



HEALTH EQUITY PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Health Determinants Rural Learning Collaborative increased awareness of health determinants and equipped participating communities with an action plan to address areas identified in the needs assessment phase of this project.

Over the last 9 months, four rural communities were selected with the goals of:

- 1 increasing their knowledge about health determinants,
- 2 assessing the needs in their community,
- 3 prioritizing the needs they identify, and
- 4 developing an obtainable action plan to develop programs to address health disparities.

Within each of the grantee communities, a community team or coalition was established to guide the grant objectives. When creating these community teams, IRHA worked with grantees to identify potential cross-sector partnerships and ensure all members of the community were being considered in the work. The result of the Health Determinants Rural Learning Collaborative is four successful health equity projects across the state of Iowa. While the projects vary in many ways, each project increased community partnerships, infrastructure, and community knowledge of the social determinants of health.

IOWA SPECIALTY HOSPITAL

Wright County was labeled a food desert due to the amount of assistance needed and lack of food resources. **To help meet this need, Iowa Specialty Hospital planned to use the funds to offer a community food pantry that is more accessible to those in need.** Iowa Specialty Hospital is the only healthcare provider for the county and over the years has played an instrumental role in health equity work. Due to a high immigrant population and a low number of resources, many community organizations are faced with trying to simply meet the basic needs of community members. The coalition chose to use a structure that was developed during an EMS project previously completed in their community. From this process, We're Wright to Share was created.

Having seed funding from IRHA allowed We're Wright to Share to get off the ground, increase capacity, identify additional funding streams, and create a project outline and goals for continuing this work in Wright County. The coalition brought together area food pantries, program volunteers, and other food program organizations to share best practices and discuss other ways they may collaborate to meet community needs. From this event stronger relationships grew, and an additional food pantry was opened in Goldfield. Although We're Wright to Share's work may be in the beginning stages, they have laid the foundation for success and look forward to reflecting on the impact they will have on their community.



We have felt outside of the services, a forgotten child. 'We're WRIGHT to SHARE' opened a door for us."

— Mary Hawley, Master Gardener and Children's Garden manager

IOWA

SPECIALTY HOSPITAL



The number of food pantries in Wright County grew by one with the prompt from the local IRHA grant guiding group and the DNR's Food Waste Reduction Program. Wright County's ISU Extension Service added a new pantry in Goldfield."

— Gwendolyn Harvey, Community Project Coordinator, Iowa Specialty Hospital

CONTACT THE WRIGHT TO SHARE

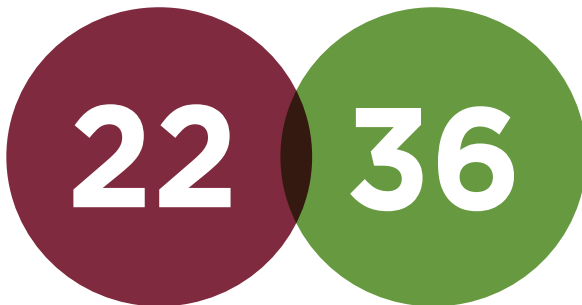
Phone: 844-474-4321

Website: IowaSpecialtyHospital.com

Social: @IowaSpecialtyHospital

BEST PRACTICES

- Utilize a communication platform that will reach the most community members. Sometimes this might mean sending things out on multiple platforms.
- Listen to what your community tells you they need and create your plan around those needs.
- Partner with a wide variety of organizations and people in your community to maximize your impact.
- If community members have a need and can't go to the resource, find a way to bring the resource to them.
- If no examples were available to you, be the example for the next community.



22 PARTNERSHIPS
CREATED,
EXPANDED,
OR MAINTAINED

36
RESOURCES
DISSEMINATED



Overcoming the shame and stigma of need is a huge barrier to getting even the most available food to the neediest people. 'We're WRIGHT to SHARE' will be working with program operators and volunteers to reduce the stigma."

Nancy Strub, Pastoral Minister, Holy Family Parish Cluster, Eagle Grove, Clarion, and Belmond



1 NEW
FOOD PANTRY

1 COUNTY-WIDE
FOOD SUMMIT

ABOUT IRHA

The Iowa Rural Health Association aims to provide leadership on factors that influence healthy living in rural Iowa. The Health Equity grant has been instrumental in allowing IRHA to imagine new and creative ways to facilitate health improvement for rural Iowans by allowing each community to prioritize their own needs and approaches. Throughout this process, IRHA has been able to foster unique strategies for health improvement in rural areas.

We've learned so much from the creative programs, projects, and processes our partner communities have implemented to address their community's needs and are excited to share their successes to aid leaders across rural Iowa improve the lives of those they serve. We look forward to continuing to play the role as convener and cohort-facilitator for more communities in the years to come!

Audrey Tran Lam,
IRHA Board President



Public Health
Iowa HHS