

HEALTHFIRST

Allen County



2025 Grant Awards & Summaries

A Hope Center

\$50,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Maternal & Child Health

Project Summary:

Providing maternal & child health services such as screenings and referrals, as well as the addition of car seat installation and safety check services for clients.

A Mother's Hope, Inc.

\$70,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Maternal & Child Health

Project Summary:

Providing housing and supportive services to foster a nurturing environment that promotes health, wellness and stability for pregnant women and their babies experiencing homelessness.

Alive Community Outreach

\$50,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Student Health

Project Summary:

By cultivating a community of nonviolence, Alive Community Outreach is dedicated to creating a healthier, more equitable community where every individual can thrive, free from the barriers imposed by violence, trauma and systemic inequities.

Allen County Drug & Alcohol Consortium

\$30,000 (MINI-GRANT)

Core Public Health Service Area:

Tobacco Cessation & Education

Project Summary:

Implementation of evidence-based vaping prevention programming providing education and resources to Allen County students to increase knowledge of vaping risks, resist peer pressure and decrease overall vaping use in current and future youth.

Amani Family Services

\$150,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Trauma & Injury Prevention & Education

Project Summary:

Continued expansion of staffing and programming serving the increasing immigrant and refugee populations of Allen County to allow provision of assessments, education and facilitation of support groups with a focus on substance use disorder prevention.

Associated Churches of Fort Wayne & Allen County, Inc.

\$65,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Maternal & Child Health

Project Summary:

Expansion and support of both A Baby's Closet (ABC) and Journey Beside Mothers (JBM) programs supporting low-income expectant mothers and families with infants and toddlers focused on improving health outcomes for mothers and children.

Associated Churches of Fort Wayne & Allen County, Inc.

\$30,000 (MINI-GRANT)

Core Public Health Service Area:

Trauma & Injury Prevention & Education – FALL PREVENTION

Project Summary:

"The Art of the Fall" – Evidence-based Fall Prevention Programming for Senior Citizens

Blessings in a Backpack

\$38,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Student Health

Project Summary:

Supporting the partnership with the Allen County Public Library's 10-week summer children's initiative to provide Allen County children suffering from food insecurity with backpacks containing nutritious foods.

Bowen Health (in support of Connect Allen County)

\$50,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

Support and continuation of the "No Wrong Door" access center connecting Allen County residents with partner services including job works programs, community development, child welfare and developmental disabilities as well various navigational programming supports.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Indiana

\$100,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Student Health

Project Summary:

Expansion of the organization's Triple Play multi-faceted program with a specific focus on the whole child (mind, body and soul) as well as programming toward the development of life-long skills that support overall health education.

Cancer Services of Allen County, Inc., d/b/a Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana

\$30,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

Provision of transportation assistance to connect those with cancer to lifesaving medical care and support services. Removing these transportation barriers will allow vulnerable people to access needed health care services and will increase overall health equity.

Child Advocacy Center of Allen County, Inc.

\$20,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

The Dr. Bill Lewis Center for Children partners with families and provides responsive advocacy for children who have experienced alleged sexual or physical abuse.

Children's Autism Center, Inc.

\$56,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Chronic Disease Prevention & Reduction

Project Summary:

Obesity is a significant public health issue for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), affecting nearly 50% of children due to food selectivity and parental stress around mealtime. This leads to a reliance on more accepted, but less nutritious foods. This continued project creates targeted programming to address obesity in individuals with autism through nutrition, exercise and parental training.

Children's Health Collaborative

\$10,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Student Health

Project Summary:

Expansion of the "9-Healthy Habits Initiative" integrating evidence-based health strategies into schools and after-school care programs, fostering lasting improvements in student health behaviors.

Community Transportation Network, Inc.

\$115,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

Continued support for specialized transportation for low-income seniors and people with disabilities, specifically helping those who are not aligned with another agency.

Euell A. Wilson Center

\$90,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Chronic Disease Prevention & Reduction

Project Summary:

Continued implementation of a comprehensive, evidence- and rewards-based obesity prevention program that serves youth attending EAWC out-of-school programming.

Fort Wayne Community Schools

\$8,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Student Health

Project Summary:

Implementing the evidence-based "Playworks" programming to better equip students with life-long skills and knowledge in many areas including physical activity and overall positive behaviors.

Fort Wayne Downtown Improvement District

\$50,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

Implementation of “The Downtown Ambassador Program,” which will strengthen our collective health by engaging our shared downtown community to build authentic relationships in a dedicated effort to inform, connect, and support our most vulnerable populations, such as those experiencing homelessness, to ensure greater awareness of and access to medical and social services.

GiGi’s Playhouse Fort Wayne

\$30,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Chronic Disease Prevention & Reduction

Project Summary:

Continuing and increasing health and wellness programs offering healthy eating and exercise/strength, programming & education for those with Down syndrome and their families.

Harold W. McMillen Center for Health Education

\$150,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Chronic Disease Prevention & Reduction

Project Summary:

Providing vital, effective preventive health education programs to 7,532 Allen County youth and adults focusing on nutrition, safe sleep, social-emotional health and smoking cessation.

HealthVisions Midwest of Fort Wayne

\$66,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Chronic Disease Prevention & Reduction

Project Summary:

Continued implementation of “The HEART Program,” which tackles health disparities in Allen County by reducing chronic disease and improving overall well-being through culturally competent and linguistically appropriate personalized health coaching and evidence-based interventions.

Healthier Moms and Babies, Inc.

\$130,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Maternal & Child Health

Project Summary:

Expansion of existing programming focusing on the well-being of mothers and children in vulnerable populations addressing and improving factors that influence infant mortality and birth outcomes.

HearCare Connection, Inc.

\$25,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

Expansion and support for providing access to vital health care services including hearing testing and hearing aid fittings for underserved individuals to support overall health and well-being, help improve quality of life and earnings potential for adults, as well as to help children develop communication and social skills important for development and academic success.

Indiana University Health, Inc.

\$63,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Fatality Review & Prevention

Project Summary:

Health Equity, Access, Outreach & Treatment for underserved, diverse communities at trusted community sites, focusing on cardiovascular disease (CVD) health determinants through hypertension prevention and education for the adult African American population, thereby reducing the consequences of undermanaged hypertension.

League for the Blind & Disabled, Inc.

\$35,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

The League's Benefit Enrollment Center (BEC) assists low-income people with disabilities on Medicare and seniors age 60+ with financial benefits that can improve the quality of their lives and help them maintain their independence.

Life Restoration Services, Inc., d/b/a The Lighthouse

\$50,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Trauma & Injury Prevention & Education

Project Summary:

Continuation and expansion of The Lighthouse's residential and community-based Anchored Program designed for individuals struggling with Substance Use Disorder seeking an independent sober lifestyle.

Live Healthy Hoosiers

\$7,500

Core Public Health Service Area:

Chronic Disease Prevention & Reduction

Project Summary:

Implementation of the "Live Healthy" program, which is a 16-week, evidence-based intensive lifestyle change program rooted in the principles of lifestyle medicine, as defined by the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, aimed at improving overall health and chronic disease, with a predominant focus on adopting a whole-food, plant-based eating lifestyle.

Lutheran Social Services, Inc.

\$100,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Maternal & Child Health

Project Summary:

Continued provision of the ECHO (Education Creates Hope and Opportunity) program, which assists pregnant and parenting teens and young adults to achieve their high school education, which is a key component to addressing the social determinants of health, while also achieving health outcomes for themselves and their children.

Matthew 25, Inc.

\$67,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

Improving access to comprehensive health care services for low-income and uninsured individuals with an emphasis on diabetes prevention & education, immunizations, eyeglasses & vision care and a smoking cessation program.

Neighborhood Health Clinic

\$38,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Student Health

Project Summary:

Expansion of school-based health care for Allen County students, including on-site dental care and virtual medical visits.

Northeast Indiana Positive Resource Connection, Inc.

\$112,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

Expansion and growth of HIV case management services and HIV, Hepatitis C and Syphilis testing and education to the Latinx men and women in Allen County.

Parkview Hospital, Inc.

\$125,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Chronic Disease Prevention & Reduction

Project Summary:

Expansion and continuation of the FitKids360 programming, which is an eight-week well-being program designed to empower children and their families by instilling lifelong, healthy behaviors in a supportive and engaging environment.

Parkview Hospital, Inc. (in partnership with Tobacco Free Allen County)

\$50,000 (MINI-GRANT)

Core Public Health Service Area:

Tobacco Cessation & Education

Project Summary:

Tobacco Free Allen County will pilot implementation of Stanford REACH Lab's Healthy Futures, an evidence-based, vaping intervention curriculum, at East Allen County Schools (EACS) over the 2025-26 academic year, providing small-group and one-on-one educational, non-punitive interventions to address underlying drivers of youth nicotine use, as well as motivate and empower students to regain and sustain vape-free lives.

Petra Solutions LLC

\$10,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

Implementation of the "Empowering Northeast Indiana" project, which will enhance language access in Allen County's health care sector by providing training, technical assistance and resources to organizations and interpreters, promoting equitable and culturally competent care for all residents.

project.ME-FW, Inc.

\$25,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Trauma & Injury Prevention & Education

Project Summary:

Expansion of drop-in recovery support, through tangible resources, for individuals who are experiencing homelessness, and concerns related to substance use, mental health and/or justice involvement.

Respect 360, d/b/a RespectTeam

\$20,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Student Health

Project Summary:

RespectTeam will deepen its impact in Allen County, offering educator-requested mental health education programming focused on a variety of critical student health topics (such as suicide, mental health, stress, social media, diversity and bullying) in middle and high school classrooms.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Indiana, Inc.

\$51,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

Continued provision of preventive pediatric care to children 0-18 years of age who lack access to a medical home.

SCAN, Inc.

\$100,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Trauma & Injury Prevention & Education

Project Summary:

Expansion of services to provide support for substance misuse and child trauma prevention in Allen County.

Schools Care, Inc., d/b/a School Care Team

\$75,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Student Health

Project Summary:

Continued provision of education and instruction to increase emotional resilience and well-being, focusing on students and teachers in Allen County.

St. Joseph Community Health Foundation

\$50,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

Creation of an online directory of, and referral to, low-cost, free, quality prenatal and infant care resources available in Allen County.

Super Shot, Inc.

\$200,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Child & Adult Immunizations

Project Summary:

Continuation and expansion of community immunization clinics, outreach immunization clinics, school-based immunization clinics and education.

The Fort Wayne Rescue Mission

\$40,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

Provision of transportation to accompany the facility's residents to offsite health care and social service appointments and provision of in-person advocacy and assistance at these appointments.

Turnstone Center For Children & Adults with Disabilities

\$15,000 (MINI-GRANT)

Core Public Health Service Area:

Trauma & Injury Prevention & Education – FALL PREVENTION

Project Summary:

Implementation of "Bingocize," an evidence-based program to reduce the risk of falls of older adults and people with disabilities

Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, Inc.

\$45,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Chronic Disease Prevention & Reduction

Project Summary:

Improvement and expansion of the Wellspring Nutrition Program working toward lifestyle transformation aimed at reducing obesity through nutritional education, hands-on cooking classes and healthy eating.

YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne

\$25,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Fatality Review & Prevention Programs

Project Summary:

Expansion of the Diabetes Prevention Program to engage new adult populations at risk of or diagnosed with prediabetes, with a focus on reaching low-income households and racial minorities both within and beyond YMCA facilities.

YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne

\$20,000 (MINI-GRANT)

Core Public Health Service Area:

Trauma & Injury Prevention & Education – FALL PREVENTION

Project Summary:

Expansion of the evidence-based “EnhanceFitness®” program to its facilities and partner senior living centers, focusing on reducing fall risks among older adults.

Youth For Christ of Northern Indiana

\$15,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Student Health

Project Summary:

Continuation of the “RealTALK” programming, which is an effective mentoring program designed to create community, accountability and a safe place for teens to share in a small group of their peers.

YWCA Northeast Indiana

\$160,000

Core Public Health Service Area:

Access & Linkage/Referrals to Clinical Care

Project Summary:

Through the YWCA’s co-located domestic violence services and addiction recovery program, they will work to ensure vulnerable populations are being connected to necessary health and mental health care services in Allen County through referrals and coordinated support services.