

Community Concepts

Advancing Oral Health and Responding to the Dire Dental Needs of Underserved Women and Children in Franklin and Oxford Counties

Planning Grant: Community Concepts Inc. (CC) will plan and design systems for oral health care with the involvement of Head Start families and dental partners in their region to explore Virtual Dental Homes (VDH) as a more effective model in meeting the dental needs of underserved children and pregnant mothers living in rural Maine. CC will plan to share information, coordinate efforts with partners, and employ a whole family approach to establish the virtual dental home model as a viable, statewide solution to dental access that meets the needs of families with lower incomes and dental clinics alike.

Area(s) of Focus: Rural Health, Maternal and Child Health

Geographic Area(s) Served: Oxford and Franklin Counties

Community(ies) Served: Rural, People with Lower Incomes, Children, Pregnant Women

In Her Presence

MotherCircle

Project Grant: In Her Presence's project, MotherCircle, is a year-long, weekly educational support group offered to pregnant and reproductive-aged refugee and immigrant women living in Greater Portland-Cumberland County. The program is grounded in the community and has a self-directed approach to preparing immigrant women with more experience to help others in their community by training them to serve as cultural doulas, and seeks to address issues that can prevent refugee and immigrant women from seeking adequate prenatal care that contribute to poorer birth outcomes.

Area(s) of Focus: Maternal and Child Health

Geographic Area(s) Served: Cumberland County

Community(ies) Served: Communities of Color; Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum-Seekers, Women

2021 Systems Improvement and Innovation Responsive Grants Projects

Kennebec Valley Dental Coalition, Inc. d/b/a Waterville Community Dental Center

Implementing the Virtual Dental Home Model to Make Oral Health Services Accessible to Children in Rural Early Childcare Programs

Project Grant: Kennebec Valley Dental will adapt the Virtual Dental Home (VDH) model of community-based dental care in Head Start and other Early Childcare Program (ECP) sites to ensure access to oral health care for the children in these rural programs. The first year of the program will be directed at fully establishing the model in Kennebec and Somerset counties, with expansion to further counties in year two, and eventually offering replication support for the model statewide.

Area(s) of Focus: Rural Health, Maternal and Child Health

Geographic Area(s) Served: Kennebec and Somerset

Community(ies) Served: Rural, People with Lower Incomes, Children

Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Enhancing the Management of Substance Use Disorder Among Youth in Community and Primary Health Care Settings

Planning Grant: The Maine chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) will develop education for clinicians on screening, interventions, and treatment for substance use and co-occurring mental health issues for adolescents and young adults. AAP will use a learning collaborative format with a Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) model as the frame, and emphasize a harm reduction approach. Education will include motivational interviewing training, in person and virtual learning sessions, and a website platform with evidence-based resources and tools. AAP will focus on nicotine, cannabis, alcohol, and opioids and partner with the Office of Child and Family Services, DayOne, and others.

Area(s) of Focus: Rural Health, Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder

Geographic Area(s) Served: Statewide

Community(ies) Served: Rural, Youth, People Experiencing Substance Use Disorder

Maine Children's Alliance

Understanding and Addressing Racial Inequities in Maternal and Child Health

Planning Grant: The Maine Children's Alliance will engage and support community partners to determine an advocacy agenda for state policy changes that would improve outcomes in maternal health and the health of children under age three, with a focus on addressing racial disparities due to historic and structural racism. The project will explore barriers and solutions to accessing maternal and child health services for people of color in Maine, including immigrants, tribal people, and Latinx communities. The objective of the planning year is to develop recommendations that could be implemented to make systems, policies, and services more responsive to the health care needs of communities in Maine.

Area(s) of Focus: Maternal and Child Health

Geographic Area(s) Served: Statewide

Community(ies) Served: Communities of Color; Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum-Seekers, Women, Children

Maine Hospice Council, Inc.

Palliative Care: Creating Access for Rural Maine Communities

Planning Grant: The Maine Hospice Council (MHC) will convene facilitated discussion groups comprised of stakeholders who live in or serve rural areas and will update the 2015 market research on Palliative Care in Maine. These data, along with lessons learned from programs in Colorado and Minnesota, will be used to help inform the development of a framework for innovations in palliative care service delivery within Maine's rural communities.

Area(s) of Focus: Rural Health

Geographic Area(s) Served: Statewide

Community(ies) Served: Rural, People with Serious Illness

MaineHealth - The Gender Clinic at Maine Medical Center, Maine Medical Center

Advancing Health Equity Through Provider Education on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

Planning Grant: The Gender Clinic at Maine Medical Center and EqualityMaine will work together and with key internal and external stakeholders to develop a training plan and curricula to increase health care providers' knowledge, skills, and attitudes around collecting sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data and providing competent care for LGBTQI+ patients. The long-term aim of this project is for SOGI data to be respectfully collected and appropriately used by providers and healthcare systems to improve care and reduce health disparities in Maine.

Area(s) of Focus: Rural Health, Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder

Geographic Area(s) Served: Statewide

Community(ies) Served: Rural, LGBTQI+

MaineHealth - Access to Care Program, Center for Health Improvement at MaineHealth

Moving Upstream: Maximizing Enrollment for Newly Medicare-Eligible Mainers

Project Grant: The Center for Health Improvement at MaineHealth will use data from MaineHealth's electronic health record system, Epic, to identify and reach out to patients across an 11-county service area who are entering their Medicare Initial Enrollment Period (IEP). Access To Care case managers will provide one-on-one education about Medicare options, assistance with applications for Medicare Part D, the Medicare Savings Program, as well as education about the added benefits of Medicare Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) and potential consequences of not enrolling in Medicare during the IEP.

Area(s) of Focus: Rural Health, Aging/Older Adults

Geographic Area(s) Served: Androscoggin; Cumberland; Franklin; Kennebec; Knox; Lincoln; Oxford; Sagadahoc; Waldo; York Counties

Community(ies) Served: Older Adults, People with Lower Incomes

2021 Systems Improvement and Innovation Responsive Grants Projects

New England Arab American Organization

SafeNow: Improving Access to Health and Support Services for Victims of Family Violence

Project Grant: The New England Arab American Organization (NEAAO) will pilot a new approach to serving Arab and Muslim women both at-risk of and experiencing family violence in Portland, Westbrook and Biddeford. The pilot will establish an in-house domestic violence program and collaborate with medical providers, OB/GYN and midwives, and mental health professionals. The program will include navigation support, cultural training and consultation with healthcare providers, establishing a solid process of mutual referral with healthcare and therapeutic providers, identifying and engaging additional healthcare partners, including therapies for children and non-mainstream providers like Doulas, and expanding the range of available culturally and linguistically appropriate resources.

Area(s) of Focus: Aging/Older Adults, Maternal and Child Health

Geographic Area(s) Served: Cumberland and York Counties

Community(ies) Served: Communities of Color; Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum-Seekers, Women

SAGE Maine - a Program of EqualityMaine

Inclusive Aging Services for LGBT Older Adults

Planning Grant: SAGE Maine will engage providers of aging services (e.g., assisted living and long-term care facilities, home health care agencies, hospice programs) planning strategies that increase access to a more compassionate and culturally competent system of aging services for LGBT older adults throughout the state.

Area(s) of Focus: Rural Health, Aging/Older Adults

Geographic Area(s) Served: Statewide

Community(ies) Served: LGBTQI+, Older Adults, Rural

2021 Systems Improvement and Innovation Responsive Grants Projects

Tri-County Mental Health Services

New Mainers CommUNITY Recovery

Planning Grant: Tri-County Mental Health Services will partner with New Mainers Public Health Initiative and Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services to develop a pathway to responsive, culturally competent substance use treatment and recovery in Lewiston. The project will build upon each of the primary collaborating organizations' past and ongoing work, and present an opportunity for a natural and expanded partnership that could greatly benefit the New Mainer Community in developing improved pathways in accessing substance use disorder and behavioral health care services.

Area(s) of Focus: Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder

Geographic Area(s) Served: Androscoggin County

Community(ies) Served: Communities of Color; Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum-Seekers, People Experiencing Substance Use Disorder

Wabanaki Public Health

Supporting Systems Improvement for Maternal and Child Health (MCH) for the Tribes in Maine

Project Grant: Wabanaki Public Health's project seeks to support systems improvement for Maternal and Child Health (MCH), specifically focused on addiction and recovery services for mothers and their children within the tribal populations in Maine. This project includes a community-wide assessment of the gaps in the current system, increasing collaboration and connection with state, federal, and other partners, development of a Tribal MCH Plan that describes sustainable solutions to address gaps, and participation in Wabanaki Healing efforts.

Area(s) of Focus: Rural Health, Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder, Maternal and Child Health

Geographic Area(s) Served: Statewide; Five Tribal Communities/Native Americans residing in Maine

Community(ies) Served: Rural, Tribal Communities, People with Lower Incomes, People Experiencing Substance Use Disorder, Women

2021 Systems Improvement and Innovation Responsive Grants Projects

York Hospital

ASSESS for Success: York Hospital's Plan to Assess Screening, Stigma, Education, and Supportive Services to Improve Care for Older Adults

Planning Grant: York Hospital plans to assess their current framework for providing high-quality care to the older adult population in Southern Maine by examining gaps and opportunities in four areas: Systemization of Screening Tools/Protocols; Stigma Reduction; Clinical and Community Educational Needs; and Supportive Services for Patients and Caregivers. The project plans to address ageism in terms of attitudes among providers and the broader community as well as assessment of internal policies and practices that might disproportionately affect older adults.

Area(s) of Focus: Aging/Older Adults

Geographic Area(s) Served: York County

Community(ies) Served: Older Adults