

Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plan

Peoria City/County Health Department
Funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

2023

1. BACKGROUND	3
• Community Background	4
• Community Health Issues	5
• Selected Population(s)	
2. PARTNERSHIPS	6
• Leadership Team	9
• Multisectoral Partners	13
• Shared Mission & Goal Statement	
3. PROGRAMS & RESOURCES FOR SDOH	15
• Existing Resources & Programs	
4. APPROACH	17
• SDOH Priority Areas	18
• Outcomes	20
• Activities	23
• Accelerator Plan Strategies	28
• Anticipated Policy, Systems, Environmental, Programmatic, and Infrastructure Outcomes	

5. EVALUATION OF THE SDOH ACCELERATOR PLAN STRATEGIES	29
6. DATA INTEGRATION	30
7. RESPONSIBLE PARTY	31
8. IMPLEMENTATION	33
9. SUSTAINABILITY/FUNDING STRATEGY	35
Appendix	36



The area selected for the Social Determinants of Health(SDOH) Accelerator plan is the 61605-area code also known as Peoria's Southside. Some residents consider the Southside to be the heart of Peoria because it contains the City's original boundaries from 1825 and is the childhood home of many Peoria leaders. The Southside is located just south of Peoria's downtown and was considered the working class for the robust manufacturing and distillery companies in the early 1800's to 1980's. Over the years, national economic trends caused many of the thriving businesses to close in Peoria and many of the workforce that could afford to leave the Southside did so to more newly developed suburban-style communities. The majority of the population remaining were African American. It is now known that many historical and systemic racism practices in wealth attainment and housing for African Americans prevented these households from leaving their communities. The declining population resulted in higher

COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

residential and commercial vacancy rates which had a detrimental effect on home prices. The decrease in home and commercial values was also coupled with decades of disinvestment and now the area is subject to severe blight. Today, the 61605 area has some of the highest poverty rates in the State of Illinois and has the highest concentration of African Americans in Peoria County. In recent years the City of Peoria and other community and housing development organizations have targeted the Southside for revitalization efforts through community and economic development planning. Many of these plans are ambitious in restoration and renovations, however, the implementation of these plans lags in execution. As a result, the residents of the Southside feel that there will never be any real transformative changes in their community. The goal of the SDOH plan is to review existing community revitalization plans and to work with the community and leadership in the City/County, economic and social service agencies to identify which strategies can be accelerated with the overall goal of making real, lasting sustainable impact in Peoria's Southside.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES

The primary health concerns within the 61605 community are:

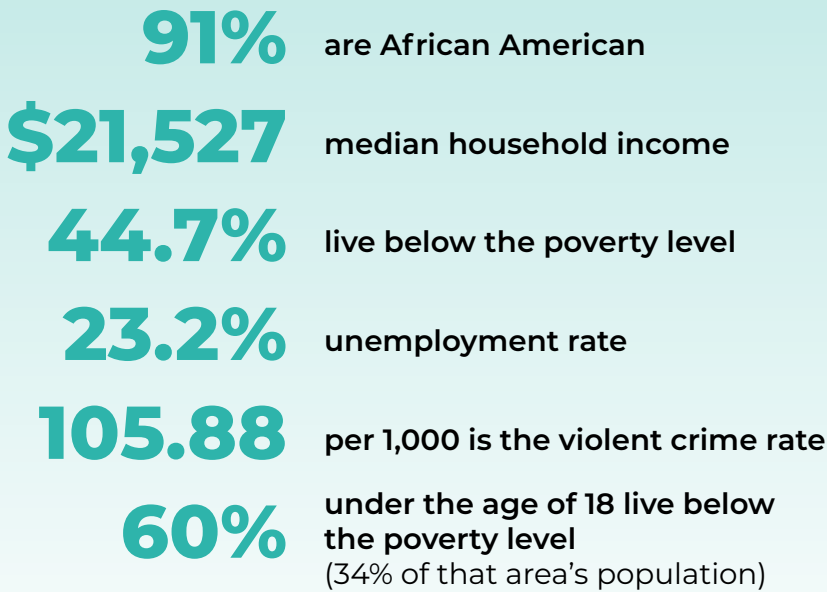
- Asthma
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Stress

This data was derived from the Tri-County 2023 Community Health Improvement Plan and the Heart of Illinois United Way Community Assessment, both of which provided valuable insights. These assessments underscored the correlation between mental health issues and challenges related to unstable housing and transportation. It is not unexpected considering the high unemployment rates, financial instability, and disinvestment rates prevalent among the population we serve. The prevalence of asthma, depression, anxiety, and stress in the community underscores the urgent need to address the underlying social determinants of health. Unstable housing and transportation issues contribute to increased stress levels and limited access to necessary healthcare resources. Additionally, the high unemployment rates and financial instability exacerbate mental health concerns within the community.

It is imperative to develop strategies that address not only the physical health conditions but also the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to these health issues. By tackling the root causes such as unstable housing, limited transportation options, and unemployment, we can create a more supportive environment that promotes mental health and overall wellness in the 61605 community.

SELECTED POPULATION

The 61605-zip code area is home to 15,794 residents:



In contrast, the County median household income is \$50,712, with 14% living below the poverty level, and unemployment rates at 6.7%. Based on the Peoria City/County Health Department Board of Health Strategic Plan, the 61605-area code has been designated an equity priority zip code for our programming, services, and planning. This means that our resources will be intentionally targeted to this community to meet their health and social determinants of health needs.

LEADERSHIP TEAMS

The SDOH Leadership Team is comprised of diverse professionals and dedicated community members residing and working in Peoria County, Illinois. With a population of 179,179 and covering over 619 square miles, Peoria County offers ample opportunities for collaboration. Many team members are actively engaged in various community initiatives in the 61605-zip code, further enhancing collaboration efforts.

Our leadership consists of the following:



SCOTT SORREL
County Administrator (Peoria County Government)
Scott will support the implementation of the SDOH Accelerator Plan by providing financial and community resources.



ANDRE W. ALLEN
Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer (Peoria County Government)
Andre is a lead strategist and liaison with the leadership team and the community organizations.



MONICA HENDRICKSON

Public Health Administrator (Peoria City/County Health Department)

Monica is the Administrator for the PCCHD, she is instrumental in identifying and securing multi-sector partners to assist in SDOH Accelerator Plan implementation.



RAY LEES

Planning and Transportation Senior Planner (Tri-County Planning Commission)

Ray is a lead strategist for transportation planning.



DR. LESLIE MCKNIGHT

Director of Community Health Policy & Planning (Peoria City/County Health Department)

Dr. McKnight is the Project Director for the SDOH Accelerator Plan grant.



NICOLE ROBERTSON

Associate Director of Cancer Center Partnerships (American Cancer Society) & Co-Chair of Health and Human Services Subcommittee Racial Justice & Equity(RJE) Commission

Nicole will work with the board and RJE Commission to ensure the SDOH Plan remains relevant and implemented in the community.



CHRISTIAN MCKINNEY

Community Health Programs Manager (Peoria City/County Health Department)

Christian is the Program Manager and will lead the process for the SDOH Accelerator Plan implementation.



LEAH ALLISON

Assistant Director of Community Development (City of Peoria)

Leah will assist in the implementation of SDOH Accelerator Plan strategies.



DR. FRANCESCA ARMMER

Associate Professor Emeritus (Bradley University) & Co-Chair of Health and Human Services Subcommittee Racial Justice & Equity(RJE) Commission

Dr. Armmmer is a board member of the Peoria County Board of Health and she will work with the board and RJE Commission to ensure the SDOH Plan remains relevant and implemented in the community.



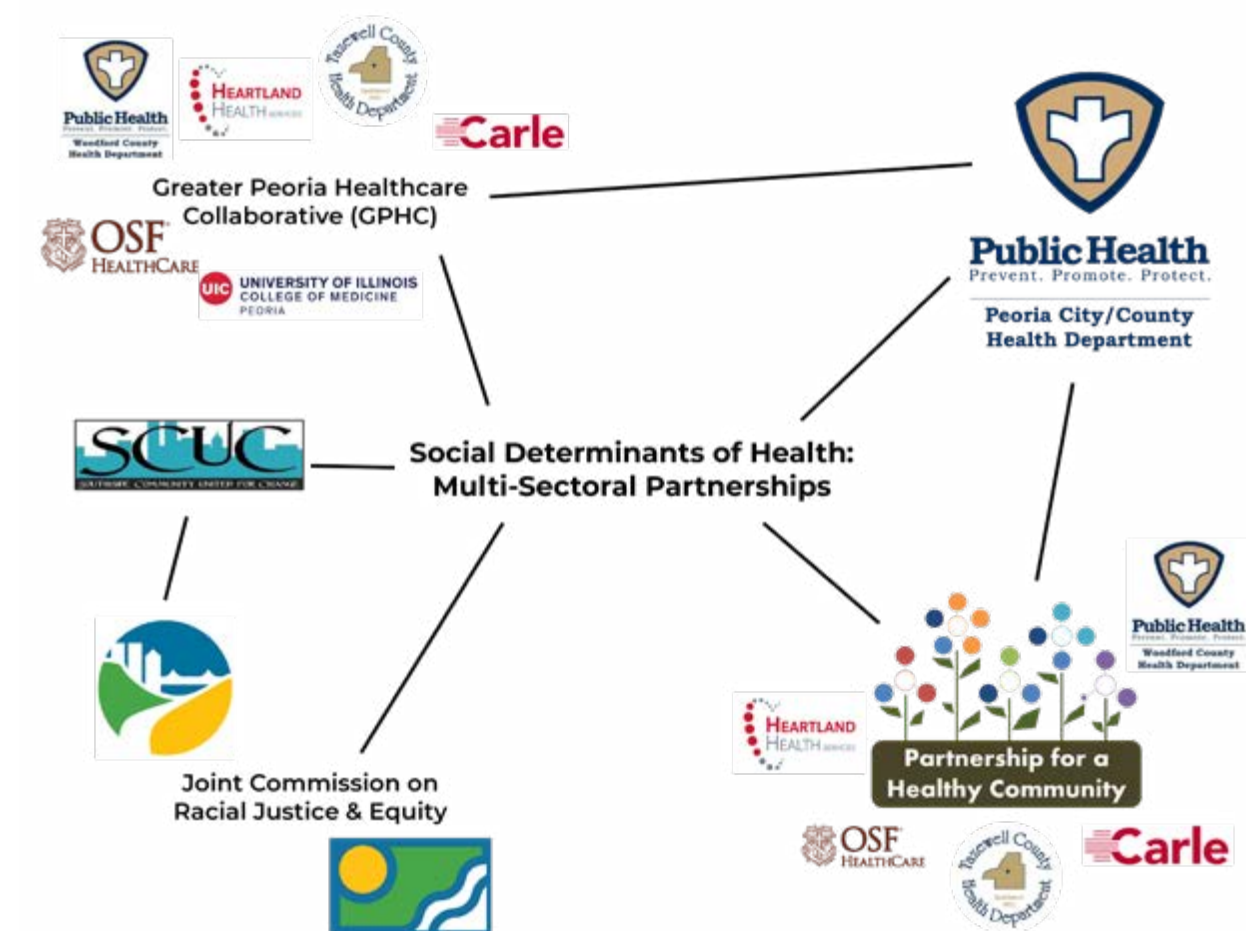
MULTISECTORAL PARTNERS

The leadership team was purposely selected for the SDOH Accelerator Plan based on their representation on multi-sectoral partnership committees and boards.

The Peoria City/County Health Department (PCCHD) has intentionally worked to support multi-sectoral partnerships in improving the health and well-being of the community.

Three key collaborations PCCHD is involved with are:

- Partnership for a Healthy Community
- The Greater Peoria Healthcare Collaborative
- Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity (RJE)



Partnership for a Healthy Community (PFHC)

The Partnership for a Health Community (PFHC) is a community-driven partnership of public and private partners working towards addressing health priorities within Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties in Illinois. The core membership of the PFHC consists of three local health departments, two hospital systems (OSF Saint Francis Medical Center and Carle Health Peoria), and the Heartland Health Services (federally qualified health center). The purpose of the Partnership is a shared approach to conducting community health needs assessment and improvement planning. The outcome is a singular and aligned plan in which community partners can support improving health. Over fifty (50) agencies are involved in implementation which includes education, economic development, housing, healthcare, law enforcement, EMS, funders, and those with lived experience. PCCHD has been involved since the inception of the Partnership and continues to play an active role in strategic planning and implementation of work plans.

Greater Peoria Healthcare Collaborative (GPHC)

The second multi-sectoral partnership is through the Greater Peoria Healthcare Collaborative (GPHC) which consists of the executive leadership of:

- University of Illinois College of Medicine-Peoria(UICOMP)
- OSF Saint Francis Medical Center
- Carle Health Peoria
- Heartland Health Services
- Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford County Health Departments

The collaborative recognized that there are social and environmental stressors in the community that have produced health disparities. Understanding that addressing these inequities will require cross-sector and place-based strategies focused on healthcare, education, economic vitality, and physical environment, thus the formation of the GPHC. The goal of the Greater Peoria Healthcare Collaborative is to address social determinants of health by building trust, improving access to care, increasing health literacy, and using shared agreed-upon ways to solve challenges innovatively. Using data, neighborhood engagement, leveraging existing systems, and advocacy to amplify the voice of the community, the GPHC seeks to improve collaboration and outcomes in the Greater Peoria region.

Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity (RJE)

In July 2021, the City and County established a Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity (RJE). The mission of the commission is to accelerate efforts in addressing systemic racial inequities focused on multiple sectors, including healthcare. PCCHD has provided technical support to the RJE Healthcare Committee. While these multi-sectoral partnerships encompass key stakeholders in support of health outcomes, PCCHD recognizes that there are voices that are still needed at the table. The purpose of the Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity (RJE) is to identify recommendations to improve areas of racial justice and equity within our community and to establish a structure that would transition into a collective impact model to engage the community and address issues for racial justice and equity. Over 160 community members and stakeholders serve on focused work groups that advance pro-equity policies, procedures, and systems in various areas where racial inequities exist including, but not limited to, the justice system, housing, economic development and jobs, child and youth development, health and human services, information technology, mobility and transportation, environment and climate.

City of Peoria and Peoria County

Lastly, PCCHD recognizes that often the government itself can create silos and barriers in improving health outcomes. The Peoria City/

County Health Department has worked intentionally with the County of Peoria and the City of Peoria in increasing collaboration and planning integration. The City of Peoria and PCCHD have a long joint history in lead housing mitigation throughout our city. In addition, using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), funding the City and County have supported the joint allocation of Public Health Equity Funding. The \$2.4 million funding is to be used for strategic alignment of housing in the community.

Potential missing partners that may contribute to improving SDOH have been identified through a process of recognizing both groups and categories of individuals. From the perspective of groups, it has been essential that both for-profit and not-for-profit businesses be explored.

Additional missing partners include Parent Teacher Associations/ Organizations with our local public and private schools, local churches, banks, funeral homes, and beauty supply businesses. A prominent category of individuals who may be potential missing partners includes barbers and beauticians, as well as every homeowner or apartment complex owner within the neighborhood.

Although we may have missed some partners, we were able to engage great partners through stakeholder meetings designed to listen to the thoughts and opinions of business and corporate partners. A structured format that identified prospective categories for discussion was developed as an initial and that format was combined with a method of small group dynamics that promoted the inclusion and conversation of all participants as they were guided into groups of five persons or less. The emphasis of these initial methods was for new and existing partners to “see” themselves as valuable contributors to the program planning and implementation efforts. In addition to the gathering of stakeholders, the leadership team adopted a model of “availability” to discuss with individuals who would choose to share their thoughts or reflections at various impromptu times. Ongoing approaches to avoid duplication of services are being addressed through two primary efforts. Those efforts are working in a model of community and thereby not allowing efforts to be expended via silos or isolation.

Potential partners that may contribute are:

- Peoria Chamber of Commerce
- Peoria National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Tri-County Urban League (TCPUL)
- Peoria Housing Authority (especially River West)
- Restaurateurs (“Sugar”, “Thyme”)
- Peoria Chamber of Commerce
- Peoria Public Library South Branch
- Southside Mission
- Peoria Public Schools Wrap-Around Center



SHARED MISSION GOALS & GOAL STATEMENT

The leadership team has adopted PCCHD's shared mission goals, and goal statements to represent the purpose of the SDOH Accelerator Plan.

The leadership will partner to build and improve community health and well-being through **prevention, promotion, and protection**. The leadership team aims to be a trusted leader in a healthy thriving community.

WE VALUE:



TRUST

We expect that everyone believes in the organization's vision and performs in the best interest of the client, the community, and the department.



MUTUAL RESPECT

We believe that everyone should be treated with dignity and courtesy. Commitment: We are dedicated to fulfilling our vision while embracing the challenges of the future to assure the public's health.



OPEN COMMUNICATION

We believe that the timely sharing of information is essential to the understanding of our vision and goals.



TEAMWORK

We believe that people working together toward a common goal can achieve results exceeding those that individuals can achieve independently.



LEARNING

We believe that learning is fundamental to our individual and organizational growth and success.



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

We believe that partnering with other providers is essential to enhancing the public's health.



3

EXISTING RESOURCES & PROGRAMS

THE CITY OF PEORIA NEIGHBORHOODS & ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Assistance Programs**
The City of Peoria provides several grants (Down Payment Assistance, Emergency Repair program, Housing Rehabilitation programs, Roof program, and Ramp program) to help community members fix their properties, stay in their homes for longer, and buy homes.
- Neighborhood Associations**
Neighborhood groups that register with the City of Peoria as an official neighborhood or homeowner’s association (HOA) get access to resources and a limited amount of funding from the City.
- Neighborhood Mini-Grant Program**
The Neighborhood Mini-Grant Program provides neighborhood and homeowner associations (HOAs) with grants to improve their neighborhoods. The maximum funding amount per project is \$5,000.
- Dumpster Program**
Registered neighborhood associations can request two (2) dumpsters each year for neighborhood cleanup days from April through the first week of November on Saturdays from 8 AM to noon.

THE CITY OF PEORIA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

- Bicycle Master Plan**
- Complete Streets Plan**
- Traffic Calming Program**
Traffic calming can support the goal of making our streets safer for all roadway users.
- Street Light Banner Program**
Street banners are decorative signs placed temporarily on city poles, often to display upcoming events.
- Stormwater Credits and Grants**
The program helps property owners repair eroding areas on their private property.
- Sanitary Sewer Backup Program**
Program helps property owners in designated areas of the city to avoid sanitary sewer backups through basement floor drains or basement shower drains, during heavy rains.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission provides active transportation planning and consultation.

Peoria Park District	Community Anchor Institutions (61605)
• Proctor Recreation Center • John H. Gwynn Jr. Park • MLK Jr. Park & Playground • Trewyn Park <i>City Link provides public transportation services</i>	• Tri-County Peoria Urban League • Carver Center • Neighborhood House • House of Hope
Southside Community United for Change	
• SCUC Tool Library • Neighborhood associations' involvement and development • Community events and activities	

4

SDOH **PRIORITY AREAS**

The SDOH grant and Accelerator Plan will address the public health needs of the targeted population of individuals living and working in the City of Peoria's Southside zip code 61605. The population in this zip code is the most affected by health disparities related to chronic disease, as well as those identified in our Community Health Improvement Plan. Health disparities include high teen birth rates, preterm births with smoking and gestational diabetes, poor prenatal care, cancer, and hypertension all related to obesity and chronic disease. The CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) places Peoria County at 0.61 moderate/high and places the targeted Southside zip code at the very highest SVI rate – low median income, high violence, high unemployment, food desert, and vacant housing parcels. A recent census estimates that 22% of households in the Southside do not have a vehicle for mobility. These health disparities and built environment issues affect the social connectedness of individuals unable to walk and congregate

safely in neighborhoods. We chose the Built Community to facilitate access to transportation and physical activity, as well as community development enhancing community safety to everyday destinations and using Complete Streets as a base. Social Connectedness was selected to increase strategies and resources to engage the community in the planning and development of plans that affect them. Residents have indicated from previous collaborations that they need social support to assure social connectedness and good mental health days including access to training on technical devices; intergenerational mentoring; and walkability/multi-modal transportation to area parks, community food gardens, wraparound centers, and safe meeting places. Data has shown the combination of a sustainable built environment and social connectedness developments and activities can positively impact mental, social, and physical health.



OUTCOMES

SDOH outcomes were established based on the emerging themes in the SDOH planning process. The outcomes will be achieved through the implementation of SDOH Accelerator plan strategies and a leadership committee work plan that identifies short-, intermediate, and long-term goals.



IMPROVE ACCESS TO DESTINATIONS

- Improve/Increase the infrastructure for various modes of transportation: sidewalks, bike paths, bus routes/ shuttles/stops, ride sharing
- Safer routes-lighting, protected barriers, crime, ADA accessibility
- More everyday accessible destinations: grocery stores, cleaners, etc.



INCREASE ACCESS TO SAFE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- More homeownership opportunities
- Accountability of landlords
- Increase code enforcement (i.e. litter, property maintenance, tires, alleyways)
- Home improvement programs



INCREASE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

- More neighborhood organizing and involvement
- Neighborhood-sponsored activities and events
- Community agencies work more together with neighborhood
- Improve communication and dissemination of information for neighborhoods and residents



INCREASE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Greater access and knowledge of parks, trails, and recreation activities
- Safer neighborhoods (*feel comfortable to be outside*)
- Increase community events/programs that promote physical activity and connectedness (*ie. neighborhood events, community walks, and runs*)

ACTIVITIES

Stakeholder Outreach

Three strategic outreach events were organized and executed with the aim of prioritizing the needs of the 61605 community. The initial outreach event brought together various community partners who shared their available resources and discussed their capacity to implement initiatives. The remaining two events focused on gathering input from community members regarding social connectedness and the built environment.

To promote these events effectively, we employed a variety of strategies. Targeted radio advertisements and interviews were utilized to reach a wide audience. We also distributed postcard reminders via mail and actively promoted the events at various community gatherings. Furthermore, we engaged in canvassing activities throughout the catchment area, distributing palm card reminders to maximize awareness and participation.

Through attentive listening, it became evident that accelerating progress in the 61605 area necessitates focusing on housing rehabilitation, promoting home ownership, and enforcing policies/ laws for landlords. Moreover, the residents expressed significant concerns regarding the food landscape, leading to proposed

solutions such as establishing express bus routes and shuttles to ensure residents can access the nearest grocery store. This approach also applies to enhancing job security. Another issue that emerged was the inadequate maintenance of bus stops in the catchment area. Currently, there are only a few covered bus stops, and they are often marred by litter and large puddles after rainfall. To address this, it is imperative to improve the number of sheltered bus stops, especially at main roadway stops.

Part of the process was to evaluate and review existing community plans and assessments, see appendix (pg. 49) that outlines the plan review findings.

“22% of the population is at elevated risk of an inadequate food landscape.”

“14% of the population lacks reliable transportation.”



Community Plans Review Summary

The 2020 Heart of Illinois United Way(HOIUW) Community Assessment found that 40% of the Peoria Tri-County Area(PTCA) felt depressed or anxious at least one day out of the month. Some of the social determinants of health that contributed to depression were: less education, less income, living in Peoria County, and an unstable housing environment. Anxiety and stress were more predominant among the younger population, those with less education and less income, and those in an unstable housing environment. When meeting with the 61605 residents to receive input about what they feel is necessary for their neighborhood, they overwhelmingly pointed out the dilapidated properties, the high rental rates, terrible living conditions, and the difficulties of becoming a homeowner. We have begun organizing and obtaining funds to

implement some housing programs such as rental assistance and home ownership programs with PCCHD's Health Equity Fund, and a roof repair program in conjunction with Peoria County Planning and Zoning. Debt reduction is being paired with homeownership opportunities.

The 2023 Community Health Improvement Plan(CHIP) has Healthy Eating, Active Living(HEAL), Obesity, and Mental Health as primary focus areas. Better transportation options to grocery stores like Kroger on Sterling, this includes better shelter for bus stops and more accessible stops. Food landscape is a measure of the conditions that affect the ability of residents to access health, and affordable nutrition. Key risk influencers include accessibility, affordability, and literacy. For the Tri-County region, 22% of the population is at elevated risk for food landscape issues. Challenges to mental health include unstable home

environments and transportation. Transportation network is a measure of the adequacy of the transportation network to facilitate access to care. Key risk influencers include access and proximity to resources. While survey data indicates transportation was not a leading cause of inaccessibility, for the Tri-County region, 14% of the population is at elevated risk for transportation network issues. This is higher than the State of Illinois average of 6%. In addition, we partnered with the Peoria County Highway Department and Walker Consultants to create, distribute, and collect information from the 61605 residents and residents of the surrounding area.

According to the South Village Tax Increment Financing District Redevelopment plan and Community Revitalization plan, there are a lot of dilapidated properties and vacant lots. The City of Peoria is in the process of demolishing the unrecoverable homes in the area in order to maintain or raise the property value of surrounding properties over time. This creates a higher ability to receive home renovation loans. Most of the properties don't qualify for mortgage or equity loans. The newest vacant lots are the Harrison & McKinley School sites.

Community Focus Groups

Additionally, focus groups were conducted, engaging both external stakeholders (resources) and community residents. The findings from the systematic review were presented and discussed during these gatherings, allowing for

valuable feedback, new suggestions, and insights from both groups.

To further understand the perspectives of residents and non-residents of the catchment area, a small group was convened over three months. Students from both groups were asked the same questions on three separate occasions, with an increased focus on explaining the concepts of built environment and social connectedness over time. This approach aimed to create an environment where responses were not constrained by the pressure of right or wrong, enabling students to express their thoughts more freely. The objective of this convening was to assess the differing priorities of residents and non-residents regarding their community. Lastly, observation played a crucial role in walk audits, as firsthand experience provides valuable evidence. External stakeholders and the leadership team participated in these walk audits to witness and understand the reasons why built environment and social connectedness should be prioritized in the accelerator plan. This real-time observation helped reinforce the importance of these factors in addressing the community's needs.

From the evaluations and outreach, the SDOH Leadership team was able to identify the main themes and outcomes which include increasing physical activity, building positive relationships, improving access to destinations, and increasing safe and affordable housing. The themes and identified outcomes helped identify the following priority strategies for the Accelerator plan.

ACCELERATOR PLAN STRATEGIES

The strategies were selected based on feedback from the external stakeholder retreat (April 27, 2023), the two community stakeholder retreats (May 24, 2023, & July 27, 2023), the SDOH Accelerator Plan Leadership team, and the assessments and existing plans for the priority catchment area.



We aim to get as close to our destination as possible. Acceleration guarantees movement, these strategies help create a sustainable path for forward movement regardless of speed limit changes, detours, or reconstruction. Through increasing safe and affordable housing, physical activity, positive relationships, and improving access to destinations, we hope to infuse motivation, and desire and hope to keep the accelerated work moving forward.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO DESTINATION STRATEGIES:

1. Improve/Increase the infrastructure for various modes of transportation

This includes: sidewalks, bike paths, bus routes/shuttles/stops, ride-sharing.

2. Safer routes

This includes: lighting, protected barriers, crosswalks, ADA accessibility.

3. IDOT - Lincoln & Howett Capital Improvement, Western Ave. Corridor

IDOT has approved road reconstruction for Lincoln & Howett, but has yet to schedule a construction timeline. The goal is to accelerate the implementation of this project in the next two years along with continued road reconstruction of Western Avenue Corridor.

4. MacArthur Street Corridor capital improvement

This is a main street business corridor on the Southside. The City of Peoria has taken a complete streets approach to provide active transportation enhancements.

INCREASE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS STRATEGIES:



1. Strengthen partnerships with the current neighborhood associations.

This would include providing leadership support in roles to those persons who are association leaders; developing a calendar of activities, and planning activities with other neighborhood associations.

2. Explore opportunities to establish a calendar of activities/programs for area Senior Citizens.

Meetings may be held at the Carver Center and planning would be initiated via the Council on Aging.

3. Conduct both cultural and literacy partnership activities/sponsorships.

These would be held at the River West Center, in collaboration with the Peoria Public Library-South and Arts, Inc.

4. Establish a partnership-based schedule of activities that would feature home improvement community discussions.

Topics of DIY home improvements, "nutrition in 5 minutes, caring for your pet, etc - would be in conjunction with Peoria Public Schools WrapAround Center, selected local labor unions, Farm Bureau, and other businesses.

5. Foster quarterly community activities in MacArthur Park.

Activities would feature an expanded program in association with the Peoria Park District, Landmark, Planet Fitness, and private trainers.

INCREASE SAFE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGIES:



1. Housing Programs

Programs include roof replacement lotteries for the City of Peoria and Peoria County, down payment assistance, rental assistance, debt reduction, and homeowner mentorship programs.

2. Expand tool-sharing programs to encourage property maintenance and home improvements.

Utilize Lincoln Branch library to expand the existing tool-sharing program. This could also include workshops and partnering with homeowner mentorship programs.

3. Landlord incentives and registration.

This includes registration fee waivers and incentives for maintenance/improvements such as low-cost or no-cost building permits.

4. Pool resources in neighborhoods to help others.

Utilizing resource databases and pooling together existing unused funds to create neighborhood helping hand programs.

INCREASE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGIES:



1. Establish and lead purposeful initiatives that promote physical activity and foster healthy lifestyles. Create opportunities for residents to connect through physical activity clubs, walking groups, or sports teams, fostering a sense of belonging and motivation.

A prime illustration of this is a weekly walking club at the Manual High School track. This endeavor encourages exercise and enhances social cohesion by uniting local residents. A comparable program would be one organized by the Illinois Valley Striders at the Proctor Hospital track, which successfully brought together more than 150 participants.

2. Introduce safety measures like well-lit pathways, routine upkeep of recreational spaces, and neighborhood watch programs to boost residents' comfort with outdoor activities.

In terms of lighting, it's recommended to carry out yearly assessments in line with fiscal year budgets to prioritize addressing areas with the highest needs.

3. Provide opportunities for regular health check-ups and screenings within the community to identify and address health concerns early on.

Partner with healthcare providers and organizations who organically interact and serve this population (churches, not-for-profit organizations, etc.). Interweave these healthcare screens in regular daily activities.

ANTICIPATED POLICY, SYSTEMS, ENVIRONMENTAL, PROGRAMMATIC, & INFRASTRUCTURE OUTCOMES

The leadership team and Peoria City/County Health Department staff will work with elected officials and community partners through City/County Commission and board meetings, work groups, neighborhood meetings, and other organization meetings to influence and assist in developing engaging Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change policies related to active transportation, housing, and community development.



5

EVALUATION OF SDOH
**ACCELERATOR PLAN
STRATEGIES**

The SDOH Accelerator Plan strategies will be measured by attainability, external and community stakeholder approval, and follow-through/completion. The outcomes will be measured by violence reduction, positive mental health impact, reduction in obesity and obesity-related diseases, and overall Southside pride. The purpose of the strategy evaluations is to maintain realistic goals and integrity, as well as stakeholder accountability and participation. As for the outcomes, the evaluations/measurements are rooted in the Built Environment & Social Connectedness pillars of SDOH and some are also priorities of the Community Health Improvement Plan(CHIP). The evaluation questions are: Does this strategy improve the built environment or encourage social connectedness; Is this strategy attainable; Who are the partners in completing the strategy; Has this strategy been completed; etc? PCCHD will partner with the

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission(TCRPC), the Safety Network, and the Partnership for Healthy Community (PFHC) to collect data for the outcomes and impact. The SDOH leadership team, Racial Justice and Equity Commission, and neighborhood associations will be convening regularly to evaluate the outcomes and strategies of the Accelerator Plan.

DATA
INTEGRATION

6

Existing plans and data sources were reviewed to create a matrix (appendix pg. 49) to identify priorities and built environment themes. These plans and data sources include the 2020 Heart of Illinois United Way Community Assessment, PFHC Community Health Improvement Plan, BikeConnect HOI, McKinley & Harrison School Site Redevelopment

Plan, South Village TIF Plan, and Southside Revitalization Plan. These plans provide benchmarks and quarterly and annual reports on plan implementation. We are going to use this data to help guide the implementation and priorities of the SDOH Accelerator plan.



**McKinley
& Harrison
School Site**
*courtesy
of Peoria
Journal Star*



RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

IMPROVING ACCESS TO DESTINATIONS:

- Primary Co-Leader: Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
- Primary Co-Leader: Greater Peoria Mass Transit System / CityLink
- Secondary Co-Leader: City / County Health Department
- Secondary Co-Leader: City of Peoria
- Peoria County
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- Peoria Park District
- Peoria Public Schools
- Greater Peoria Family YMCA

HOUSING PROGRAMS:

- PCCHD
- City of Peoria
- Peoria County
- Racial Justice Equity Committee
- Lincoln Branch Library

BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS:

- 61605 Neighborhood Association
- Nearby neighborhood associations
- Council on Aging
- George Washington Carver Center
- Peoria Public Library-South
- River West Community Center
- Peoria Public Schools WrapAround Center
- Peoria Park District
- Area fitness facilities: Landmark, Riverplex, Planet Fitness, private trainers
- City of Peoria
- Rotary Club of Peoria(Trewyn)

IMPROVING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:

- Illinois Valley Striders
- Peoria Park District
- Peoria Public Schools
- City of Peoria
- Ameren
- OSF HealthCare
- Carle Health
- Heartland Health



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The following funding opportunities were identified based on their ability to foster acceleration in implementing SDOH strategies. The PCCHD and SDOH leadership team will review the funding opportunities for project implementation and health in all policies advocacy. Please note that some of the funding opportunities are for designated jurisdictions that include the 61605 zip code.

- **PCCHD Health equity fund budget: \$936,134.31 Rental Assistance (61605)**
- **City of Peoria Housing Programs: \$350,000**
- **City of Peoria Capital Improvement Plan: \$2M**
- **City of Peoria Public Service grants: \$200,000**
- **PCCHD Edwards fund - Roofing Program: \$357,000; Peoria County & City of Peoria (61605)**
- **Transportation planning: \$250,000**

WORK PLAN GOALS

The SDOH work plan goals include the collaboration of the multi-sectoral partners identified in the Multi-Sectoral section of the SDOH Accelerator Plan. The overarching goal is to align the SDOH strategies to the mission, goals, and objectives of the multi-sectoral partners' action plans. This will be accomplished by working in collective impact to achieve the following SDOH short-, intermediate, and long-term goals.

2024

SHORT TERM GOALS

1. Develop a regular meeting schedule and communication plan with multi-sectoral partners
2. Identify priorities in the SDOH Accelerator Plan that can be implemented in the short term
3. Meet with our community partners to designate strategies
4. Implement projects and programs that have funding and support in the program year
5. Measure the impacts of SDOH activities and programs
6. Roof Replacement Program implementation (Peoria County & City of Peoria)

2025-27

INTERMEDIATE GOALS

1. Rental Assistance program implementation
Debt Reduction program implementation
2. Bi-annual evaluation of strategies
3. Develop CIP (Continuous Improvement Plan) for strategy implementation
4. Homeownership Program implementation - Down Payment assistance, mortgage assistance, and homeowner mentorship programs
5. Maintain resource management
6. Responsible Party accountability
Implement projects and programs that have funding and support in the program year

2028-

LONG-TERM GOALS

1. Maintain resource management
2. Responsible Party accountability
3. Implement projects and programs that have funding and support in the program year
4. Measure the impacts of SDOH activities and programs



SUSTAINABILITY/ FUNDING STRATEGY: **QUANTITATIVE & QUALITATIVE**

The sustainability of the SDOH implementation plan is based on quantitative and qualitative collective impact activities and investments that benefit community members and the built environment.

The quantitative impact will be measured by the level of investments, outcomes, outputs,

and trends. The qualitative impact will be measured by the increase in community engagement, having those with lived experience at the table in SDOH planning and implementation, and creating a voice and platform for those who traditionally did not have a voice so that their stories and shared experiences can be heard.

STRATEGIC PLANS

The City of Peoria & Peoria County is currently going through a strategic planning process. There will be strategies that align with the built environment and social connectedness. The City of Peoria, Peoria County, and the SDOH leadership team will continue to partner with community organizations and stakeholders

to leverage funding opportunities and resources to fill gaps. The City, County, and community partners will also utilize annual budgets and networks to implement SDOH Strategies and designate workload to each partner for implementation.

*Appendix (pg. 48):
Community Stakeholder Input*



APRIL 27TH, 2023

GROUP 1

How can we improve access to everyday destinations like parks, schools, and stores?

- Jobs should obtain shuttles for key employees
- Designated shared transport (Kroger express bus)
- Lighting, ADA, sidewalks to access points
- Expand locations within a radius (based on transportation type: bike, walk, bus)

How can we increase physical activity?

- Shared bikeways
 - Trails in park/sidewalks w/in parks
 - Pet friendly
 - Update parks to be inclusive of age, ability, and interests (skateboarding, roller skates, soccer, etc.)
 - Free equipment checkout with local library(bikes, helmets, pads, fitness bands, etc.)
- > Could even expand this passed exercise for home improvement equipment, cooking equipment, etc.*

How can we promote building positive relationships?

- Homeowner Associations (HOAs)
- Incentivizing them with free membership through grants (or using a sliding scale for payment)
- Inviting the rental property owners to be a part of these associations and meetings



GROUP 2

How can we improve access to everyday destinations like parks, schools, and stores?

- Sidewalks, ADA-compliant buildings and parking
- Roads: connected and clearly marked bike paths with additional signage w/education & explanation for crosswalks and bike paths
- Lighting
- Clean/safe/litter-free areas - accessible recycling containers & trash containers
- Speed limit audits

How can we increase physical activity?

- Spaces for Physical Activity/parks w/organic equipment
- Programming: park district sponsored in the neighborhood parks/centers
- Safety and cleanliness in existing spaces
- Park benches to eat/congregate/pop-up classes
- Health education w/outcomes
- Improved health coverage w/incentives

How can we promote building positive relationships?

- Pop-ups: neighborhood watch/community policing
- Increase/Improve neighborhood events & activities w/funding
- Re-engage neighborhood organs/promote them to be more active
- HOA w/renters in mind to get everyone involved more
- Promote existing rendezvous points: Carver Center, Proctor, and other community centers

GROUP 3

How can we improve access to everyday destinations like parks, schools, and stores?

- Ramps
- Beautification of the areas
- Cleanliness to improve walkability & rideability
- Multi Use paths (Bike paths + Sidewalks)
- Integration of multiple modes of transportation
- Better visibility of bus stops
- ADA compliant
- Creating a more welcoming vibe for the spaces

How can we increase physical activity?

- Taking programs/classes outside during warmer months
- Taking programs/classes to the communities
- Making the idea of physical activity accessible & safe (different types of exercises are still exercise)

How can we promote building positive relationships?

- Collaboration within the Greater Peoria Area amongst the higher-ups to promote the same behaviors on the lower levels to adopt a “We’re all in this together” mentality
- Promoting existing positive community efforts/activities
- Utilizing existing network to build more connections that have ebb and flow to promote the best people for the task at hand



GROUP 4

How can we improve access to everyday destinations like parks, schools, and stores?

- More urban design & planning
- Informed community investment in grocery stores, playgrounds, & other community needs
- MicroTransit (Uber, Lyft, taxi, etc.)
- Rebrand Public Transportation (shuttles, buses, etc.)
- Zipcars, scooters, bikes, etc.

How can we increase physical activity?

- Incentives for community & businesses
 - > Social Orgs
 - > Sororities & Fraternities
- Plogging - picking up litter while jogging

How can we promote building positive relationships?

- Breakdown silos in community organizations - stop duplication; promote collaboration
- Adopt highway- adopt streets & bus stops to keep them clean in a socially connected manner
- Promoting schools and homeschoolers to connect outside of school with activities
- Ongoing community-led cleanups
 - > Donate flowers (similar to Motor City Makeover)

The residents requested another gathering to fully flesh out their concerns and invite some more fellow residents out. During that meeting, we received more valuable feedback.



COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

MAY 24TH, 2023 & JULY 27TH, 2023

The second gathering was dedicated to the residents 61605, inviting them to express their concerns and desires concerning the built environment and social connectedness. Their valuable feedback was taken into account to ensure they could actively champion and support these projects in the accelerator plan. Below are the suggestions and concerns from this session:

- Habitat for Humanity 61605 redevelopment
- Property Improvement loans
- Family-friendly events
- Home buyer programs
- Repaving & redoing bike paths on Southside
- MacArthur Corridor plan
- City Ordinance Enforcement
- Howett & Lincoln road work IDOT (Accelerate)
- The clean environment around bike paths
- Adequate speed signage (light up)
- Covered bus stop shelters
- Shuttles/free rides
 - > Microtransit for direct or shorter routes to shopping outlets
 - > Transit to jobs that have more distance
- Kids present/playing signage
- Regulation of trash dumping
 - > Residents have been getting fined for trash dumping that isn't theirs
- Plan to develop city-owned property/vacant lots
- Lighting throughout 61605
 - > Alleys
 - > Streets
 - > Neighborhood

TABLE 1

Improve Access:

- Need to bring the destinations to the community.
- Better access to public transportation.
- Better schedules and frequency for CityLink, especially later in the day.
- No bus access between Western and Laramie.
- Increase sidewalks. Laramie is a bus route but has no sidewalks.
- For parts of the 61605 closest grocery store is Kroger in Bartonville and there's no bus route to get to the Bartonville Kroger.
- What happens when the Sterling Kroger closes (it's visually clear Kroger is not taking care of this location).
- Programs to teach people (kids) how to use the bus.
- Programs to teach people to know

Increase Physical Activity:

- Figure out a way to get residents to use the resources that exist.
- Increase awareness of the programs and services that exist.
- Sense of entitlement for services provided by the centers in the 61605 (people complain about having to pay for services offered by Carver and others).
- Figure out a way for centers to collaborate more and break down competitive barriers (centers compete for HOI UW dollars).
- More organized community walks and runs. More organized community bike rides.

Build Positive Relationships:

- Programs to teach people to know how to take care of a home.
- Programs to teach people about community farms. Needs to be an urban agriculture program, not just a community garden.
- What kind of access (or lack of access) do new homeowners have to critical gardening/landscaping tools?
- City Code enforcement needs to hold absentee landlords accountable.
- If the absentee landlord won't comply, figure out a way to take the property from the landlord.
- Would a co-op grocery store model work?
- How to market some type of 61605 communication hub - website, FB page. Sales, parties, events at the community centers, programming. Everything important to the community.
- On one or more major streets in the 61605, do similar to veteran banners on Orange Prairie but for Black leaders in the community.
- Figure out a way to change attitudes. It's hard to make positive change when people have negative attitudes.
- Find a way to increase home ownership.
- Spread out the community cleanups to more areas of the 61605. There's the appearance that the same neighborhoods/blocks are the only ones being cleaned up.

TABLE 2

Improve Access:

- Increase bus routes in 61605
 - > *Adjust schedules for every 30 minutes*
 - > *Educate the Community on Bus Routes*
- Increase sidewalks

Increase Physical Activity:

- Awareness of physical activities/programs @ community centers
- More Community walks, runs, and biking events

Build Positive Relationships:

- Landlord accountability
- Gardening clubs (w/in neighborhoods)
- 61605 Community site/hub for events, social activities, etc.
- Promote positive attitudes for 61605

TABLE 3

Improve Access:

- Stores need to be built
- Grocery Store
- Improvement of transportation options
 - > *Times*
 - > *Availability*
 - > *Special occasion shuttle (possible collaboration with small businesses; employment opportunities)*
- Roads need to be improved
- Minority business ownership
- Safety
- Decreasing stigmas
- Mental health awareness

Increase Physical Activity:

- Infrastructure
 - > *Lighting, sidewalks, improved safety (awareness, accessibility - virtual, in-person, cost-effectiveness, affordability)*
- Incentives for businesses to build/expand/improve facilities
- Marketing strategies for existing facilities

Build Positive Relationships:

- Marketing
- Collaboration
- Old school community building
- Neighborhood Association meetings
- Safety & Mental Health Awareness
- Networking events
 - > *Cooking classes*
 - > *Skill workshops*
 - > *Block parties*
 - > *Education workshops*
 - > *Minority support*
- Community garden opportunities

TABLE 4

- Parks, Curbs, & sidewalk redevelopment to make ADA Accessible
- Develop a senior center
- Additional bus stops outside of 61605 that benefit 61605 residents
- Improve/enhance the safety of parks
- More alley lighting
- Clear tall weeds/brush
- Canine control
- Affordable & moderate housing
- More resident involvement w/ neighborhood associations
 - > Promote
 - > Incentives
 - > City services
- Homeownership
- Financial literacy to promote homeownership



TABLE 5

Improve Access:

- Better lighting (sidewalks, streets)
- Need more paved sidewalks in the neighborhoods
- Better streets/even pavement distribution (very bumpy roads)
- Consider all populations (Seniors, seniors taking care of grandkids, single-parent families, new adults, young families, empty-nesters, etc.)
- Bike accessibility

Build Positive Relationships:

- Better communication by starting more social support groups
 - > Health groups
 - > Mental health
 - > Addiction
 - > Cancer

- More community/neighborhood events
- More well mobiles
- Meet your neighbors
 - > Flyers on cars
 - > Social media
 - > Door to door
- Community Health resource
 - > Center for medical care, social connectedness (can be multi-family housing or community anchors)
- More basketball (other sports as well) courts
- Families communicate w/ each other
- More involvement in neighborhood associations
- Youth re-entry activities
 - > Working with neighborhoods
 - > Community service

TABLE 6

Improve Access:

- Needs Improvement: Northwoods Mall
 - > It is unsafe to cross the street
- Adding Sunday - positive (bus) *free for seniors- City Lift*
- Need questionnaire box - City Lift
- Less safe to walk in the winter - sidewalks
 - > Bridge as well
- Peoria should build up the downtown - Economic development
 - > Add development (shops) to the south side — the city should offer incentives to locate here; provide jobs that people can walk to
 - > Build a resource center on the south side — in a centralized area; build upon existing buildings and organizations (METEC)
- Barrier - some folks don't like to share their personal info
- Some folks need advocates
 - > Talk to people on their level, in plain English
 - > Make people feel comfortable

Increase Physical Activity:

- Need more parks, health centers, library
- Problematic - lots of liquor stores, vapes
- Provide more fun, safer park activities
- More schools close by - especially for small kids
- Provide a scholarship like Riverplex and the YMCA
- Use all resources to get the word out
 - > Phones, flyers, word of mouth

Build Positive Relationships:

- More community activities - neighborhoods
 - > Promote 309 Market - Trewyn Pavillion (Sundays)
 - > Peoria City Council connection - hold a discussion
 - > Neighborhood associations
- Safety is an issue
- Hold landlords accountable
- Accessible neighborhood safety officer
- Consider providing a Ring/Blink for residents and assist with such programs



TRANSPORTATION STUDY

OUR “WHY”

We aim to build a foundation for an equitable transportation system serving the 61605 community—one where every member, regardless of their background, income, age or ability, has access to transportation choices that get them where they need to go—for work, school, medical appointments, grocery shopping, errands, recreation, and more.

61605 Focus: People living in 61605 **generally have poorer health, lower educational attainment, and a higher rate of poverty** than people living elsewhere in the city and the county.

Transportation

Focus: Transportation infrastructure and investment have the power to **change this reality.**

- Get people where they need to go, when they need to get there
- Improve safety, air quality and more
- Enable and encourage healthy choices
- Support community
- Support health and well-being



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 1** Deeply and comprehensively understand the challenges facing the community when it comes to transportation and mobility freedom.
- 2** Develop strategies for mitigating challenges alongside the community.
- 3** Create metrics that show us when to adjust our approach and help inform how we're doing.
- 4** Develop a clear resource plan for immediate-term, near-term, mid-term and long-term objectives—including potential opportunities for grant funding.

PROJECT SCOPE & SCHEDULE



KEY LEARNINGS FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY

Demographics of Peoria Survey Participants (residents earning median income or less):

- **Location** - Approximately half of participants who were Peoria residents lived in zip code 61605
- **Race/Ethnicity** - Largest share of participants identify as Black (55%), followed by White (27%) and Hispanic (8%)
- **Household Income** - Low annual household incomes (30% earning under \$10,000)
- **Employment** - High rates of unemployment (15%) and underemployment (35%)



SDOH Accelerator Strategies



EXISTING PLAN	ORIGIN	PURPOSE
HOIUW Community Assessment	2020	Assess issues and trends impacting the communities served by the HOIUW using secondary data.
Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	2023	Utilize the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to identify gaps, support evidence-based interventions, and create a sense of togetherness for health stakeholders across the region.
BikeConnect HOI	2017	Create/identify a regional bicycle network that connects communities throughout the region and identify other ways to establish the Greater Peoria Area as a more bicycle friendly region.
Redeveloping McKinley & Harrison School Sites	Mar-23	Demolish McKinley and Harrison Schools and redevelop the sites and surrounding area through rehabilitation, infill housing, and create a community development corporation to coordinate and convene stakeholders.
Housing Needs Assessment & Community Revitalization Plan	2021	Economic, housing, and community development through infrastructure, infill housing/reduction of vacant lots, rehab of dilapidated properties/improvement of land stock, increasing neighborhood orgs, public safety, walkability, and improvement to storm water management & recreational opportunities.
South Village Tax Increment Financing District Redevelopment Plan & Program	Mar-13	Reinvest in South Side neighborhoods, support sustainability w/urban infill, redevelopment, and reduce transportation costs, invest in infrastructure: sidewalks, curbs, and combined sewage system, reduce crime w/improved lighting, grow employers and jobs for South Village, and keeping taxes & fees competitive.
EXISTING PLAN	ORIGIN	PURPOSE
HOIUW Community Assessment	2020	13.9% of Peoria Tri-County Area has asthma compared to 8.2% for the state of Illinois. 46% of PTCA felt depressed & 40% felt anxious for at least 1 day out of the month. Depression tends to be rated higher for those with less education, those with less income, Peoria County residents, and those in an unstable housing environment. Stress and anxiety tend to be rated higher for younger people, those with less education, those with less income, and those in an unstable housing environment.
Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	2023	For the Tri-County region, 22% of the population is at elevated risk for food landscape. This is lower than the State of Illinois average of 25%. As far as mental health, Peoria County has a higher age-adjusted ER rate due to pediatric mental health than most counties in Illinois and is higher than the Illinois rate at 312.5/10,000 and age-adjusted death by suicide rates are higher than the state of Illinois (16.2 v 11.1). Challenges include unstable home environments and transportation. Key risk influencers include access and proximity to resources. While survey data indicate transportation was not a leading cause of inaccessibility, for the Tri-County region, 14% of the population is at elevated risk for transportation network. This is higher than the State of Illinois average of 6%.
BikeConnect HOI	2017	Peoria has had 368 bike crashes from 2005-2015 with most of the crashes being within the 10-19 age range at 147 compared to the 50 within the 20-29 age range. Bike friendly policies and accessibility would create a shift in these statistics. The leading cause of these crashes is failing to yield right of way.
Redeveloping McKinley & Harrison School Sites	Mar-23	These buildings are a blemish/blight to the community and drive down property costs and desire to live amongst these buildings-not to mention the potential safety risk to any potential temporary residents of these buildings when in need of shelter. An abandoned building that is dark and wet from occasional rain is a breeding ground for all types of molds, which in turn creates respiratory risk for those potential temporary residents.
Housing Needs Assessment & Community Revitalization Plan	2021	93% of the Single-Family houses in the Southside neighborhoods of Peoria are fair plus or worse condition with 76% (1,163) being fair in condition. The Multi-family homes are in slightly better condition but 100% of these homes are average or worse condition with 82% (28) being in fair condition. 0% of those homes are in excellent condition and only 4 Single-Family homes being in good condition. 93% of total homes (Single & Multi-Family) are in fair-plus condition or worse.
South Village Tax Increment Financing District Redevelopment Plan & Program	Mar-13	The total Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of the Project Area has declined in 3 of the past 5 years and consistently lagged that of the balance of the City of Peoria between 2006-2011, as well as the CPI in 4 of the past 5 years. Redevelopment consistent with the vision established in the Heart of Peoria Plan and the City's Comprehensive Plan is not anticipated to occur without financial and other incentives through TIF.



Prepared by Christian McKinney, Community Health Programs Manager

ACCELERATOR STRATEGIES/SUGGESTIONS
Utilize redevelopment and revitalization plans to create stable housing conditions and a welcoming environment for those within the community.
Increase walkability/rideability, reduce transportation cost, and/or more bus stops routes to connect to nearby grocery stores.
More/Better connected infrastructure to increase walk/rideability and making sure land development patterns offer that. Also, enforce existing traffic laws and have stiffer penalties for motorists who don't abide by them.
Infill housing, community center, community art/murals/gateways to highlight sense of belonging/pride, transit options/shuttle improvements to connect to services and employment and shared active green spaces.
Vacant lot reduction through infill housing, shared active green/recreational spaces, housing rehabilitation to existing properties, and increasing neighborhood orgs/coalitions.
Provide tax incentives to private investors, increase lighting in the neighborhoods to reduce crime, and repair/invest in sidewalks, curbs, and sewage systems.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Peoria City/County
Health Department**

