

TULARE COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency Releases Comprehensive County Health Report and Improvement Plan

Unveiling opportunities to create a healthier Tulare County

The Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency, Public Health Branch, is pleased to announce the release of the 2023–2028 Community Health Assessment (CHA) and accompanying Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

The latest CHA builds upon the successful completion of our first CHA and CHIP released in 2018, which contributed to our receiving Public Health Accreditation in September 2020. Data for the current report was collected in 2021 through resident surveys, focus groups, and interviews with community organization representatives and examines health behaviors, health outcomes, and social, economic, and environmental factors affecting Tulare County residents.

The report identifies eight key areas for improvement, informed by both resident feedback and statistical data. These include improving access to health care, chronic disease education and management, environmental concerns, mental health and substance use, economy/cost of living/employment, healthy and affordable food, health education, and housing and transportation.

The CHA also acknowledges positive strides that Tulare County has made in recent years. The county continues to improve in areas such as ozone-related air pollution, juvenile arrests, teen births, smoking rates, and increased health insurance coverage over the last four years.

The CHIP addresses, over a five-year period, two critical issues affecting the health of Tulare County residents: access to care and preventing diabetes.

The CHIP aims to improve access to health care through enhanced cultural competency training for providers, increased public awareness of preventive care options and access, and expanded health care services, with a focus on diabetes prevention and management.

The Public Health Branch extends its sincere gratitude to the community-wide steering committee and the over-90 partner organizations that participated in the CHA development. These partners, which include hospitals, clinics, non-profit groups, and civic organizations, play a vital role in addressing the identified priorities.

Anyone interested in participating in the ongoing activities of the Tulare County CHIP is welcome to join the Access to Care Coalition and/or the Tulare County Alliance Management & Education (TAME) Diabetes Coalition by contacting Tulare County Public Health at (559) 624-8480.

For more information, visit us online at <u>www.tchhsa.org</u> or access the CHIP at <u>https://bit.ly/44pbzq8.</u>

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