Jasper County Board of Health Agenda (Tentative)

Date: November 12, 2026 **Time:**11 AM
Location: Jasper County Office Building, 315 W. 3rd St. N., Large Conference Room, Newton, Iowa

1. General

Describe	Proposed Action	Attachment Pages
1. Call to Order, Time:	Y	0
2. Roll Call of Board Members: Smith, Dr. Cope, Cupples, Eaton, Akins	N	0
3. Approval of the Agenda	Y	1
4. Approval of the previous Meeting Minutes: 9/10/2026	Y	2
5. Public Comments (Limit 3 minutes)	N	0

2. Outside Organization Reports

Describe	Proposed Action	Attachment Pages
1. Environmental Health Report, Kevin Luetters	N	2
2. Others:	N	0

3. Old Business

Describe	Proposed Action	Attachment Pages
1. IHHS District Updates, Districts begin 1/1/2027	N	2
2. Board of Health terms: Akins and Cupples 12/31/2026	Y	1

4. New Business

Describe	Proposed Action	Attachment Pages
1. Board of Health Dates 2027	Y	1
2. IHHS Immunization Grant Amendment	Y	3
3. Jasper Co. Community Health Improvement Plan updates	Y	25
4. Public Health Report	N	1

5. Closing

Describe	Proposed Action	Attachment Pages
1. Next Meeting: January 14, 2027	N	0
2. Next Meeting Items: Elect Chair, IHHS District Grant, Budget	N	0
3. Motion to Adjourn: Time:	Y	0

A hybrid option may be available for convenience; however, access cannot be guaranteed.
In-person attendance is recommended to ensure full participation.
Zoom, authentication required https://zoom.us/j/95554784668

Jasper County Board of Health Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 2026, 11:00 AM

Jasper County Office Building, 315 W. 3rd St. N., Large Conference Room, Newton, Iowa

- Call to Order. Time: 11:01 AM
- Roll Call of Jasper County Board of Health members: Present: Jody Eaton, Dr. Andrew Cope, Medical Director; Donna Akins.
  Absent: Julie Smith, BOH Chair; Doug Cupples, Jasper County Board of Supervisors.
- Introduction of others present: Becky Pryor, Administrator; Kristina Winfield, Public Health Coordinator; Melissa Gary, Health Department Assistant.
  Absent: None
- Others: Lauren Asman, EFR; Jana Larsen, MICA; Jessica Miller, 1st Five-MICA; Kevin Luetters, Environmental Director
- Approval of the July 9, 2026, minutes. See 1-page attachment
  - Motion by Donna Akins, Seconded by: Dr. Andrew Cope. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously
- Consider and approve the agenda. See 1-page attachment
  - Motion: by Jody Eaton, Seconded by: Donna Akins. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously
- Citizen Comments: None
- Outside Agency Reports:
- Environmental Health: Kevin Luetters, Community Development Director. See 2-page attachment.
  - All outdoor pool inspections are complete. Indoor pool inspections are planned for November in both, Poweshiek and Jasper Counties.
  - The five-year, 28E agreement with the state for private well testing and permitting has been signed. Permitting for new wells is uncommon except for livestock purposes. There was no grant billing in the 1st quarter.
  - Kevin stated that they have been very busy with nuisance complaints and dog bites.

Employee and Family Resources (EFR): Lauren Asman, Program Specialist.

- Stated that she completed the FY26 grant and will begin working on the FY27 grant at the end of the month.

Mid Iowa Community Action (MICA): Jana Larsen, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Coordinator.

- WIC clinics are still being held in Newton and Colfax. The Maternal and Child Health Program is accepting referrals. Nurses at the clinics can schedule home visits, early childhood assessments, Medicaid applications, and lead screenings. A dental hygienist is also present to assist with dental screenings and can refer children to the I-Smile Program.

Old Business:

House File 2490: Open Meeting Laws. See 1-page attachment. Motion to approve to replace posting on door at Administration Building to post the BOH Agenda on the new outside Courthouse Bulletin Board.

- Motion: Dr. Andrew Cope, Seconded by: Donna Akins. All in favor. Motion approved unanimously

- IHHS Updates: See 2-page attachment
  Becky attended numerous meetings, including State, Regional, and weekly district meetings. The RFP is currently out. Polk and Marion County are both writing for the district grant. Becky wrote a letter of support for Polk County, then received an email from Marion County stating that they are also writing for the grant.

New Business:

- Jasper County Board of Health terms – See 1-page attachment
  - Donna Akins' term ends on 12/31/2026. Donna stated that she would like to continue serving on the

board.
    - Doug Cupples' term ends on 12/31/2026. Becky will talk with Doug about his reappointment.
- Emergency Plans
    - Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA). See 1-page attachment
        - Motion: Dr. Andrew Cope, Seconded by: Donna Akins. All in favor. Motion approved unanimously
    - NIMS Cast Compliance. See 5-page attachment. The department is in compliance and meets the requirements threshold.
        - Motion: Donna Akins, Seconded by: Jody Eaton. All in favor. Motion approved unanimously
- Staff Reports:
    - Becky talked about the Jasper County Cares meeting yesterday. 44 attended with several new people. The distribution list has grown, and we are sharing information with 348 people. The 99 County Cancer Discussion about Jasper County was held on 9/9/2026. See 1-page attachment. 31 people attended either in person or via Zoom. Data was presented on how Jasper County rates compare to the State of Iowa and the US, and what can be done for cancer prevention. Becky reported that the Health Department is covering for General Assistance today and whenever needed.
    - Kristina reported on the current measles cases in Iowa. There are currently no measles cases in Jasper County. Information and updates have been emailed to the schools. The MMR vaccine is available for all ages; however, those requesting the vaccine are encouraged to see their primary care physician. School and daycare audits are all scheduled. School audits are due to the state by 10/31/2026. Back to school immunizations given and working closely with school nurses. County employee flu shots have been ordered, and the county blood draw is scheduled for October 22nd.
    - Melissa reported that Home care has 1 client, and she has been working with Aging Resources regarding waiver services for the client. The Carnival in the Park was on August 29th, and a Cares Coalition member distributed business cards for needed services and resource guide magnets. Resource guide and events calendar updated. Melissa reported that three car seats were installed in July and August.
- Next meeting: Thursday, November 12, 2026, 11:00 AM
- Motion to adjourn the meeting:
  Motion: Donna Akins, Seconded by: Jody Eaton. All in favor. Motion approved unanimously
- Time: 11:37 AM

_____

Board Member Signature Date: 11/12/2026

Minutes taken by Melissa Gary on September 10, 2026.

Environmental Report for Jasper County Board of Health
7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027

Environmental Reporting	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Septic Eval & Inspections	12	13	15	16									
Time of Transfer Inspections	0	0	0	0									
New Water Wells	0	0	0	0									
Plugged Water Wells	7	2	1	0									
Water Tests	3	0	1	0									
Pool/Spa Inspections	6	0	0	0									
Tanning Facility Inspections	0	0	6	5									
Tattoo Facility Inspections	0	0	4	4									
Septic Tank Pumper Inspections	0	1	0	0									
Nuisance Complaints	4	6	4	4									
Rabies / Dog Bites	5	5	2	0									
Radon Test Kits Sold	0	0	0	0									
Any Issues or Complaints	0	0	0	0									
Totals	37	27	33	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Private Well Grant

Nitrate(1)/Coliforms(2)/Ecoli(3)/Arsenic(4)/Manganese(5)

	Wells Plugged	Wells Tested	Test Results (present noted)	Well Permits	Date Submitted	Amt Submitted
1st Quarter PW 26/27	Durr 7/8	Cook 9/14	1 2 3 5			
	Wiltfang 7/15	Brannen 7/6	2 4 5			
	Backus 8/21	Parks 7/31	5			
	Wesselink 8/12	Iverson 7/30	1 2 3 5			
	Schoenfelder 7/30					
	Beyer 7/1					
	IA Heritage 7/14					
	IA Heritage 7/14					
	IA Heritage 7/14					
	Kuster 9/8					
2nd Quarter PW 26/27						
3rd Quarter PW 26/27						
4th Quarter PW 26/27						

Public Health Regionalization in Iowa

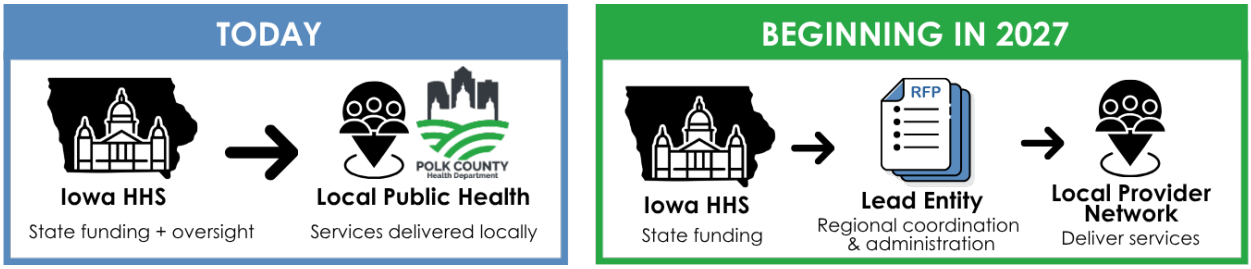
What changes – and what it means locally

Iowa is changing how several core public health services are organized and funded. **Beginning in 2027, Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) will contract with one lead entity in each of seven public health districts.**

- The lead entity becomes the regional organizer, fund administrator, and responsible entity for ensuring districtwide coverage for select public health service areas.
- The lead agency contracts with local providers for services.
- This creates a new layer in Iowa's public health system without adding additional administrative funding.
- **Local health departments will lose up to 15% of grants to fund the new administration layer.**

What's Changing

Today, Iowa HHS contracts directly with individual local health departments for many public health programs. Under regionalization, that structure will change. For certain funding streams, the state will instead contract with one lead entity for each of seven regions, and that lead entity will receive the funding and work with local providers to make sure services are delivered throughout the region.



Regionalization creates a new regional backbone — not a replacement for every local health department. The lead entity does not have to provide every service itself. Instead, it will build and coordinate a network of providers to ensure required services are available across the region.

Three priority service areas

The initial regional model focuses on:

Infectious Disease | Environmental Health | Chronic Disease + Injury Prevention

Funding Reality

Regionalization creates a new layer of administrative responsibility for lead entities, but does not come with a new pool of ongoing administrative funding.

- For Phase 1, Iowa HHS has identified one-time grant funds of $4.14 million statewide to support assessment, planning and development of the new regional structure.
- Beginning in Phase 2:
  - Lead agencies need 15% to administer the region
  - Many local health departments will lose ~15% of their grant revenue for selected services.

The Structure is Regional. The Work Remains Local.

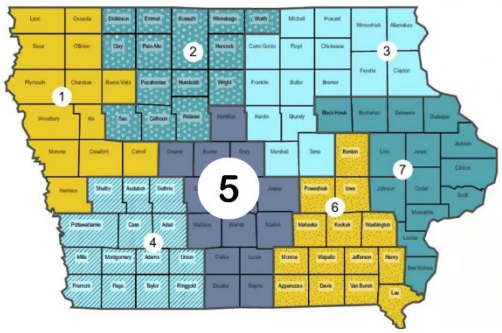
Iowa HHS has begun a request for proposal (RFP) process to select a lead entity in each district. Polk County Health Department is applying to become the lead entity for Region 5. The new structure is expected to strengthen and organize a local provider network so required services are available across the district. Local health departments bring:

- Trusted relationships with residents and community partners
- Knowledge of local needs and how best to reach their communities
- Existing staff and infrastructure that support public health services and emergency response

County Boards of Health continue to have responsibilities under Iowa Code for local public health issues.

Region 5: 14 Counties, One Regional System

Region 5 includes 14 central Iowa counties with very different populations, resources and public health capacity.



- Boone
- Clarke
- Dallas
- Decatur
- Greene
- Hamilton
- Jasper
- Lucas
- Madison
- Marion
- Polk
- Story
- Warren
- Wayne

Timeline

PHASE 1 | JAN. 2027 – JUNE 2028

Plan + build the regional system

- Assess county-by-county capacity, workforce and gaps
- Create the district provider network + governance process
- Submit final interim district plan by June 30, 2028

$4.14M statewide, split equally across 7 districts

PHASE 2 | JULY 2028 – JUNE 2032

Operate + assure districtwide coverage

- Lead Entity administers program funds
- Coordinates service delivery + monitors the provider network
- Must prevent gaps in funding or geographic coverage

$9.2M projected statewide for lead entity work + local service delivery

Questions Local Leaders Should Ask

LOCAL CAPACITY	DOLLARS FOR SERVICE	CONTINUITY
Will counties have enough staff and infrastructure to meet local public health needs? Will smaller departments begin to close?	How much Phase 2 funding remains for local service delivery after regional responsibilities are funded?	Can the system add shared capacity without disrupting services and relationships that already work?

Jasper County Board of Health Roster as of 7.16.2026

Doug Cupples
Term Expires: December 31, 2026
Member since 11/26/2024 (Replaced Denny Stevenson, BOS)

Dr. Andrew Cope, Medical Director
Term Expires: December 31, 2027 (BOS November 9, 2021)
Member since 2018 – 7 years

Donna Akins
Term Expires: December 31, 2026
Member since 2019- 5 years

Julie Smith
Term Expires: December 31, 2027
Member since 1/2022- 3 years

Jody Eaton
Term Expires: December 31, 2028
Member since 1/2023- 2 year

Board of Health Dates 2027

Second Thursday of odd months

January 14, 2027
March 11, 2027
May 13, 2027
July 8, 2027
September 9, 2027
November 11, 2027

Time: 11 AM

Jasper County Office Building

315 W 3rd St N, Large Conference Room, Newton, IA 50208

Meeting dates subject to change with Board of Health Approval

(Required to have 6 per year)

IOWA Health and Human Services

CONTRACT AMENDMENT

CONTRACT #: PHTHOIP26050	**AMENDMENT #:** 2
CONTRACTOR: Japer County Board of Health	**CONTRACT TITLE:** Immunization Services FY26

Amendment Effective Date: August 19, 2026

Section 1. Amendment to Contract Language
The Contract is amended as follows:

Revision #1: Contract Funding The Contract is increased by adding $5,000.00 to the total funding from August 19, 2026-June 30, 2027

CONTRACT FUNDING:		
Maximum Contract Amount: ~~$67,200~~ $72,200	**Maximum Base Term Amount:** $11,200	**ANNUAL funding amount by source:** FEDERAL: $11,200 STATE: $0 OTHER:$0

Revision #2: ***1.6 Contract Payment Clause*****,** is deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

1.6.1 Pricing. In accordance with the payment terms outlined in this section and the Contractors completion of the Scope of Work as set forth in this contract, the Contractor will be compensated an amount not to exceed ~~$67,200~~ $72,200 during the entire term of this Contract, which includes any extensions or renewals thereof.

Contractors may not exceed the available funds for each contract year as outlined in the Payment Table below, and may not carryover funds into a consecutive contract year without a written amendment executed by all parties.

Annual reimbursements shall not exceed the following:

	Payment Table	
Contract Year	**Period of anticipated available funds***	**Anticipated Funding Amount**
Contract Year 1 (Base term)	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	$11,200

Contract Year 2 Extension Year 1	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027	~~$11,200~~ $16,200
Contract Year 3 Extension Year 2	July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028	$11,200
Contract Year 4 Extension Year 3	July 1, 2028 – June 30, 2029	$11,200
Contract Year 5 Extension Year 4	July 1, 2029 – June 30, 2030	$11,200
Contract Year 6 Extension Year 5	July 1, 2030 – June 30, 2031	$11,200

Revision #3: Federal Funds. The following federal fund information is added to the Contract:

FEDERAL FUNDS INFORMATION **Contract Payments include Federal Funds?** Yes **The Contractor for federal reporting purposes under this Contract is a:** Subrecipient **The Name of the Pass-Through Entity:** Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
Assistance Listing Number (ALN) #:93.268 **Grant Name:** Immunization Cooperative Agreement **Federal Awarding Agency Name**: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Section 2: Ratification & Authorization

Except as expressly amended and supplemented herein, the Contract shall remain in full force and effect, and the parties hereby ratify and confirm the terms and conditions thereof. Each party to this Amendment represents and warrants to the other that it has the right, power, and authority to enter into and perform its obligations under this Amendment, and it has taken all requisite actions (corporate, statutory, or otherwise) to approve execution, delivery and performance of this Amendment, and that this Amendment constitutes a legal, valid, and binding obligation.

Section 3: Execution

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, in consideration of the mutual covenants set forth above and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt, adequacy and legal sufficiency of

which are hereby acknowledged, the parties have entered into the above Amendment and have caused their duly authorized representatives to execute this Amendment.

Contractor, Jasper County Board of Health	**Agency, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services**
Signature of Authorized Representative:	Signature of Authorized Representative:
Printed Name: Rebecca Pryor	Printed Name: Margot McComas , BSN, CPM
Title: Administrator	Title: Division Administrator, Health Protection
Date:	Date:

Jasper County, Iowa
Community Health Improvement Plan
2025-2030

Year 2- Community Report 2026

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Jasper County Community Health

Overview

The Jasper County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a collaborative, community-driven effort to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life of individuals and families throughout Jasper County, Iowa. The plan brings together public health, healthcare providers, schools, human service agencies, community organizations, and residents to identify local needs, strengthen partnerships, and develop strategies that address the factors influencing community health.

The primary community health needs identified include mental health, substance misuse, transportation barriers, food insecurity, access to quality and affordable childcare, affordable housing, and healthcare workforce shortages. These interconnected challenges can affect an individual's ability to access healthcare, maintain employment, meet basic needs, and achieve overall well-being. Addressing these priorities requires ongoing collaboration, community engagement, and coordinated efforts among local service providers and organizations.

A key component of the CHIP is increasing awareness of and access to existing community resources. Jasper County has numerous programs and services available to support individuals and families; however, navigating the various resources and determining where to seek assistance can be challenging. To help address this barrier, the Jasper County Resource Guide (www.jasperia.org/resources) has been widely promoted as a tool to connect residents with available services.

Outreach efforts to increase awareness of the Resource Guide and other community services include presentations and promotion through the Jasper County Cares Coalition, health fairs, speaking engagements, social media—primarily Facebook—and local media outlets, including newspapers and radio. The local radio station has also invited the Jasper County Health Department to participate in a weekly radio segment, creating an additional opportunity to highlight available services, share health information, promote prevention efforts, and connect residents with community resources.

The Jasper County Community Calendar serves as another important communication tool by promoting community events, support groups, educational opportunities, and other activities that benefit residents. Together, these outreach strategies help increase visibility of local services and provide multiple ways for community members to learn about available assistance. Numerous organizations keep exploring grant and funding opportunities by working together to meet the gaps in services in the community.

Moving forward, the CHIP emphasizes the importance of strengthening existing partnerships, improving communication, increasing public awareness, and making community resources easier to navigate. While Jasper County has a strong network of organizations and services, continued efforts are needed to bridge gaps between available resources and the individuals and families who need them.

Ultimately, the Jasper County Community Health Improvement Plan provides a framework for collective action to address priority health concerns, improve access to services, and build a healthier, more resilient community. By working together, sharing information, and continually evaluating community needs, Jasper County partners can build on existing strengths and create meaningful, sustainable improvements in the health and quality of life of all residents.

Mental Health & Substance Treatment

Lack of Mental Health & Substance Use Providers *(See also: Lack of Healthcare Professionals)*

Capstone Behavioral Healthcare, the designated community mental health provider serving Jasper County, reports provider loan repayment programs and internship opportunities to help recruit and retain employees. However, the organization continues to experience workforce challenges related to staffing, compensation, and retention.

Capstone reported numerous organizational changes associated with the transition from CICS to Iowa PCA, as well as challenges related to low Medicaid reimbursement rates. Capstone's caseloads are mostly Medicaid, and they will accept anyone regardless of insurance status. Delays in Medicaid payments have created financial hardships for providers, while private practices are often able to offer higher compensation, making it difficult for nonprofit organizations to compete for qualified professionals. Capstone also reported that many providers work remotely. The organization is engaged in strategic planning, grant writing, and identified leadership development as an area of need. Capstone has hired substance use counselors, therapists, resource navigators, justice involved case managers, and direct service staff to help with the mental health needs in Jasper County.

House of Mercy previously employed Kendi McCollum, a peer support counselor who advanced into a substance use treatment counselor role. Effective October 1, 2026, House of Mercy discontinued its Peer Support Substance Program. Kendi McCollum, PRS, tCADC, is now employed as an Emergency Department Support Person at MercyOne Newton Medical Center.

Across Jasper County, healthcare and behavioral health providers continue to report staffing shortages and retention challenges affecting a wide range of positions, including psychiatrists, nurses, support staff, and directors. These shortages affect organizations' ability to recruit and retain qualified professionals and meet the community's mental health and substance use treatment needs. *(See also: Lack of Healthcare Professionals)*

As of October 5, 2026, Capstone reported participating in the career fair at PCM schools to promote career opportunities and strengthen local workforce recruitment efforts. Mercy One also attended.

Other community organizations have also identified staffing and volunteer needs. NAMI representatives, Rebecca Petersen and Bill Ehlers (volunteer), reported a need for volunteers. Quakerdale's Director, Beth Andrew, reported needs for therapists and volunteers, while Optimae and Progress Industries (PI) has numerous job openings. Nonprofit organizations continue to face challenges competing with private practices on salary and compensation, further complicating recruitment and retention efforts.

Overall, the shortage of mental health and substance use providers in Jasper County is influenced by low reimbursement rates, delayed Medicaid payments, competition from higher-paid private practices, and difficulties recruiting and retaining qualified staff. Continued investment in workforce development, internships, loan repayment programs, leadership training, and volunteer recruitment may help address these ongoing challenges.

School-Based Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention

Most school districts in Jasper County have School Resource Officers (SROs) who support school safety and student well-being. Current SRO assignments include Officer Britton in Baxter, Officer Decker in Lynnville-Sully, Officer Applegate in PCM, and Officers Lovan and Van Manen in Newton. Many schools are also working to develop and strengthen threat assessment and response plans. Newton schools have EFR in place, and all schools have counselors available to support students. Several school districts have experienced administrative and facility changes. Berg Middle School in Newton has a new principal, and both the PCM and Newton school districts have made numerous changes to school and classroom locations.

Schools throughout Jasper County continue to promote substance use prevention and student awareness through initiatives such as Red Ribbon Week. Some districts offer the DARE program, including PCM and Lynnville-Sully, while others provide programs such as Too Good for Drugs to educate students about substance use prevention and healthy decision-making. Colfax offers the Teammates mentoring program and received grant funding through Wellmark to support its School-Centered Behavioral Health program. These initiatives provide opportunities to strengthen student connections, improve access to behavioral health support, and promote positive outcomes for youth.

A funding concern is the discontinuation of Decategorization (Decat) funding for projects such as mental health and substance use prevention, effective July 1, 2026. The loss of this funding may limit schools' and community partners' ability to sustain or expand prevention initiatives and related services.

Overall, Jasper County schools have several protective factors in place, including school resource officers, counselors, safety planning, mentoring, and substance use prevention education. However, maintaining these supports and expanding school-based mental health and prevention services may be challenging as funding sources change and districts continue to

navigate administrative and facility transitions. Capstone Behavioral Health, the designated Community Mental Health Center, offers telehealth and before and after school appointments. Capstone also offers crisis support to schools and the Jasper County Community as needed.

Outreach/Promotion & Organization needs

The Jasper County Cares Coalition (JCCC) continues to serve as a central network for community outreach, education, resource sharing, and collaboration among mental health, substance use prevention and treatment, healthcare, education, public safety, and social service organizations. JCCC meetings regularly bring together a broad range of providers and community partners to share information, promote available services, identify gaps in care, and strengthen coordination across Jasper County and the surrounding region.

Community Collaboration and Organizational Participation

JCCC has engaged numerous organizations and providers, including Iowa PCA, Discover Hope 517 Ministry, Optimae, Celebrate Recovery through The Way Church of Newton, Quakerdale Family Services, NAMI, Employee and Family Resources (EFR), Phoenix House, medical providers such as Dr. Metz and Sully Clinic/Pella Regional, Capstone Behavioral Healthcare, Clive Behavioral Health, the VA Suicide Prevention Program, the National Guard Prevention Program, Hickory Recovery, Thrive Iowa, Ellipsis (YESS), Ember, AIM Life, Monarch, Elevate CCHBC, Innovative Counseling & Consulting, Keys to Success, home care and hospice programs, school and college programs, judicial mental health advocates, AEA counselors, Heart and Solutions, FOCUSS, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Al-Anon, Rosecrance, Eyerly Ball Mobile Crisis, Crisis Canines of the Midland, Clearview Recovery, Sheepgate, the American Lung Association, Crisis Intervention Services (CIS), Garden Gate, and Progress Industries.

Additional community partners participating in outreach and support efforts include Open Arms of Jasper County, Orchard Place, CASA, Parent Partners, probation services, the courts, county attorneys, Jasper County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Iowa Health and Human Services (IHHS) Child Protection, disability support and parent groups, and Legal Aid. Organizations serving older adults and individuals requiring ongoing care also contribute to the broader support network. These include Aging Resources, Park Centre's Willow brook, Adult Day Program, long-term care facilities such as Accura, Valley Vista, Park Centre, and Newton Village; assisted living facilities, including Park Centre and Newton Village; and in-home service providers such as Home Instead and Wesley Life at Home.

Outreach, Education, and Public Awareness

JCCC and its partners conduct ongoing outreach and promotional activities to increase awareness of mental health services, substance use prevention and recovery resources, crisis support, and educational opportunities. Outreach efforts include the development and distribution of the community resource guide, website updates, social media campaigns, media outreach, community meetings, and direct communication with nonprofit organizations, private providers, and other community partners.

The JCCC resource guide is included in meeting packets and post-meeting materials and is shared through social media and community partners. Business cards and magnets containing resource information have also been distributed throughout the community. The Jasper County community calendar is regularly updated with known support groups, educational programs, and other opportunities available to residents.

Annual awareness campaigns include Mental Health Awareness Month in May and Suicide Prevention Month in September. NAMI also held a suicide prevention walk in Newton in September 2026. MindSpring's free educational classes continue to be promoted through coalition materials and online channels.

Community outreach events during 2026 included a resource table at JCCC meetings, Healthy Kids Day at the Newton YMCA in April, the Senior Health and Fitness Fair in May, Carnival in the Park in August, and the Monroe Senior Health Fair on September 30, along with additional community events. These activities provide opportunities to distribute resources, connect residents with service providers, and increase awareness of available support. On October 9, 2026, partners promoted World Mental Health Day. Capstone's Therapy dog and Crisis Canines are valuable with comforting those in need.

Capstone Behavioral Healthcare completed a promotional video and conducted a mailer campaign to educate residents about available services. JCCC also collaborated with Clearview Recovery, represented by Scott Pritchard, on a promotional campaign. Discover Hope and Celebrate Recovery continue to promote their programs and services throughout the community.

Recovery Services and Program Expansion

Several organizations have expanded services, opened new facilities, or strengthened community outreach efforts to address mental health and substance use needs.

- **Capstone Behavioral Healthcare:** According to Julie Smith, Director, Capstone expanded its substance use treatment services to include Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) services, offering up to nine hours of treatment per week, including group sessions. Capstone also offers OWI classes. Julie reported adding Substance Counselors including Jade, Denise, and Diana. In addition, Denise Douchette at Capstone reported the initiation of new groups at the Jasper County Jail to support individuals involved in the justice system. They also offer Resource Navigation for Justice Involved individuals for both mental health and substance treatment. They have remodeled the Connections site on 3rd Avenue in Newton, and it is now called the Capstone Recovery Center. Capstone Recovery Center has two open houses. Tours and information promoted with the help of Beila Thompson.
- **Hickory Recovery:** Shawn Kinnison reported that they opened a facility in Grinnell offering inpatient treatment services. Numerous JCCC members attended a tour by Shawn Kinnison of the new inpatient facility. The facility provides an additional regional treatment resource and was identified by coalition members as the closest inpatient option to Jasper County.
- **Clearview Recovery:** Scott Pritchard, Director, reports that his team continues to provide recovery services for women through Clearview Recovery in Prairie City. JCCC has collaborated with Clearview on promotional activities to increase awareness of available services. They have worked to upgrade their building with Opioid Funds.

- **Sheepgate:** Nikki Hook, Director, reported that they expanded educational programming by constructing an additional building to accommodate classes and related activities with Opioid Settlement Funds.=.
- **FOCUSS:** Darnell Loatman reported that FOCUSS installed a Narcan distribution box at its new Newton facility, located in the former Elks building, improving community access to an important overdose prevention resource. They have received numerous grants for the building and new project in Jasper County.
- **Progress Industries (PI):** Keith Isley, Director, spoke at a JCCC meeting following his succession of Sandy Ham, providing an opportunity for continued communication and collaboration with the coalition about the numerous programs that are offered for those with disabilities.
- **Discover Hope:** Robbie Robinon, Director, reports continue Bread of Life Ministry that offers a free lunch on weekdays. They also offer several Substance Recovery groups in the evening.
- **Celebrate Recovery, The Newton Church of the Way:** Cody D. reported started offering new recovery-oriented programs and support groups.

These events helped strengthen relationships among providers and increase awareness of available treatment and recovery services.

Organizational Challenges and Service Changes

Despite ongoing outreach and service development, organizations continue to face operational, financial, and programmatic challenges. Capstone Behavioral Healthcare reported that the age of its building and a history of deferred maintenance have created a need for numerous facility improvements. Assistance identifying funding opportunities for building and parking lot repairs remains a priority. Addressing these needs is important to maintaining a safe, functional, and accessible environment for clients and staff. Capstone's lower level now houses Open Arms of Jasper County, the Pregnancy Center, WIC (MICA), and Iowa PCA navigators as needed.

In October 2026, House of Mercy discontinued its Peer Support program. Kendi McCollum, who was involved in the program, transitioned to a position in the emergency department at MercyOne Newton Medical Center. The program change represents a reduction in the availability of this peer support service and highlights the importance of monitoring changes in local service capacity.

Effective October 1, 2026, Crisis Intervention Services (CIS), represented by Jodi Blackford, reported a statewide restructuring of its service area and responsibilities. Under the restructuring, CIS will provide services related to sexual abuse advocacy, housing and emergency shelter, domestic abuse advocacy, homicide, and other violent crime programs. The Family Crisis Center will no longer serve Jasper County. This change may require residents and community partners to identify alternative resources for services previously provided by the Family Crisis Center and to clarify referral pathways under the new service structure.

Ongoing Community Support and Coordination

JCCC continues to provide a forum for organizations to communicate service updates, coordinate referrals, share educational opportunities, and identify emerging community needs. Participation from behavioral health

providers, recovery organizations, healthcare professionals, schools, legal and judicial services, public safety agencies, disability support organizations, elder care programs, and social service providers help promote a more coordinated approach to community well-being.

Continued priorities include maintaining and updating the community resource guide and calendar, expanding public awareness campaigns, supporting recovery and prevention initiatives, promoting free educational opportunities, identifying funding for facility and program needs, and communicating changes in provider availability and service areas.

Overall, JCCC and its partners demonstrate an ongoing commitment to improving access to mental health and substance use services in Jasper County. Sustaining these efforts will require continued collaboration, effective communication, adequate funding, finding quality staff, and timely updates regarding changes in programs, facilities, and community resources.

Jasper County Community Health Improvement Plan 2025-2030

Year 2- Community Report

Lack of Economic Stability and Income

4 areas: Housing, Food Insecurities, Childcare, Transportation

Affordable Housing

Housing, Homelessness, and Basic Needs Support

The Jasper County Cares Coalition (JCCC) continues to address housing instability, homelessness, and unmet basic needs through collaboration among community organizations, government agencies, faith-based groups, and local businesses. The coalition worked to develop a homelessness referral sheet to help connect individuals and families with available services, including emergency shelter, housing assistance, transportation, personal care resources, and other essential supports.

Homelessness Outreach and Emergency Assistance

Community partners continue to coordinate outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness, particularly during periods of extreme weather, including blizzards, severe cold, and excessive heat. Discovery Hope 517 Ministry, Capstone Behavioral Healthcare Connections, local churches, and libraries have provided access to indoor spaces during extreme temperatures. Law enforcement officers have also conducted routine checks on individuals experiencing homelessness during periods of extreme cold to help ensure their safety.

Central Iowa Shelter and Services (CISS) has provided transportation and shelter options in Des Moines for individuals in need of emergency housing. Capstone Behavioral Healthcare, represented by Julie Smith, and CISS, represented by Sam, have also explored the possibility of establishing an Empowerment Center in Newton to serve Jasper County residents. Such a center could provide a centralized location for individuals to access services, resources, and support.

Several local organizations provide ongoing assistance with basic needs:

- **Capstone Behavioral Healthcare and Connections:** Capstone received funding for a new washer and dryer and assumed responsibility for laundry services for Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) at the Capstone Recovery Center. The facility offers Connections services and substance use treatment, as well as showers, personal care items, and weekday lunches for Connections clients.
- **Discover Hope 517 Ministry:** Robbie Robertson reported that the ministry continues to provide weekday lunches from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Showers and laundry services are also available to individuals in need.
- **Newton YMCA:** The YMCA may provide additional shower access for individuals who need these services.
- **Jasper County Conservation and IMPACT:** Keri and Liz with Jasper County Conservation work with IMPACT to provide free camping opportunities for individuals in need. IMPACT also operates pop-up sites throughout the county to assist residents with Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications, with the application period beginning in October 2026.

- **Veterans Affairs:** Ray Maxey and Josh continue to assist veterans with basic needs and related support services.
- **Jasper County General Assistance:** Connie reported that funding for rental assistance is limited, highlighting an ongoing gap in financial support for residents facing housing instability.

These collaborative efforts provide important short-term assistance; however, continued coordination and additional resources are needed to address the underlying causes of homelessness and housing insecurity.

Affordable Housing and Homeownership

Affordable housing remains a significant community priority. Habitat for Humanity, represented by Becca Decker, announced the completion of its first home in Newton in many years. The organization held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house attended by numerous community members. Local businesses, organizations, and volunteers contributed time, funding, and other resources to complete the project. Habitat has since begun construction on its second home in Newton.

Habitat also reported that grant funding has enabled the organization to resume assistance with home repairs, expanding support for homeowners who may otherwise struggle to maintain safe and adequate housing.

CISS has secured land in Newton for low-income townhomes and continues to explore funding opportunities and housing options. These efforts may help expand the supply of affordable housing for individuals and families with limited incomes.

The City of Newton offers several housing-related grant and assistance programs, including a Low- to Moderate-Income Existing Housing Improvement Grant and a Dead and Dying Tree Removal Assistance Program. The city also has a homebuyer incentive initiative under which eligible buyers purchasing a new home valued at $240,000 or more may receive a $10,000 cash incentive. These programs may help improve existing housing conditions, encourage homeownership, and support community development.

Additional organizations aid residents with accessibility and equipment needs. Linda Anderson with Kid Assist reported that the organization helps with ramps and loans of equipment, helping individuals address mobility and accessibility barriers.

Housing Development and Community Investment

Local leaders and organizations continue to explore opportunities to increase the availability of affordable housing throughout Jasper County.

Colfax has expressed interest in developing additional housing options for residents with low incomes. Tim Salmon, Superintendent of Schools, identified affordable housing as a priority for Colfax Economic Development, emphasizing the importance of housing availability to the community's long-term growth and stability.

In Newton, several investors are exploring potential housing developments, including the conversion of former school buildings into additional apartments. These projects could create opportunities to increase the local housing supply, depending on feasibility, financing, and development plans.

A new organization, Blueprint, attended a Jasper County Cares meeting and presented information about homeownership, providing additional resources and information for community members interested in purchasing a home.

Ongoing Needs and Priorities

Although Jasper County has made progress in housing development, homelessness outreach, and basic needs assistance, several challenges remain. Limited rental assistance funding, the need for additional affordable housing, and the ongoing demand for emergency shelter and essential services continue to affect vulnerable residents.

Key priorities include:

- Expanding affordable rental housing, low-income housing developments, and homeownership opportunities.
- Continuing to explore an Empowerment Center in Newton to improve access to coordinated services.
- Strengthening homelessness outreach and emergency response during extreme weather.
- Maintaining access to showers, laundry, meals, personal care items, transportation, and temporary shelter.
- Identifying additional funding for rental assistance, home repairs, accessibility improvements, and housing development.
- Improving coordination among community organizations to streamline referrals and connect residents with available resources.

Overall, Jasper County Cares and its community partners continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to addressing homelessness, meeting immediate basic needs, and expanding housing opportunities. Sustained collaboration, additional funding, and continued investment in affordable housing will be essential to improving housing stability and quality of life for Jasper County residents.

Jasper County Community Health Improvement Plan 2025-2030

Year 2- Community Report

Food Insecurities and Food Access

Food Insecurity and Nutrition Resources

Increasing food prices have been reported as a growing concern for individuals and families throughout Jasper County. Community organizations continue to promote food assistance resources through the Jasper County Cares Coalition (JCCC) resource guide, social media, and other outreach efforts. A broad network of schools, food pantries, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, healthcare providers, and local businesses works to improve access to nutritious food and reduce food insecurity.

School-Based and Youth Nutrition Programs

Newton Community School District operates a Summer Lunch Program that serves children throughout Jasper County, helping address food insecurity when school is not in session. During the summer, the Newton Public Library also provides healthy snacks each day for children and families.

Newton schools offer free breakfast to all students, and all schools provide free and reduced-price lunch options for eligible students. Schools throughout Jasper County maintain relationships with local food pantries to help connect students and families with additional food resources when needed. Some childcare programs also qualify for state food assistance programs.

Newton Community School District received support from the Vernon Company to pay off outstanding school lunch balances, helping reduce the financial burden on families. Capstone Behavioral Healthcare also organized a food drive during the period when Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits were temporarily unavailable, providing additional community support during a time of heightened need.

Food Pantries, Meal Programs, and Community Support

Numerous food pantries throughout Jasper County work with the Food Bank of Iowa to distribute food to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. The Salvation Army, represented by Tim North, coordinates multiple bread distribution sites throughout the county, including Prairie City, Baxter, Lynnville, and Newton. Additional food distribution opportunities are available in Colfax, Monroe, Kellogg, and Mingo.

Jasper County Hunger Relief continues to organize meal preparation events, while numerous churches and community organizations provide free meals. Jasper County People in Need also helps residents identify additional food assistance opportunities.

Local grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, religious organizations, and other businesses continue to support food pantries and community blessing boxes through donations and other contributions. These partnerships are important in maintaining the availability of emergency food assistance and extending support to residents who may not otherwise have reliable access to food.

Senior Nutrition and Food Assistance for Older Adults

The Senior Nutrition program, formerly known as Elderly Nutrition, continues to serve Jasper County residents under the leadership of Kelli Van Manen. Services include home-delivered meals and congregate meal sites in Colfax, Monroe, and Newton. These programs help older adults maintain access to nutritious meals while also providing opportunities for social connection.

The Polk County Supplemental Nutrition Program promotes food assistance boxes for eligible older adults. The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program provides $50 checks for eligible participants to purchase locally grown produce, supporting access to fresh fruits and vegetables. WIC also participates in the Farmers Market Program, helping eligible participants obtain fresh, nutritious foods.

Aging Resources works with Senior Nutrition to coordinate meal assistance through waiver programs and helps connect eligible individuals with additional options, including home-delivered meals such as Mom's Meals.

Nutrition Assistance for Families, Pregnant Women, and Infants

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, administered locally through MICA, relocated to the lower level of the Capstone Behavioral Healthcare building. WIC provides nutrition education, lactation support, and food vouchers for eligible participants.

The Pregnancy Center of Central Iowa, represented by Rita Baker, also relocated to the lower level of the Capstone building. The center assists pregnant women and families with infants by connecting them with needed resources and support.

Iowa Health and Human Services (IHHS) provides applications and assistance for SNAP benefits, helping eligible households access food purchasing support. These programs play an important role in assisting families experiencing financial hardship, particularly as food prices increase.

Nutrition Education and Healthcare Support

Community organizations and healthcare providers offer additional resources to promote healthy eating and address nutrition-related needs. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and Hy-Vee offer healthy nutrition classes to help individuals and families learn about healthy food choices and meal planning.

MercyOne Newton Medical Center provides access to a dietitian who assists individuals with nutrition needs related to medical conditions. These services can help residents manage chronic conditions and make dietary choices that support their health.

United Way provides funding for some food insecurity programs, helping sustain services that support residents facing financial and nutritional challenges.

Ongoing Needs and Priorities

Despite the wide range of available programs, rising food costs continue to create challenges for households with limited incomes, older adults, children, and families experiencing financial hardship. Continued coordination among food pantries, schools, government agencies, healthcare providers, and community organizations remains essential to ensure residents are aware of and able to access available resources.

Key priorities include:

- Maintaining and updating the JCCC resource guide and social media information regarding food pantries, free meals, nutrition programs, and eligibility requirements.
- Sustaining school-based meal programs and summer food access for children.
- Supporting food pantry operations, community meal programs, and blessing boxes through donations and partnerships with local businesses and faith-based organizations.
- Promoting SNAP, WIC, Senior Nutrition, farmers market assistance, and other food benefits to eligible residents.
- Expanding access to fresh produce, nutrition education, and medically appropriate dietary support.
- Strengthening referrals among schools, healthcare providers, social service agencies, and food assistance organizations to reach residents experiencing food insecurity.

Overall, Jasper County has a strong network of organizations working to address hunger and improve access to nutritious food. Continued community partnerships, public awareness, and sustainable funding will be important to meet the growing needs of residents affected by rising food prices and food insecurity.

Jasper County Community Health Improvement Plan 2025-2030

Year 2- Community Report

Childcare

Childcare Resources and Workforce Needs

Childcare resources and program information continue to be promoted throughout Jasper County through the Jasper County Cares Coalition (JCCC) resource guide and social media. Access to affordable, reliable childcare remains important for working families, employers, and the overall economic well-being of the community.

Childcare Facility Expansion and Development

In 2026, the Newton YMCA, represented by George Sorenson, received funding to expand its childcare center. This expansion is expected to increase childcare capacity and help address the need for additional childcare options for local families.

The Colfax-Mingo Childcare Center, represented by Tim Salmon, was completed in 2026. A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house were held on June 24, 2026. The facility is in downtown Colfax next to the elementary school, providing a convenient location for families and supporting local childcare availability.

Childcare Workforce and Summer Programs

Childcare staffing remains an ongoing challenge, with workers needed at multiple locations throughout Jasper County. Organizations reporting childcare workforce needs include PCM Sparks, the Newton YMCA, Jasper County Conservation, and the Newton Public Library, among others.

During the summer of 2026, PCM Sparks, the Newton YMCA, Jasper County Conservation, and the Newton Public Library offered camps and other programming for children. These programs provide opportunities for enrichment, recreation, and supervised activities during school breaks while helping families manage summer childcare needs.

Grant funding is also available to supplement compensation for eligible childcare providers earning less than $15 per hour. Such assistance may help support the childcare workforce and improve provider retention.

Child Care Resource and Referral Services

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) continues to work with childcare providers and families throughout the region. Services include:

- An online childcare locator to help families identify available childcare options.

- Referral assistance to connect families with appropriate providers.
- Assistance with applications for childcare expenses and financial support.
- Childcare consulting services for providers.
- Continuing education opportunities and continuing education units (CEUs) for childcare professionals.

These services help families navigate childcare options while supporting providers in maintaining and improving the quality of care.

Ongoing Needs and Priorities

Although new facilities and expanded programs represent progress, childcare workforce shortages and the need for additional childcare capacity remain concerns. Continued investment in childcare facilities, provider compensation, workforce development, and financial assistance for families will be important to meet community needs.

Key priorities include maintaining current childcare resource information, promoting CCR&R services, supporting recruitment and retention of childcare workers, and identifying additional funding opportunities to expand affordable, accessible childcare throughout Jasper County.

Overall, Jasper County continues to make progress in strengthening childcare resources through facility expansion, community-based summer programs, and provider support services. Continued collaboration among childcare providers, schools, community organizations, and local leaders will be essential to ensuring families have access to reliable childcare.

Jasper County Community Health Improvement Plan 2025-2030

Year 2- Community Report

Transportation

Transportation Services and Accessibility

Transportation resources continue to be promoted throughout Jasper County through the Jasper County Cares Coalition (JCCC) resource guide and social media. Reliable and affordable transportation is essential for residents accessing healthcare, mental health and substance use treatment, employment, grocery stores, and other necessary services.

Public and Community Transportation Services

HIRTA Public Transit, represented by Brooke Ramsey, continues to provide transportation services to residents in the region. However, HIRTA has reduced operating hours and increased fares during 2026. Service availability has also been limited in some outlying communities, creating additional challenges for residents who depend on public transportation.

HIRTA has introduced an app to help riders arrange transportation. Additional information about available services and ride scheduling can be found at www.ridehirta.com.

RSVP Rides, represented by Sarah Patterson, provides another transportation option for community members who need assistance. The program relies on volunteers to help meet transportation needs and continues to recruit additional volunteer drivers. Information about the program is available at jaspercountyrsvp.com.

Funding and Operational Challenges

Funding remains an ongoing challenge for both HIRTA and RSVP Rides. HIRTA has identified inconsistent local financial support as a particular concern affecting the sustainability of its transportation services. Rising fuel costs have also been reported as an additional financial pressure, increasing the cost of providing rides and maintaining service availability.

Reduced operating hours, increased fares, and limitations on service to outlying communities may disproportionately affect older adults, individuals with disabilities, residents with low incomes, and people without access to a personal vehicle. These transportation barriers can make it more difficult to attend medical appointments, access behavioral health services, obtain groceries, and participate in community activities.

RSVP Rides also depends on volunteer availability to provide transportation. Continued recruitment and retention of volunteer drivers are necessary to maintain and potentially expand the program's capacity.

Ongoing Needs and Priorities

Key transportation priorities for Jasper County include:

- Promoting HIRTA and RSVP Rides through the JCCC resource guide, social media, and community partners.
- Identifying sustainable funding sources to support transportation operations and offset rising fuel costs.
- Encouraging consistent local financial support for public and volunteer-based transportation programs.
- Recruiting additional RSVP Rides volunteer drivers.
- Increasing awareness of HIRTA's scheduling app and available transportation options.
- Assessing transportation gaps affecting rural and outlying communities.
- Strengthening coordination between transportation providers, healthcare organizations, and social service agencies to improve access to essential services.

Overall, HIRTA and RSVP Rides remain important transportation resources for Jasper County residents. However, funding limitations, increased operating costs, reduced service availability, and volunteer shortages continue to present challenges. Sustained community support and coordinated planning will be important to maintaining accessible and affordable transportation throughout the county.

Jasper County Community Health Improvement Plan 2025-2030

Year 2- Community Report

Lack of Healthcare Professionals & Access to Care

1. Education and Training

The Jasper County Cares Coalition (JCCC) continues to promote the community resource guide and resource navigators to help residents access education, training, and employment resources. The coalition is also exploring Thrive Iowa as a potential resource for Jasper County to strengthen community connections and service coordination.

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) offers numerous healthcare education and training programs, including Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Certified Medical Assistant (CMA), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Registered Nurse (RN), and Human Services programs. These educational opportunities can help develop the local healthcare workforce and provide pathways into high-demand professions.

MindSpring continues to offer free mental health education classes, increasing awareness and understanding of mental health concerns and available support services. Capstone Behavioral Healthcare also utilizes grant funding to support reimbursement and workforce-related initiatives.

Numerous grant opportunities are available to support healthcare providers serving rural communities, including dental providers. These funding opportunities may help address workforce shortages, expand services, and improve access to care in underserved areas.

Progress Industries (PI) reports ongoing staffing needs. Additional healthcare workforce shortages have been identified at Newton Correctional Facility and Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, which also report a need for nurses.

Continued investment in education, professional development, training programs, and financial assistance will be important to strengthening the healthcare workforce in Jasper County and surrounding rural communities.

2. Recruitment and Retention

Recruitment and retention of qualified healthcare and behavioral health professionals remain significant challenges in Jasper County. JCCC promotes job openings through social media and coalition meetings to increase awareness of employment opportunities and connect organizations with potential candidates.

Capstone Behavioral Healthcare has incorporated internships into its workforce recruitment efforts and reports that internships have been an effective strategy for identifying and recruiting potential employees. These opportunities allow students and emerging professionals to gain practical experience while helping employers develop a pipeline of qualified candidates.

MercyOne Newton Medical Center and long-term care facilities throughout the area continue to seek healthcare staff. Coalition members have reported persistent shortages of nurses and mental health providers, affecting organizations' ability to maintain staffing levels and meet community needs.

Organizations are using several strategies to improve recruitment and retention, including sign-on bonuses, employee retention bonuses, and financial support for continuing education. One provider reported paying for continuing education to help employees advance their training and become nurses. Such initiatives may encourage professional growth, improve employee satisfaction, and support long-term retention.

Despite these efforts, workforce shortages continue to affect healthcare, mental health, substance use treatment, and long-term care services. Continued collaboration among employers, educational institutions, and community organizations will be necessary to strengthen recruitment pipelines, support career advancement, and improve employee retention.

3. Technology

Technology continues to support healthcare delivery, community referrals, and administrative operations throughout Jasper County. However, opportunities remain to improve coordination among providers and expand access to technology-supported services.

Thrive Iowa has a system designed to connect community referrals among participating organizations. Jasper County has explored the potential use of this system, but the program has not yet been implemented locally. Adoption could improve referral coordination, communication among providers, and connections between residents and appropriate services.

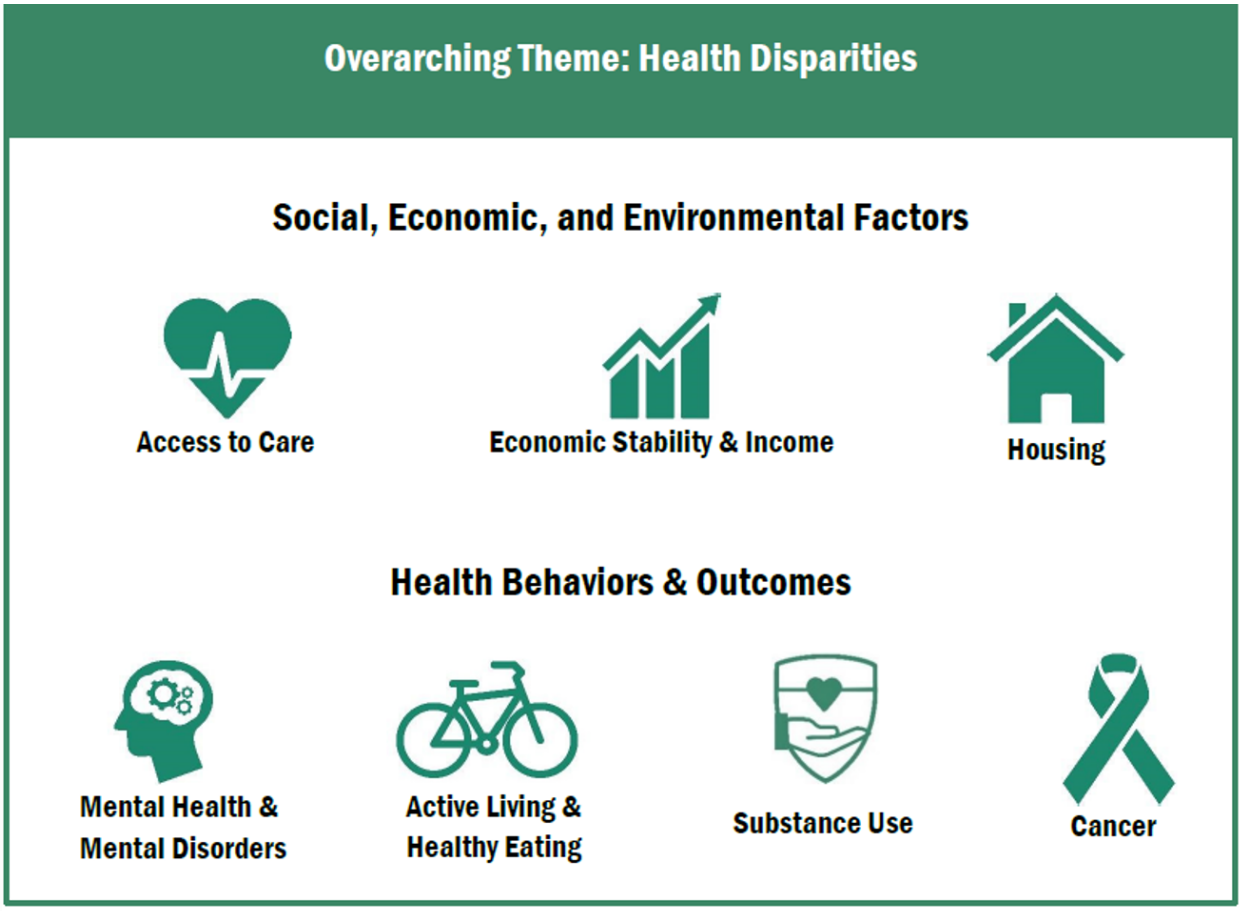
Capstone Behavioral Healthcare is transitioning to a new electronic medical record (EMR) system. According to Julie Smith, Capstone also completes many therapy and medication management appointments through telehealth. Virtual visits can improve convenience and help reduce transportation barriers for some clients.

Telehealth use has expanded across the healthcare sector, with medical providers conducting more visits remotely. These services may be particularly beneficial for residents in rural communities who experience transportation challenges or have difficulty accessing in-person appointments.

The Jasper County Health Department reports that, since the COVID-19 pandemic, staff have been able to work remotely from a variety of locations through technology platforms such as SharePoint, IRIS Online, and the Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS), which supports communicable disease investigation and related public health activities. These systems help staff maintain access to information and perform essential public health functions.

MercyOne Newton Medical Center has also undertaken an Emergency Department remodeling project to support its healthcare operations and patient care environment.

Ongoing technology priorities include exploring implementation of a coordinated community referral system, supporting the transition to updated electronic medical records, maintaining secure and reliable digital systems, and continuing to expand telehealth where appropriate. Ensuring that residents have access to reliable internet service and the technology needed to participate in virtual appointments will remain important to equitable access to care.



Jasper Co. Health Dept FY27				
Public Health	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**
Communicable Disease	13	6	1	3
TB medication per day				
Immunization given	9	46	23	71
School Audits			1842	3342
Daycare Audits			170	645
Promotions/Outreach				
Facebook followers: JCHD + Cares	5595	5608	5644	5655
Facebook impressions: JCHD + Cares	50485	35307	49815	50657
Instagram followers	515	516	518	521
Instagram impressions	110	196	126	109
Media reach: appr./15,000	105000	150000	90000	90000
Media-articles,ad,mentions	7	10	6	6
Radio ads- 4 weeks, 6 x a day +2 weeks= 252 times reach 60,000	0	60000	0	0
Website reach including resource guide	810	2109	2492	
Car seat installed	2	1	5	0
Events: number on calendar	810	756	1000	
Events: number of impressions	31300	36000	36000	36000
Jasper County Cares attendees	69	39	44	53
Jasper County Cares on website distribution	342	344	348	355
Outreach: Health fairs, meetings, mass emails	17	383	594	4143
Referrals on grant tracker form	86	138	277	101
Home Care Aide - reimbursement				
Total clients per month- duplicated	1	1	1	1
Claims PAID in month	$315	no services	$280	$280
Grant billed				
Emergency Prep- PHEP	$3,298	$1,044	$1,751	$1,144
Immunization grant	$1,128	$2,453	$3,158	$4,624
Local Public Health Services-3% hold	$23,224	$18,440	$19,768	$21,875
Total billed for month	$27,650	$21,937	$24,676	$27,642