provide status updates and progress of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) priority areas. Multiple City of Gainesville departments have contributed to the progress of Community Health Improvement Plan objectives.

## **City of Gainesville Mission**

Gainesville city government's mission is to build community by providing services responsive to neighbors and our community in a financially responsible and neighbor-focused manner in partnership with our neighbors while engaging neighbors and community builders.

## **City of Gainesville Vision**

Gainesville 2035 balances an equitable community for all and a sustainable community for the future. Gainesville 2035 is a world-class lifelong learning community, is a great place for neighbors to live and thrive, and provides meaningful experiences for everyone. Gainesville 2035 has an alive/vibrant downtown, a strong, resilient economy, and mobility for all neighbors.

## **Process**

Reporting on the progress of CHIP priority area objectives was tracked and submitted by the appropriate city departments and compiled and stored by Community Health Director Brandy Stone.

# Priority Areas

This section briefly defines and outlines the priority areas of the CHIP.

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01

## **Mental Wellbeing**

Mental wellbeing is “an individual’s ability to develop their potential, work productively and creatively, build strong and positive relationships with others and contribute to their community”. With this priority area, the City hopes to provide services to help improve mental wellbeing and better support to neighbors.

02

## **Safe Mobility**

With this priority area, the City wants to increase safe walking, biking, and local traveling for community members to ensure that each trip in a car, bus, by foot, or any other means is as safe as possible.

03

## **Healthy Lifestyle**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a healthy lifestyle is a way of living that lowers the risk of preventable diseases and illnesses, helps you enjoy more aspects of your life, and helps you set a positive example for your family and friends. With this priority area, the city hopes to increase opportunities for the community to engage in healthy lifestyle programming.

04

## **Social Determinants of Health**

Healthy People 2030 defines Social Determinants of Health as the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. With this priority area, the city hopes to positively impact access gaps experienced by neighbors that influence their health outcomes.

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1. de Cates, A., Stranges, S., Blake, A., & Weich, S. (2015). Mental well-being: An important outcome for mental health services? *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 207(3), 195–197. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.bp.114.158329>

2. Europe, W. H. O. R. O. for. (1999). Healthy living : what is a healthy lifestyle? *Iris.who.int*. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/108180>

3. Healthy People 2030. (2020). Social Determinants of Health. *Healthy People 2030*. <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>

# Mental Wellbeing

This priority area included 21 activities that address access and increase of services to better support neighbors.

Objective	Activity	Data / Outcome
1.1 Increase Telehealth Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onboard 2 mental health counselors for telehealth counseling</li> <li>• Obtain \$10,000 in grant funding for telehealth technology</li> </ul>	This is no longer a priority, therefore removed from CHIP objectives
1.2 Increase Provider Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with 1 mental health counselor for home visiting with Community Resource Paramedicine (CRP) program</li> <li>• Partner with 1 peer specialist for home visiting with CRP</li> <li>• Partner with local organizations to provide support for justice and overdose impacted individuals</li> </ul>	In 2024, nearly 179 patient contact hours were spent with a peer specialist, through the Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness grant partnership with Meridian Healthcare
1.3 Decrease Overdose Recidivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repeat overdose survivors will be visited by CRP within 3 days of overdose notification</li> <li>• Expand the number of follow-up visits with a peer specialist or addiction counselor for patients discharged after a 911 call for an overdose</li> </ul>	CRP recovery patients are offered services within 7 business days or less in 2024, are also seen by the Meridian Healthcare Peer Specialist with patient interest

# Mental Wellbeing

Objective	Activity	Data / Outcome
1.3 Decrease Overdose Recidivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Naloxone leave-behind program by including an educational video attached by QR code to medication box</li> <li>• Expand the Recovery Response Program to provide Suboxone Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in home for eligible patients</li> <li>• Reduce overall number of overdose recidivism by 10%</li> <li>• Develop a substance use education campaign</li> <li>• Implement Narcan in city AEDs and provide appropriate training to relevant city staff</li> </ul>	<p>In 2022, an educational video on how to deliver Naloxone was story boarded, filmed, and edited to be linked by QR code for Naloxone leave-behind program. 120 doses of Narcan have been purchased this year, with an additional 100 doses ordered through the Heroes Program</p> <p>For FY24, legislative funding for MAT was awarded and 36 patients have been seen starting February 2024.</p> <p>Additionally, there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Meridian Healthcare for a Peer Specialist to ride with CRP.</p> <p>Through a partnership with the Master of Public Health program at the University of Florida, we have started to create messaging for a substance use education campaign. The goal is to launch in summer 2025</p> <p>Narcan has been purchased for all city AEDs</p>

# Mental Wellbeing

Objective	Activity	Data / Outcome
1.4 Increase Community Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build relationships with 4 additional local partners to collaborate on safety net programs</li> </ul>	Relationships have been made with the Continuum of Care, Alachua County Healthcare Advisory Board, Gainesville Police Department Co-Responders, Community Spring, Created Gainesville and more.
1.5 GPD Co-Responder Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Divert individuals experiencing symptoms of mental illness away from the criminal justice system and into the least restrictive mental health treatment possible</li> </ul>	In 2024, the GPD co-responder teams had 2,714 calls for service with 43 jail diversions, 31 Emergency Department diversions, and 93 Baker Act diversions
1.6 Holiday Lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depot Park will partner with North Florida Regional Medical Center (NFRMC) to keep holiday lights on until the end of March</li> </ul>	Holiday lights were kept on for 14 holidays in 2022 and 10 holidays in in 2023

# Mental Wellbeing

Objective	Activity	Data / Outcome
1.7 Increase mental health education for community members and health/social service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partnership with Meridian and city HR to offer 2 Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) classes for frontline staff</li><li>• Facilitate MHFA trainings hosted in community spaces and provide lunch for attendees</li><li>• Host Crisis Intervention and De-Escalation Trainings for community members</li><li>• Host a Trauma-Informed Care Day for the community</li><li>• Mental Health and Wellness Day for first responders</li><li>• First responders trained in Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT)</li></ul>	<p>Two MHFA trainings are scheduled for community members in 2025. So far, there are 24 city staff trained</p> <p>In 2024, 4 crisis intervention and de-escalation trainings had been held for community members. A total of 123 individuals were trained.</p> <p>A trauma-informed care symposium was held Aug. 23, 2024. There were 70 attendees.</p> <p>A Mental Health and Wellness Day for First Responders was hosted in May 2023; 50 first responders and family members attended from 8 local agencies</p> <p>5 GFR staff and 142 GPD officers have been trained in CIT.</p>



# Safe Mobility

This priority area included ten activities that address safe walking, biking and local traveling for neighbors.

Objective	Activity	Data / Outcome
2.1 Increase the number of Certified Car Seat Technicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold 2 Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Certification trainings per year</li> <li>• GFR airport staff CPST certified</li> </ul>	34 technicians in 2022 19 technicians in 2023 8 technicians in 2024
2.2 Offer “Car Fit” for Seniors Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get 2 GFR employees trained as Car Fit Technicians</li> <li>• Hold 1 Car Fit Station per month rotating locations</li> </ul>	Although, this would have been a wonderful service to our community, Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR) was not awarded the grant funding to pursue this training
2.3 Increase Walking and Biking Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for Safe Routes Funding</li> <li>• Increase lighting in areas with low lighting</li> <li>• Fit 100 neighbors per year with bike helmets</li> <li>• Vision Zero Action Plan</li> <li>• Back to School safety event</li> <li>• Walk to School Day</li> </ul>	All activities are in progress or ongoing.  9 GFR employees received bike helmet fit training. 43 bike helmets were distributed in 2024  In 2023, GFR hosted a back to school safety event. 1,025 students received pedestrian safety education
2.4 Implementation of the City of Gainesville’s Vision Zero Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease number of traffic fatalities within city limits</li> </ul>	Through the Vision Zero Action Plan, traffic fatalities have decreased to 19 fatalities in 2024

# Healthy Lifestyle

This priority area included eight activities that increase opportunities for the community to engage in healthy lifestyle programming

Objective	Activity	Data / Outcome
3.1 Add Healthy Afternoons at the fire station programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming once a week at varying fire station locations</li> <li>• Offer blood pressure checks, blood glucose checks and Tai Chi</li> </ul>	In 2024, there were 10 Healthy Afternoons events hosted with 487 attendees total
3.2 Offer Medication Take Back Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer medication take back events quarterly at varying fire stations</li> </ul>	Through Community Development Block Grant funding, medication take back events will be planned for 2025
3.3 Increase Gun Safety Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer four gun safety classes per year through partnership with GPD, ASO, UPD and private businesses</li> <li>• Gun Violence Interruption</li> </ul>	In FY24, the city hired a Gun Violence Intervention Program Manager. 150-200 hours per month have been spent to disrupt violence and mediate potential conflict
3.4 Community Gardening Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue operation of the 11 community garden sites</li> </ul>	All 11 community garden sites are still in operation in 2024
3.5 Community Fitness Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue offering Zumba classes at Albert Ray Massey and Eastside Recreation Center</li> <li>• Community yoga class at Bo Diddley Plaza</li> <li>• Smooth Flava line dancing at Bo Diddley Plaza</li> </ul>	Community classes have been offered. In 2024, 900 people participated in Smooth Flava dancing and 900 people attended yoga classes

# Social Determinants of Health

This priority area included nine activities that address access as it relates to gaps experienced by neighbors that influence health outcomes

Objective	Activity	Data / Outcome
4.1 Accessible Dental Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-5 community partners providing more accessible dental care and dental hygiene education</li> </ul>	In March 2024, 48 patients were seen between 1-21 years old. 171 procedures were performed with a total of \$14,929 in care provided <b>free</b> to patients.
4.2 Increase Transportation Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for 3 grants to fund transportation programs for healthcare access</li> <li>• Establish partnerships for medical transportation options for those not eligible for existing programs</li> <li>• Apply for grants to fund 10 yearly half fare RTS bus passes for community members aged 19-64</li> </ul>	<p>Partnerships with Freedom in Motion and Heartbeat Transportation were established</p> <p>The city is leveraging opioid abatement settlement funding for transportation for CRP patients to mental health and/or substance use treatment appointments</p>
4.3 Increase Enrollment in the Community Resource Paramedicine program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of patients enrolled in Chronic Disease Management (CDM)</li> <li>• Increase the number of patients enrolled in Recovery Response (RRT)</li> <li>• Increase the number of patients enrolled in Homeless Outreach and Prevention (HOP)</li> </ul>	There were 390 new CDM referrals in 2024, 122 new RRT referrals in 2024, and 137 new HOP referrals in 2024, and 12 new Community Health referrals. That is a total of 661 new referrals for the Community Resource Paramedicine in 2024

# Social Determinants of Health

Objective	Activity	Data / Outcome
4.4 Increase primary care compliance for chronic disease management patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase primary care compliance for patients by 10%</li></ul>	Tracking for this activity was not possible, therefore removed from CHIP objectives
4.5 Increase telehealth visits for chronic disease patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the number of Telehealth visits completed for chronic disease management patients by 10%</li></ul>	This is no longer a program priority, therefore removed from CHIP objectives

# Next Steps

The City of Gainesville strives to ensure that our community is equitable and sustainable for all neighbors.

As shown in this document, many objective activities are in progress or ongoing. To ensure that our community continues to become healthier the City of Gainesville will work to:

O1

## Continue Pursuing Objectives

As our community needs grow or change, the City of Gainesville will strive to meet those needs and provide services to our neighbors.

O2

## Seek Grant Funding

To continue to provide services and start new services, the City of Gainesville continues to seek grant funding opportunities

O3

## Leverage Data

The City of Gainesville is committed to working with the Alachua County Department of Health to leverage data from the 2024 Community Health Assessment

# Acknowledgements

We acknowledge all city organizations, partners, and collaborators for their important part in ensuring the safety, health, and satisfaction of our neighbors. Special thanks to city leadership and city departments including:

Cynthia W. Curry, City Manager

Gainesville City Commissioner

Joseph Dixon, Fire Chief

Brandy Stone, Community Health Director



Krista Ott, CRP Program Coordinator

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs

Gainesville Neighbors

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