Program Overview

2017
Healthy Neighborhoods: A community-based model of health care

Healthy Neighborhoods is a transformative population health strategy to help Delaware become one of the five healthiest states in the nation. It is broadly acknowledged that health care occurs beyond the boundaries of clinical care settings and that healthy communities means better health and better health outcomes. As such, the Healthy Neighborhoods initiative aims to meaningfully foster coordination between community organizations, the medical care delivery system, and the public sector to create and sustain healthy neighborhoods across Delaware. The collaboration of these entities will aid in the implementation of viable, locally tailored interventions that encourage healthier lifestyles and improve the overall quality of our citizen’s health.

Healthy Neighborhoods aims to:

- Facilitate integration of health systems with community-based organizations, coalitions and other entities, to develop and execute shared strategies for improving population health
- Design and implement locally-tailored solutions to address social determinants of health
- Mobilize community based agencies to collaborate across sectors and areas of focus to drive a collective approach and impact
- Provide communities with shared access to resources and new opportunities for partnerships
- Support organized efforts to sustain Healthy Neighborhoods programs and initiatives

Healthy Neighborhoods: Four health priorities

Building on existing programming in each Healthy Neighborhood region, the Healthy Neighborhoods initiative targets four critical health priorities to improve the overall health and wellbeing of each Delawarean. These include:

- Healthy lifestyles
- Maternal and child health
- Mental health and addiction
- Chronic disease prevention and management

Healthy Neighborhoods: Aspirations

Our shared aspiration is that every Delawarean will live in a Healthy Neighborhood community. The Delaware State Health Care Innovation Model purposes to launch Healthy Neighborhoods across 10 non-overlapping regions in Delaware, each comprised of approximately 50,000-100,000 residents. The goal is to reach 80 percent of Delawareans by 2018. The Healthy Neighborhoods regions are defined as non-overlapping communities of 50,000 to 100,000 residents each, served by one or more local health systems or FQHCS that represent a balance of several defining parameters for the neighborhoods.
A Healthy Neighborhoods Local Council, comprised of a diverse and inclusive group of stakeholders in each region, will work together to foster collaboration through coalescing stakeholders and integrating resources and initiatives for improving health and wellness, as well as access to clinical and community based services that address the priority health needs and social determinants of health in each region.

Wave 1 - Healthy Neighborhoods

In 2016 and early 2017, DCHI initiated the first wave of Healthy Neighborhoods across three communities:

- Wilmington/Claymont
- West/Central Sussex
- Smyrna/Dover

Future Healthy Neighborhoods

Three-five additional Healthy Neighborhoods communities will be launched in 2017, with the remaining communities rolling out in 2018-2019. These communities will include Brandywine/Hockessin; Newark/Bear/Glasgow; Christiana/Pike Creek; New Castle/Red Lion; Middletown/Odessa/Townsend; Kent/Sussex; and Eastern Sussex.

Delaware Center for Health Innovation: Impacting Broad Change

DCHI is a privately funded nonprofit organization, comprised of a broad and diverse group of stakeholders who are working collaboratively to make Delaware one of the healthiest states in the nation with better health outcomes, health care quality and patient experience, as well as provider experience, and more accessible health care by lowering the growth in health care cost. DCHI is instrumental in guiding implementation of Delaware’s multi-pronged health care transformation plan, which includes the Healthy Neighborhoods program, transition to value-based payment systems, new efforts to engage consumers in health care decisions, retraining and education of Delaware's health care workforce, and assistance in providing care coordination across providers.