

HEALTH ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES

Tools, strategies and resources to empower communities and improve lives across Missouri

How can I partner with local organizations to address the social determinants of health affecting my community?



TAKE AN INVENTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS AND EFFORTS.

Using the Nonprofit Dashboard on All Things Missouri, locate the health and health-related nonprofits in your area. Take an inventory of health-related programming and look for opportunities to align and strengthen existing programs, collaborations, and conversations.



ASSESS COMMUNITY NEEDS

Collect and review any existing health needs assessments for your community or region. Many communities have existing assessments conducted and made available by health departments, hospital systems, and community health centers. If your community does not have a recent health needs assessment, use the All Things Missouri Community Well-Being report to create one for your area.



BUILD AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

Find ways to amplify and support existing efforts and aim to develop partnerships over time. Partnerships come in a variety of forms and Extension might not always be in the lead. And that's OK.



PRIORITIZE AND FOCUS ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT

Using your inventory of existing efforts and needs assessment data, bring together community stakeholders to select a program or effort where you can make the biggest impact. Start with an end goal in mind (this may come from partners or an ideation session after you've completed an assessment) and begin to build a path, or set of strategies, that will help get you there. Make sure you're setting SMART goals — specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound.

Goal examples:

Community design

Impact youth obesity by increasing the number of youths who walk, bike, or wheel to school by 20%. Coordinate walking events and incentives to help drive engagement.

Economic security

Reduce unemployment in vulnerable populations by 10% by partnering with local workforce development organizations.

Access to care

Use data to identify areas with low internet access. Create partnerships with local organizations to provide private, video and web-enabled rooms where residents can use telehealth services.



SHARE YOUR PROGRESS.

Moving the dial on the social determinants of health takes time. Regularly sharing small progress updates will help you and the community stay focused, keep momentum, and allow you measure impact over time.



EXPLORE DATA AND RESOURCES

Visit the resources available on All Things Missouri to find answers to common community health improvement questions, relevant data and information.

* allthingsmissouri.org/social-determinants-of-health

Other resources:

* [Nonprofit Missouri \(NPMO\)](#)

* [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

* [Healthy People 2030](#)

* [exploreMOhealth](#)

START A CONVERSATION

Use the questions below to inspire conversation, collaboration, and action:

*Does life expectancy vary between ZIP codes in our region? By how much?
What are the main reasons for the variance between ZIP codes?*

What is our community doing to improve the social determinants of health and reduce health disparities at the local level? Which organizations are involved?

*What types of organizations or services are missing or underrepresented in our region?
How can we address service gaps collaboratively?*