



# Addressing Chronic Disease in Rural Communities

Recommendations for access to services to reach medically underserved populations for the prevention, management, and treatment of chronic diseases in rural communities.

Recommendations and Strategies	Sector
<p><b>1. Conduct a community needs assessment and improvement process to identify issues that impact South Dakota rural communities.</b></p>	
<p>Leverage local and state community needs assessment and improvement initiatives to identify public health issues that impact populations across South Dakota rural communities. Refer to area health systems, federally qualified health centers, tribal health departments, community coalitions, and government entities to identify opportunities to engage and learn more. <a href="#">Learn more</a> about the rural need assessment process.</p>	<p>Health Systems Tribal Organizations State/Local Government Community-Based Organizations Higher Education</p>
<p><b>2. Foster multi-sector collaboration with partners to address social determinants of health.</b></p>	
<p>Build relationships with traditional (e.g., healthcare, business, education) and nontraditional (e.g., faith-based, parks and recreation, transportation) partnerships. Learn more from <a href="#">The Mobilizing Community Partnerships in Rural Communities: Strategies and Techniques</a> to help identify and sustain key partnerships. Refer to the <a href="#">Social Determinants of Health in Rural Communities Toolkit</a> for evidence-based and promising models and resources to support work in this area.</p>	<p>Education Elected Officials Economic Social Services Transportation Justice Faith-based organizations State/Local Government Tribal agencies Health Systems Other Community Based Organizations</p>
<p>Leverage community health workers and community health representatives to engage rural populations and tribal communities. <a href="#">Learn more</a> from Community Health Workers Collaborative of South Dakota and <a href="#">Indian Health Service</a>.</p>	
<p>Identify and engage community champions in rural communities. Engage <a href="#">SDSU Extension</a> and other sectors present in South Dakota rural communities to help identify and engage community champions. The <a href="#">Community Engagement Toolkit</a> and <a href="#">Community Champion Toolkit</a> can be used to identify champions and help build their skills and capacity.</p>	
<p><b>3. Utilize Nexus SD to streamline connections between multi-sector providers to address social needs and drive positive outcomes among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.</b></p>	
<p>Foster promotion and outreach to join Nexus SD, a statewide collaboration of healthcare, human, and social service providers sharing information using an integrated technology platform and referral system to coordinate whole-person care. Take steps to learn about and <a href="#">join</a> the Nexus SD Learning Network, as well as promote it with available <a href="#">marketing and promotional materials</a>.</p>	<p>Healthcare Social Service Providers Human Service Providers State Government Non-profit organizations (e.g., Helpline Center) Nexus SD Members</p>



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<b>4. Explore innovative funding opportunities.</b>	
<p>Funding plays a key role in supporting chronic disease prevention, treatment, and management in communities. Explore innovative approaches to fund efforts in rural communities, such as blended and braided funding approaches. <a href="#">Learn more</a>. Rural funding and opportunities can also be explored through the <a href="#">RHlhub</a>.</p>	<p>Funding Agency State Government Non-profit Organizations</p>
<b>5. Foster rural economic development to support alternative access to services for the prevention, treatment, and management of chronic disease.</b>	
<p>Approaches and practices must adapt and evolve to reflect the changing landscape of rural economies, the impact of health disparities in rural communities, and chronic underfunding in rural communities. The <a href="#">Thrive Rural Framework</a> for equitable prosperity exemplifies alignment between economic development and health among communities and native nations across the rural United States. Refer to the <a href="#">A Playbook for New Rural Healthcare Partnership Models of Investment</a> for additional guidance.</p>	<p>Community/Economic Development Organizations</p>
<b>6. Elevate promotion and awareness of preventative health strategies and initiatives.</b>	
<p>Leverage and expand prevention efforts taking place in communities. Explore <a href="#">Success Stories</a> across South Dakota to identify opportunities to expand on efforts.</p>	<p>Education (pre-k through higher education) Youth Organizations Nonprofit organizations</p>
<p>Support the implementation of community behavioral health prevention strategies. Refer to the South Dakota Suicide Prevention website for information, including Community Toolkits, Events, and for Professionals. <a href="#">Request</a> mental health awareness and suicide prevention training through the website to help support prevention strategies.</p>	<p>Faith-based organizations Educational Institutions Peer Support Specialists (E.g., CHWs, Behavioral Health Workers)</p>
<p>Share success stories of efforts taking place in rural communities. It is important to showcase success in communities. Leverage <a href="#">Good&amp;Healthy SD</a> to share successes. Explore additional dissemination methods outlined from <a href="#">RHlhub</a> or research conducted by Brownson et al. (2018), <a href="#">Getting the Word Out: New Approaches for Disseminating Public Health Science</a>.</p>	<p>State Government Elected Officials Community Leaders Youth Organizations</p>