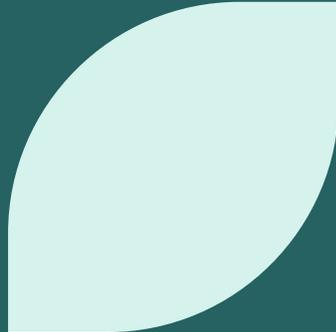


2025 | ANNUAL REPORT



GARFIELD COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

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PUTTING COMMUNITY HEALTH FIRST.

The people, priorities, and values that center community in every decision.



A Healthier Future for All.

At Garfield County Public Health, we believe every person in our community deserves the chance to live a healthy, supported, and fulfilling life. Our work centers on removing barriers, expanding access to essential services, and building systems that help people thrive.

From preventive care and family supports to crisis response and community partnerships, we focus on solutions that lift everyone up, especially those who've historically been left out or underserved. A healthier future isn't just a goal—it's a promise we live out through every program, every connection, and every relationship we build with the community we serve.

That commitment requires more than good intentions — it requires strong systems, shared responsibility, and the ability to adapt as public health itself continues to evolve.



“

“Pillsbury Doughboy--always joyful and wanting to help in anyway I can to make your visit to Public Health as pleasant as possible”

Laura Dixon's response when asked “If your program or work area had a mascot, what would it be and what would it represent about your impact?”

Evolving Public Health Together.

In Garfield County, we know that public health guidance only works if people trust it. That's why we're intentional about how we review scientific information and how we share it with our community. We take the time to understand new data, translate it into clear, local context, and communicate in a way that feels relevant, respectful, and rooted in our community's lived experiences.

Our goal isn't just to provide information, it's to make sure the information we provide is actually useful to the people who depend on it. We focus on accuracy, transparency, and plain language, so residents know they're getting clear, honest, and up-to-date guidance they can rely on.

Because here in Garfield County, trust isn't assumed, it's earned. And we're committed to earning it every day by sharing science in a way that builds understanding, supports informed choices, and strengthens our connection with the community we serve.



Our Purpose in Action

Our Vision

Promote, protect, and enhance the well-being of all residents in Garfield County.

Our Mission

We aim to create a supportive, informed community in Garfield County by addressing resident needs, empowering individuals to make positive health choices, and accessing necessary resources for a healthy, fulfilling life through partnerships, education, and community engagement.

Our Focus

We work with local partners to help every Garfield County resident thrive—supporting health, education, and community needs with a holistic approach that builds resilience, inclusion, and well-being.

- Educate and empower on health topics
- Monitor community health trends
- Strengthen health initiatives and workforce
- Collaborate with partners on local challenges
- Connect residents to services
- Prepare for public health emergencies



Healthy People

Advancing community health through prevention, data, and preparedness.



Healthy Families

Supporting family well-being through accessible health resources.



Healthy Places

Promoting health by strengthening environments and infrastructure.



Resource Guide

Connecting Garfield County residents to local services and support.

Foundational Public Health Services

Strong foundations mean reliable public health—every day, not just during crises.

What is FPHS?

Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) is a Washington State framework that defines the minimum set of public health capabilities and programs that must exist in every community to ensure health, safety, and resilience. The framework ensures that all health jurisdictions—large or small, urban or rural—deliver a consistent and equitable baseline of public health protections.

FPHS represent the core infrastructure needed for public health to function effectively before a crisis occurs. Rather than focusing on special projects or short-term grant activities, FPHS answer a simple but critical question: What does every health department need in place to protect and improve community health? These foundational systems make all other public health work possible.



Why FPHS Matters in Rural Communities

In rural communities like Garfield County—where resources are limited and partners often serve multiple roles—FPHS provide the essential structure needed to respond to health needs, prevent crises, and support long-term wellbeing. By strengthening core capabilities such as assessment, communication, partnerships, and organizational infrastructure, FPHS ensure public health efforts are coordinated, data-informed, and focused on what matters most to the community. This foundation allows rural communities to maximize impact, support local organizations, and build resilience over time.

|  | Without FPHS |  | With FPHS |
|---|---|--|---|
|  | Stretched Staff <i>One person, many roles</i> |  | Stable Workforce <i>Clear roles and responsibilities,</i> |
|  | Reactive Work <i>Crisis-driven priorities</i> |  | Proactive Planning <i>Prevention built in</i> |
|  | Weaker Response <i>Slower coordination</i> |  | Emergency Ready <i>Faster response</i> |
|  | Delayed Information <i>Delayed, unclear messaging</i> |  | Reliable Communication <i>Clear, timely messaging</i> |
|  | Community Impact <i>Gaps felt immediately</i> |  | Community Confidence <i>Consistent services</i> |

In Simple Terms.

FPHS are like the foundation of a house. You don't see them every day, but everything else depends on them. The foundation keeps the house standing and stable. In public health, FPHS provide the basic systems that support all health work—such as gathering information, planning ahead, and staying prepared. The wiring and plumbing make the house functional and livable; similarly, FPHS ensure public health can communicate clearly, share information, and connect people to the services and resources they need. The walls and roof protect what's inside.

FPHS help protect communities by supporting prevention, early action, and coordinated responses when challenges arise. If a storm hits and the foundation is weak, the entire house is at risk—no matter how strong the rest may seem. Without strong foundational systems, communities are left reacting instead of responding.

By investing in FPHS, communities build a stable base that allows programs, partnerships, and services to succeed. FPHS give rural communities the stability they need to weather challenges, adapt to change, and remain healthy and resilient—before, during, and after a crisis.

The Public Health Shift in 2025

As public health evolves nationwide, Garfield County experienced that shift in real time. Federal shutdowns, funding uncertainty, and ongoing pressures on rural systems disrupted daily life—but they also revealed our community’s resilience, clear communication, and ability to come together in moments of challenge.

Much of this work began long before any crisis appeared. Strong relationships are built during times of stability with community partners through listening, collaboration, and shared commitment, so that when uncertainty arises, trust is already in place. When systems stalled or guidance shifted, those connections allowed the community to move forward together. All of this is public health at its most human: investing in relationships early, so when challenges arise, no one stands alone.



What’s different now?

Because of these challenges, Garfield County Public Health now operates with greater clarity, flexibility, and intention.

- We communicate faster and more clearly during uncertainty, sharing timely, practical information that helps residents and partners navigate change with confidence.
- We use data more strategically, directing limited resources where they are needed most and can have the most significant impact.
- We design programs with flexibility in mind, recognizing that rural communities need solutions that adapt to real-life conditions—not one-size-fits-all models.
- We invest earlier in partnerships, strengthening relationships before crises occur so systems can respond together when challenges arise.

“**Sorting through the financial impact and determining how our funding might be stretched as far as we can get it to go, and what we could use our current funds for..”**

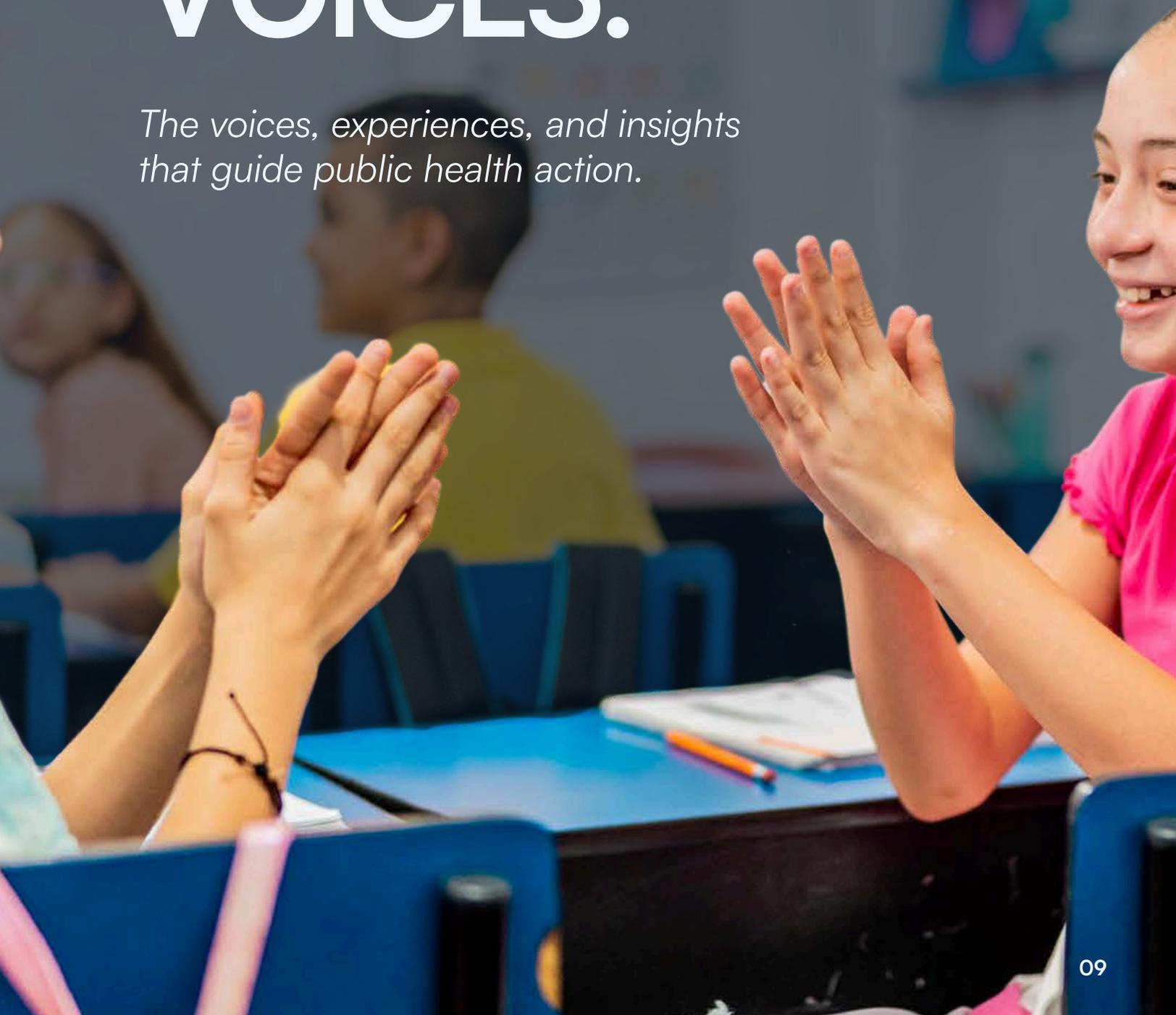
Laura Dixon’s response when asked “What is one challenge you helped navigate in 2025”



These shifts have strengthened our ability to respond, recover, and plan for the future, ensuring public health in Garfield County remains resilient, trusted, and deeply rooted in community needs.

HEARING COMMUNITY VOICES.

*The voices, experiences, and insights
that guide public health action.*

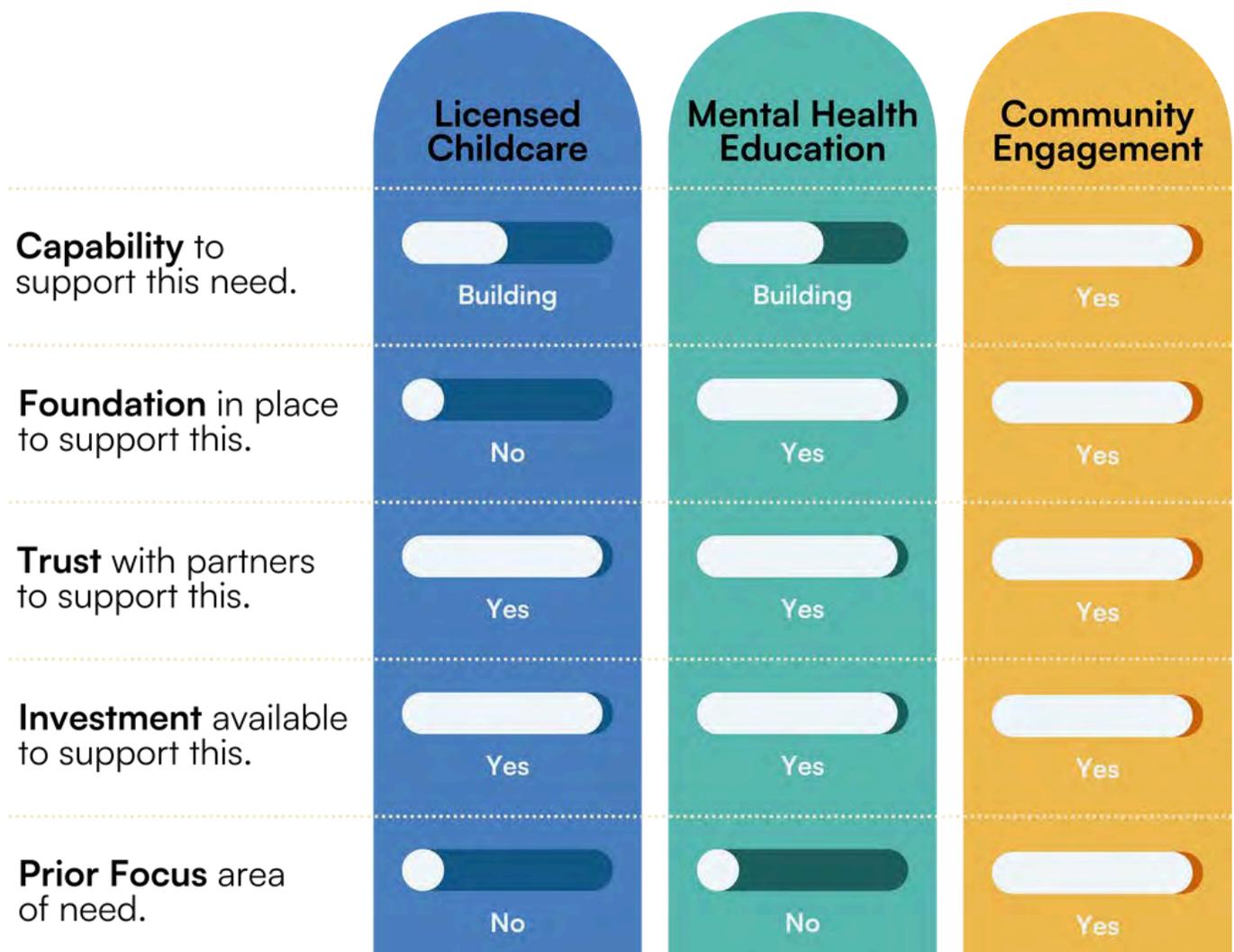


Guided by Community Voice

Listening to community voice means not just collecting feedback, but using it to understand patterns, gaps, and opportunities for action.

From Input to Insight

Each priority area identified in the 2023 Community Health Assessment (CHA) was reviewed using five guiding questions. This framework helped identify which areas could be meaningfully addressed through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), while also moving the conversation beyond urgency alone to encourage thoughtful discussion about alignment, sustainability, and the role public health can realistically play.



Garfield County Public Health recognizes concerns related to housing access, job opportunities, and access to providers raised by survey respondents. While many of these issues are led by trusted community organizations with the capacity and expertise to address them, Public Health remains an active partner—supporting coordination, data, and community engagement while encouraging resident participation in community-driven health initiatives.

How the CHIP Timeline Guides Our Work

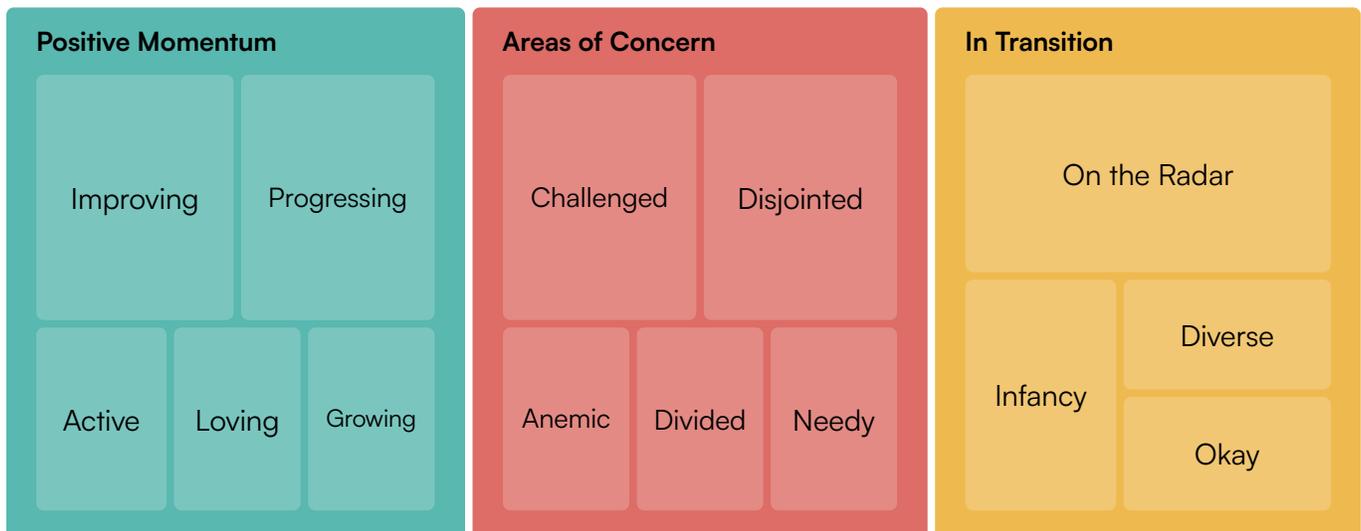
The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) follows a multi-year cycle that keeps public health work responsive and community-driven. Progress is reviewed regularly, allowing strategies to be adjusted as community needs, resources, and conditions change. This timeline ensures public health planning remains flexible, accountable, and focused on meaningful action over time.



How the Community Describes Its Health

In 2025, Garfield County Public Health introduced a Data Walk to create space for reflection and shared learning. Rather than relying solely on reports or statewide averages, this approach brought data, programs, and community impact together in one place. Staff, partners, and stakeholders engaged with information visually and collaboratively, allowing connections across programs and priorities to emerge.

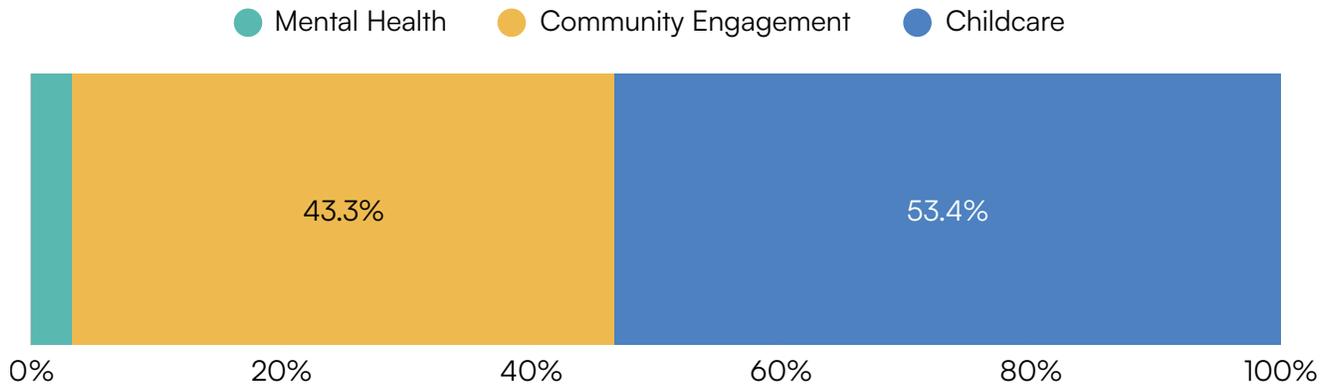
Community members at the 2025 Data Walk described local health as improving but still facing gaps and growing pains. Overall, the feedback reflects a community that is aware of its challenges, building momentum, and working toward progress.



Where We're Excelling

Community feedback from the 2025 Data Walk highlights clear areas of progress across Garfield County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Attendees most often pointed to childcare and community engagement as areas showing the greatest improvement.

While mental health remains a critical community priority, this feedback suggests that progress may be less visible to residents—highlighting the need to continue strengthening services, partnerships, and communication so ongoing efforts are better understood and felt across the community.



Community Feedback Comparison

Who We're Reaching Well vs. Who We're Not Reaching Well Enough

Insights shared by community members during the 2025 Data Walk show that health programs are reaching many groups, though access and participation vary across the community.

This chart visualizes community-reported patterns in program reach, highlighting where access is stronger, less consistent, or varies across groups. Bubble size reflects how often each group was mentioned, while bubble position represents the average reported reach based on community feedback.

Community-Reported Program Reach by Group



Barriers to Community Health

When asked about the biggest barriers to improving community health, residents pointed to challenges that go beyond individual programs. Feedback emphasized the need for stronger collaboration, clearer communication, easier access to resources, and continued efforts to reduce stigma and build trust across the community.



Collaboration Gaps



Access Barriers



Stigma & Fear



Awareness Gaps

People Care Enough to Notice the Gaps

1. The fact that respondents named collaboration, communication, access, and stigma shows a high level of awareness and engagement. People aren't disconnected or apathetic — they're paying attention and want things to work better.

Collaboration Gaps —————→ *Strengthening cross-agency partnerships*

Barriers Are System-Level, Not a Lack of Effort

2. Most responses focus on coordination, access, and communication, not on blaming programs or people. That's important.

Access Barriers —————→ *Improving navigation and referral pathways*

Stigma Is Being Named — Which Means It's Being Challenged

3. Stigma and small-town dynamics were called out openly. That's not easy to do. You can't address what isn't acknowledged — and this is being acknowledged.

Stigma & Fear —————→ *Normalizing community conversations*

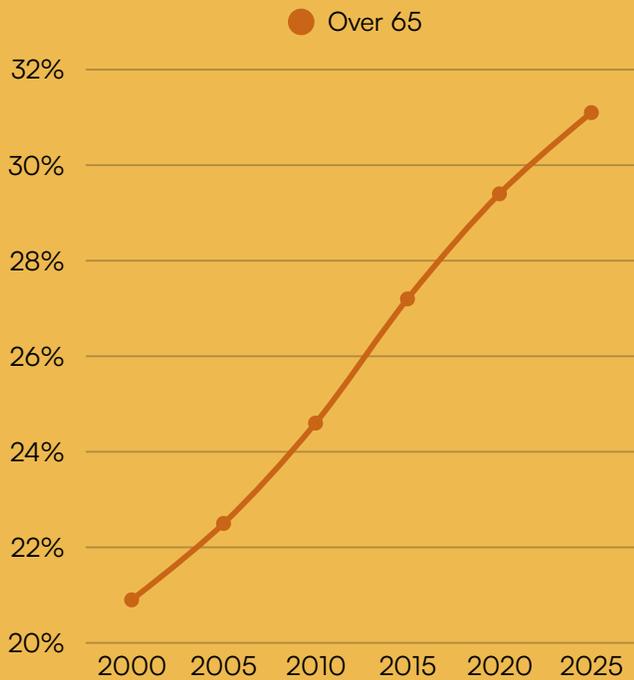
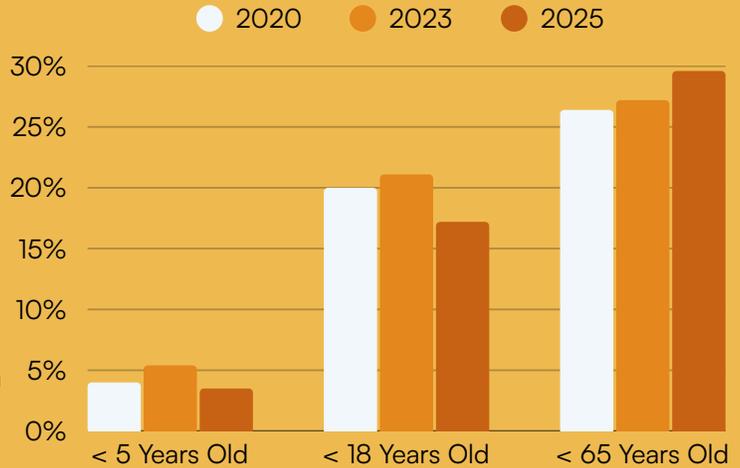
There Is Recognition That Access Matters

4. Mentions of resource availability, accessibility, gatekeepers, and fear of change show that people understand health isn't just about services existing — it's about being able to reach them.

Awareness Gaps —————→ *Expanding outreach and education*

Garfield County by the Numbers.

Demographics, poverty, education, disability, and chronic disease, compared to Washington State.



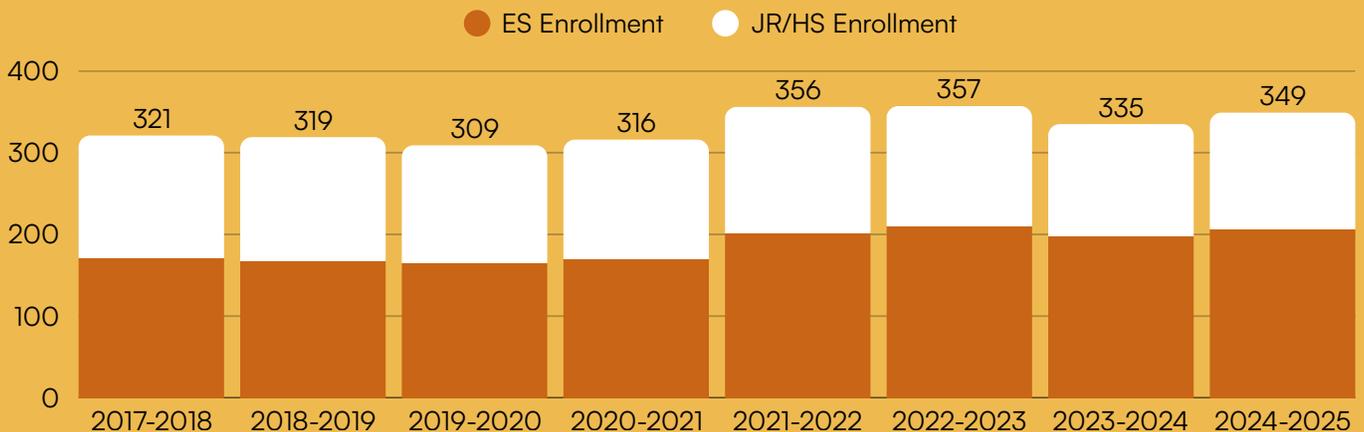

22.5%
+65 years old living alone in homes



16.5%
People who have food insecurity



12.5%
Total population with an independent living difficulty



LIFELONG COMMUNITY HEALTH.

*The programs, partnerships,
and protections that support
health across the lifespan.*



Supporting Strong Families

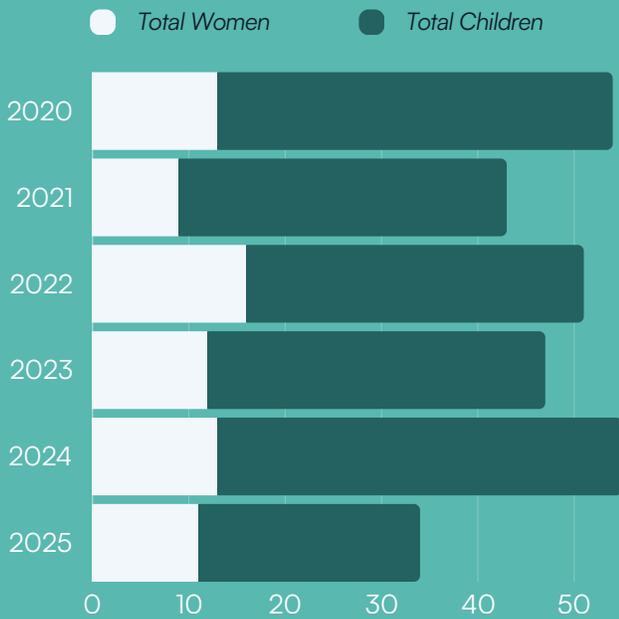
From early childhood through adolescence, our programs are designed to give every family the support, resources, and care they need to thrive.

Garfield County Public Health works alongside parents, caregivers, schools, and community partners to strengthen the foundation of family health. We help families navigate services more easily, reducing the stress and confusion that often come with coordinating care in a rural community.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

The WIC Program continues to play a critical role in supporting the health of pregnant people, infants, and young children in Garfield County, ensuring families have access to nutritious food during the most critical stages of growth and development.

In a small rural county, WIC's impact goes beyond nutrition assistance. The program helps stretch household food budgets, supports healthy pregnancies and early childhood development, and provides families with trusted connections to health education and local resources.



Why WIC Matters in Garfield County

- Supports healthy pregnancies and infant growth
- Improves food security for families with young children
- Encourages nutritious food choices, including fruits and vegetables
- Strengthens local economies through benefit redemption
- Connects families to additional health and community resources

Childcare Navigation

In 2025, Garfield County Public Health took significant steps to address the shortage of licensed child care in Pomeroy, recognizing it as a critical factor in family well-being, workforce stability, and community health.

Why This Work Matters

In rural communities, the absence of licensed child care can force families to commute long distances, leave the workforce, or relocate entirely. By investing in a local, nonprofit child care solution, we are supporting parents, strengthening the local economy, and helping ensure Garfield County remains a place where families can live and thrive.

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, our focus will be on facility renovations, continuing fundraising efforts, and supporting the steps needed to open Donna’s Mama Bear Daycare and Learning Center — turning planning into a lasting resource for local families.

Safe Kids

Through Safe Kids, Garfield County Public Health’s program focuses on prevention through education and access. Bike rodeos provide children with a fun, hands-on way to learn road safety, helmet use, and awareness skills that build confidence and reduce injury risk. Together, these efforts strengthen family knowledge, increase community trust, and support safer environments for children—on the road, on bikes, and at home.

Safe Kids programming focuses on prevention through education and access. Bike rodeos provide children with a fun, hands-on way to learn road safety, helmet use, and awareness skills that build confidence and reduce injury risk. Together, these efforts strengthen family knowledge, increase community trust, and support safer environments for children—on the road, on bikes, and at home.



Communicable Disease

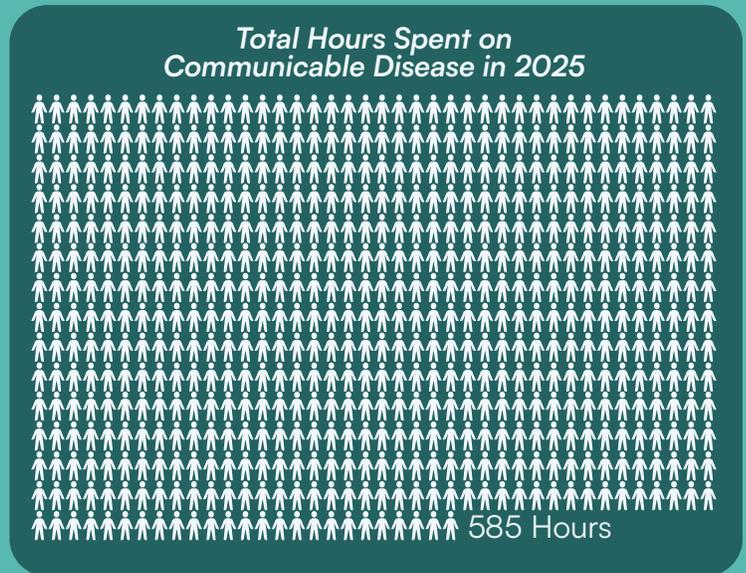
Communicable disease may not be something our community sees every day — but behind the scenes, Garfield County Public Health is actively monitoring, preparing, and responding to protect local health. Even when case numbers are low, this work never stops.

Public health staff stay current on reporting requirements, investigation protocols, and prevention strategies, working closely with healthcare providers, laboratories, and state partners. When a reportable condition arises, staff move quickly to investigate, provide guidance, and support individuals and families with clear, timely information.

This hands-on approach helps prevent the spread of illness, protects vulnerable populations, and ensures the community is prepared when health concerns emerge. Staying ready means being able to act with confidence — whether responding to a single case or preventing a larger outbreak — so families can feel informed, supported, and safe.

What This Looks Like in Practice

- Monitor emerging health concerns
- Investigate and limit disease spread
- Coordinate reporting and follow-up
- Provide clear guidance when action is needed
- Support prevention and vaccination
- Share timely, accurate information



Public Health Leadership in Action

As Garfield County’s Public Health Officer, Dr. Megan Guffey plays a critical role in keeping both staff and the Board of Health informed, prepared, and confident in responding to communicable disease concerns —whether cases occur locally or in surrounding regions.

Dr. Guffey closely monitors communicable disease activity beyond county borders and helps translate emerging information into clear, practical guidance for local decision-makers. She regularly briefs staff and the Board of Health on potential risks, trends, and recommended actions, ensuring leadership stays ahead of evolving public health concerns.

Through education, consultation, and risk assessment, Dr. Guffey helps mitigate potential impacts before they reach the community. Her guidance supports timely planning, informed policy decisions, and coordinated responses—strengthening Garfield County’s ability to act quickly and appropriately when needed.

By providing trusted expertise and steady leadership, Dr. Guffey helps ensure Garfield County Public Health remains proactive, prepared, and grounded in evidence-based practice.

School Nursing Services

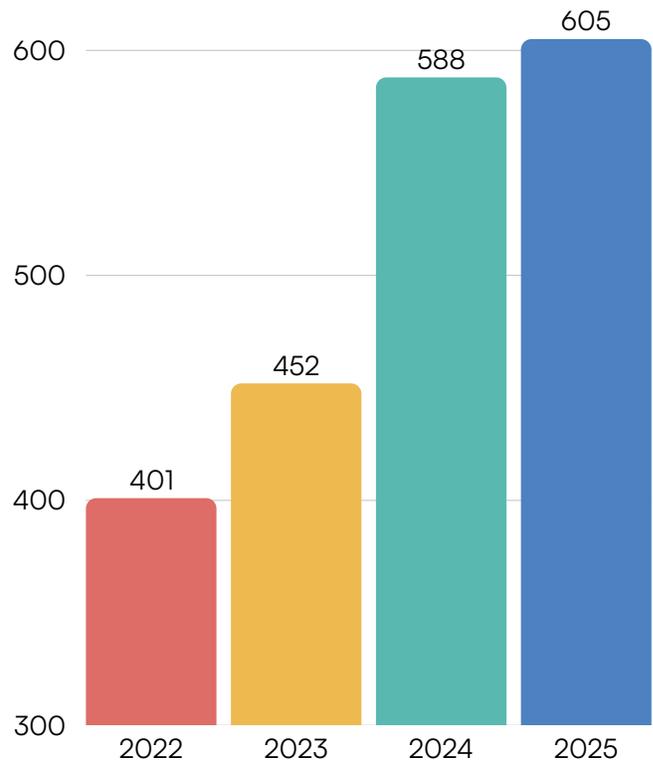
School nursing services remain a trusted safety net for students and families, providing both preventive and responsive care that supports student health, safety, and learning. Our school nurses serve as a consistent, reliable presence in schools, often becoming the first point of contact when a health concern arises during the school day.

What School Nurses Do

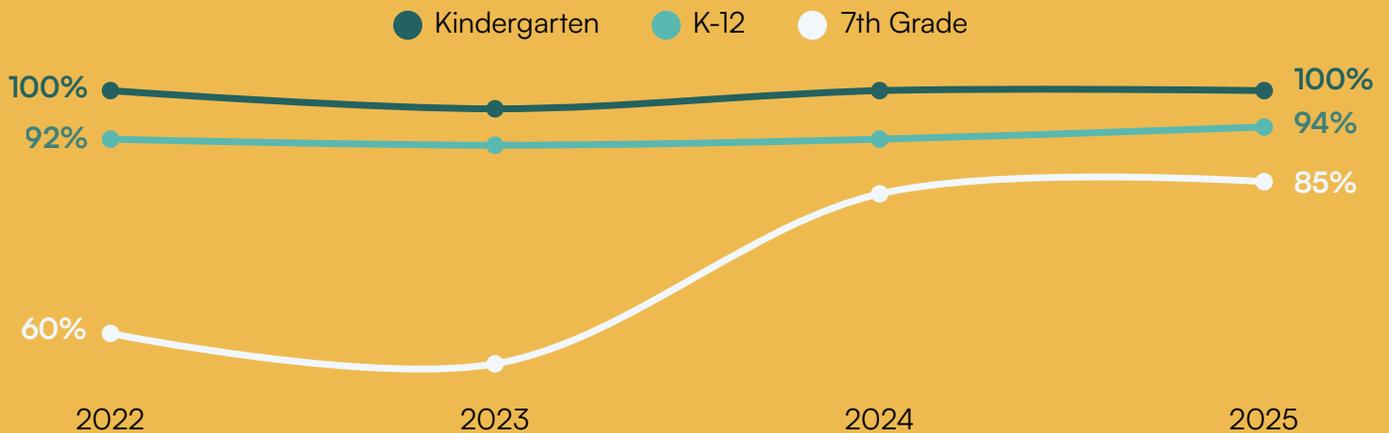
Throughout the year, school nurses:

- Conduct health assessments
- Perform routine screenings, including height, weight, hearing, and vision, to identify concerns early.
- Develop and manage individualized care plans for students with chronic conditions, medical needs, or disabilities.
- Provide day-to-day care for illness, injury, and medication management
- Deliver health education that helps students build lifelong skills around wellness, prevention, and self-care
- Coordinate with parents, educators, and healthcare providers to ensure continuity of care

Total Hours Spent on School Nursing Service by Year



Vaccination Percentage Rates by Year



Supporting Students Beyond the Nurse’s Office

In rural communities, school nurses play a critical role in bridging gaps in healthcare access. By monitoring ongoing health needs, conducting required screenings, helping families connect to care, and responding to health concerns during the school day, they ensure students can safely participate in learning. Their work supports attendance and academic success, strengthens emergency preparedness, and ensures that children with medical needs are fully included at school.



ABCD Dental

Our ABCD dental program brings early oral health education and preventive care to our youngest residents, helping children build healthy habits and connect to dental services before minor issues become emergencies. We reach families across Garfield County by distributing toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other dental hygiene supplies at community events like Main Street Trick-or-Treat and National Night Out, and directly through our local schools.

Children with Special Healthcare Needs

Families of children with special healthcare needs don't just need referrals — they need reassurance, follow-through, and someone who understands how hard it can be to navigate care. We work alongside families to connect them with specialists, early intervention services, and ongoing support, making sure no child slips through the cracks and no family feels alone.



Taking care of local families —whether through the childcare initiative or any of the other programs we offer, like WIC, Garden Class, the Summer Market, and the Louise Munday Walk— matters because they matter. When families feel safe and cared for, they are more likely to make Garfield County their forever home and, in turn, care for others as they have been cared for.

Alesia Ruchert's response when asked "In your role, what part of public health do you feel most proud to support — and why does it matter for a small rural county like ours?"

Building Healthy Habits

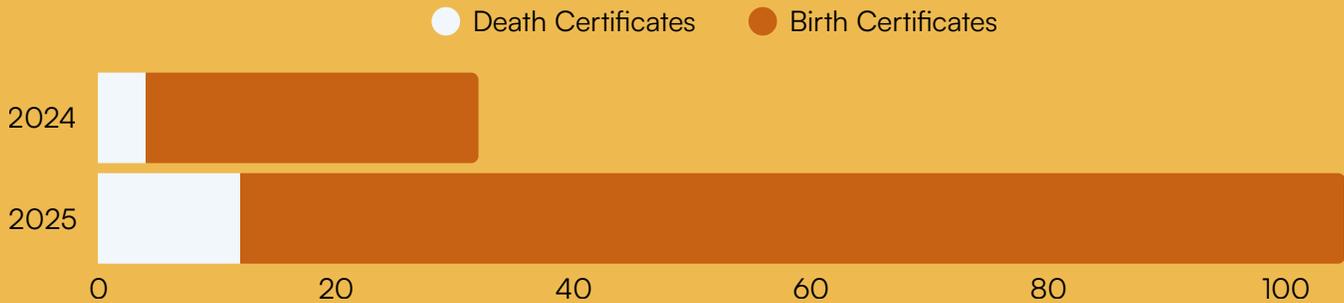
Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness work in Garfield County ensures residents and partner agencies are ready for fires, winter storms, public health emergencies, and other hazards. Staff coordinate drills, maintain and update response plans, and collaborate with local, regional, and state partners to strengthen community readiness.

Team members stay trained in the Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to support unified command during emergencies and are prepared to activate or assist the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) when incidents require a coordinated, multi-agency response. Through consistent planning, training, and collaboration, Garfield County is better equipped to respond quickly, effectively, and safely when emergencies arise.

Vital Records

Vital records are more than paperwork—they provide access to essential services, protect individual rights, and ensure legal recognition of life events. By maintaining accurate records and guiding residents through the request process, Garfield County Public Health helps families move forward with confidence and dignity. Notably, Garfield County Public Health is one of only two health departments within a 100-mile radius to offer same-day birth and death certificates.

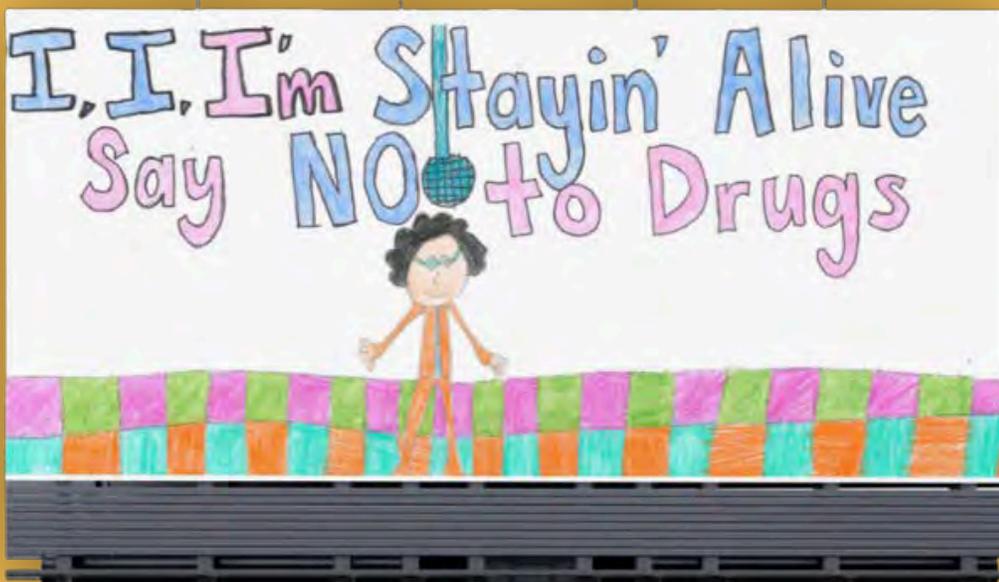


Harm Reduction

Our harm prevention work spans several areas that strengthen safety and awareness across generations. This includes youth cannabis and commercial tobacco prevention, tobacco education and awareness for all ages, access to sharps disposal containers, and safe medication lock boxes.

We also provide education and community training on overdose response, safer use, and substance awareness. Together, these efforts reduce risk, prevent injury, encourage safer behaviors, and connect individuals and families to supportive care — all grounded in compassion and a commitment to reducing stigma in our rural community.

“
I enjoyed Drug Take Back Day this fall and was so thrilled to see the community take our lockboxes and sharps containers. I can remember not that long ago when we would only give out a couple, and this fall we gave out boxes worth.
 ”
Laura Dixon's response when asked "What is one moment from this year when you truly felt the impact of your work on a community member or family"



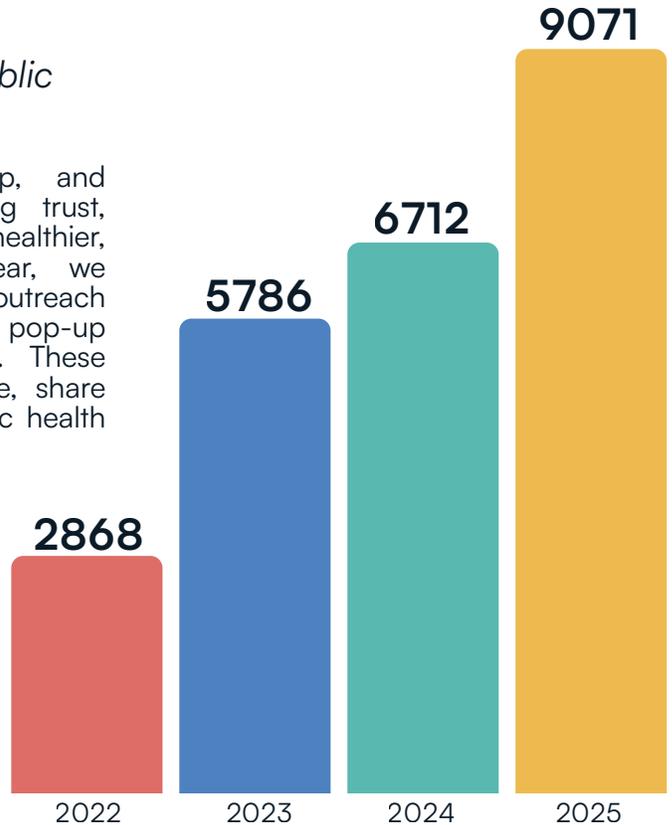
Connecting With the Community

Community connection is at the heart of public health in Garfield County.

Every outreach event, conversation, partnership, and educational activity plays a role in strengthening trust, expanding access to information, and building a healthier, more informed community. Throughout the year, we connected with residents through a wide range of outreach opportunities — including fairs, school activities, pop-up clinics, community walks, and local celebrations. These moments allow us to meet people where they are, share trusted resources, answer questions, and bring public health information into everyday community spaces.

A Year of Growth

Since 2022, Garfield County Public Health has experienced substantial growth in community participation across events and programs. Community impressions increased by more than 6,200, rising from 2,868 in 2022 to 9,071 in 2025. This growth reflects the effectiveness of innovative outreach strategies and the community’s strong commitment to health and wellness, resulting in deeper engagement and stronger connections across Garfield County.



“

I’m most proud to support community engagement and communication. In a small rural county, trust is built face-to-face and through consistency over time. When people recognize public health as a familiar, approachable presence, they’re more likely to ask questions, attend events, and use the resources available to them. That visibility matters here—because access only works if people know we exist and feel comfortable reaching out.

Chelsey Eaton’s response when asked “In your role, what part of public health do you feel most proud to support — and why does it matter for a small rural county like ours?”

Top Program Engagement Increase 2022 v. 2025

↑163%

Garfield Co. Food Bank

↑233%

Louise Munday Walk

↑276%

SAIL Program

↑700%

Red Ribbon Week



A Social Media Recap

2025 marked a year of strong growth and expanded reach for Garfield County Public Health’s social media platforms. Through consistent messaging, timely updates, and community-centered content, our social media channels generated 233,500 total views, helping public health information reach residents where they already are — online and engaged.

Notably, engagement among older adults surpasses that of younger age groups, including residents aged 19–34, challenging common assumptions about who is reached through social media. This broad and unexpected reach allows Garfield County Public Health to share timely, relevant information with the populations most actively seeking and using it, strengthening informed decision-making, trust, and connection across the community.



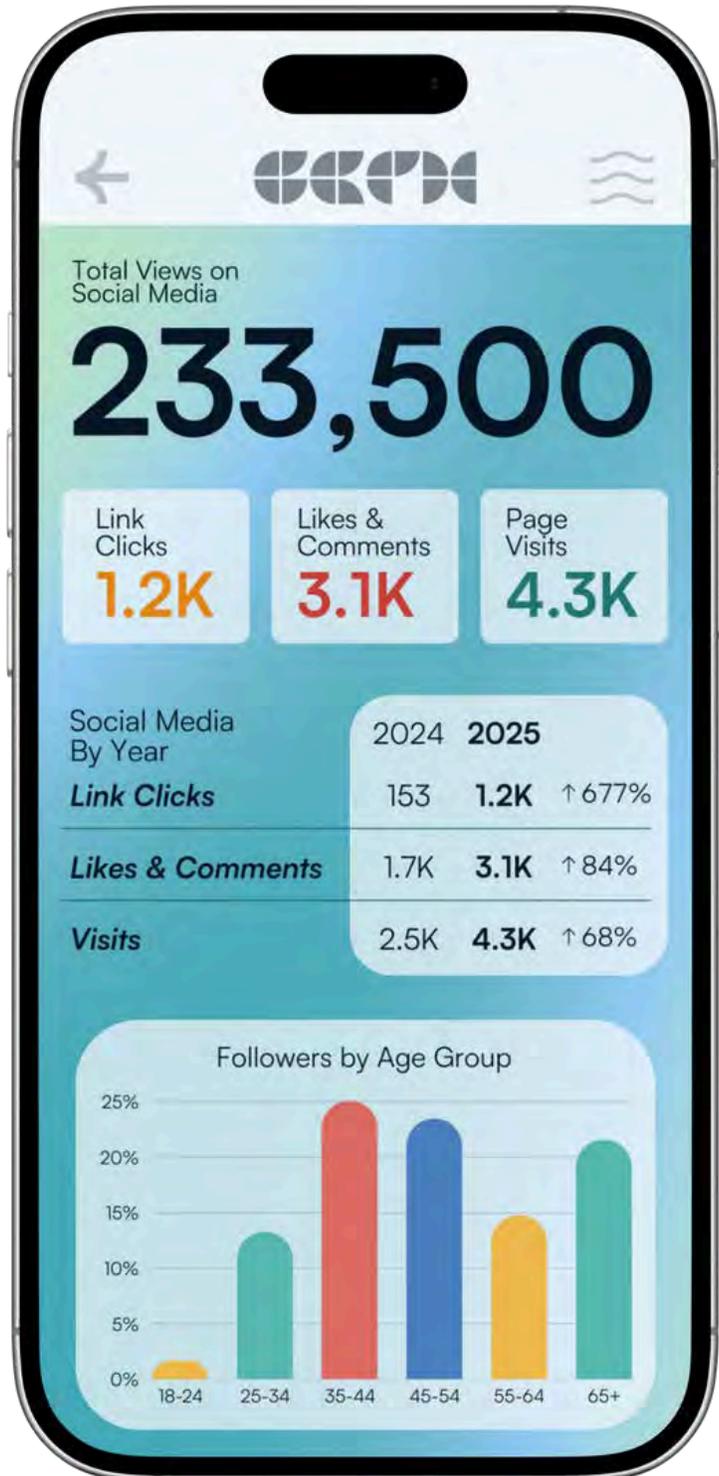
“Remy from Ratatouille— quietly behind the scenes, making complex systems work, and proving that anyone can understand public health.”

Chelsey Eaton’s response when asked “If your program or work area had a mascot, what would it be and what would it represent about your impact?”

It Takes a Village

Through education activities, such as presentations, trainings, awareness campaigns, and hands-on demonstrations, we help residents build lifelong health skills and stay informed about emerging issues — from disease prevention and harm reduction to family supports, emergency preparedness, and environmental health.

None of this happens alone. Our partnerships with schools, businesses, local organizations, service providers, and regional agencies allow us to expand our reach, coordinate resources, and create shared impact across the county. Together, these efforts make a strong, connected public health presence that empowers residents, strengthens community resilience, and builds trust across Garfield County.



Protecting Where We Live

Health is shaped not only by services, but by the environments where people live, work, and gather.

Environmental health is a core way in which Garfield County Public Health protects safety, well-being, and quality of life. Through inspections, monitoring, education, and emergency coordination, this work helps prevent illness, reduce environmental risks, and ensure the places where people live, work, and gather remain safe and healthy.

Food Safety & Inspections

Environmental Health staff conduct routine food safety inspections for restaurants, schools, temporary food vendors, and community events to prevent foodborne illness and protect public health. Inspections focus on risk-based practices such as cleanliness, temperature control, and proper food handling, with an emphasis on education, compliance, and corrective guidance.

Garfield County Public Health partners with Pomeroy High School to provide Food Handler Classes for students enrolled in the Food and Consumer Sciences program.

Through this hands-on training, students learn essential food safety practices, including proper food handling, personal hygiene, temperature control, and prevention of foodborne illness. Completing the class helps prepare students for future employment in food service settings while building lifelong skills that promote health and safety at home and throughout the community.

80
Food Handler
Cards Given

Since 2022, this work has expanded significantly, with Environmental Health nearly doubling the number of food establishment permits supported—from 21 in 2022 to 43 in 2025—demonstrating increased inspection capacity and sustained public health oversight as local food activity grows.

Food Establishment Permits



Septic Systems

Garfield County Public Health oversees septic system permitting, inspections, and education to ensure systems are correctly installed and maintained. This work protects groundwater, prevents contamination, and reduces costly system failures—an especially critical function in a rural county where many households rely on onsite septic systems. Environmental Health permitting protects public health by ensuring onsite wastewater systems are properly planned, installed, and maintained.

- Soil certifications assess site conditions to guide safe system design
- Septic permits regulate installation and inspection
- Installer permits ensure qualified professionals complete the work
- Pumper permits oversee safe waste removal.

Together, these steps prevent system failures, protect groundwater, and keep communities safe.



6 Soil Certificates



18 Septic Permits



4 Installer Permits



2 Pumper Permits



“

Environmental Health plays a direct and everyday role in the safety, resilience, and quality of life in our community. I am proud to be a small part of preventing illnesses, protecting natural resources, and supporting farmers and their families.

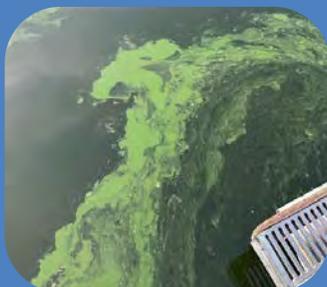
Jessica Nelson’s response when asked “In your role, what part of public health do you feel most proud to support — and why does it matter for a small rural county like ours?”

Water Safety

Ongoing water quality monitoring helps ensure safe drinking water and protects local waterways across Garfield County. A key focus of this work is blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) monitoring, which is especially important during warmer months when harmful blooms are more likely to occur. Public Health conducts seasonal surveillance of lakes, rivers, and recreation areas to identify algae blooms early, assess potential health risks, and issue timely advisories to reduce exposure for people, pets, livestock, and wildlife.

This proactive monitoring helps prevent illness, supports safe recreation, and protects community water sources before problems escalate. In addition, Public Health responds to community concerns, supports small water systems, and provides clear, accessible communication when conditions change.

To further support safe drinking water, Garfield County Public Health offers water sample bottles at its office, allowing residents—particularly those using private wells—to collect samples and submit them to any certified water testing facility for analysis.



“I would say a Mascot for Environmental Health and Farm to School would be a towering Oak Tree. Environmental Health has many branches that focus on a variety of things impacting the environment and public health. EH and Farm to School both have a relationship with soil, water, and air that links us all to our natural surroundings.”

Jessica Nelson’s response when asked “If your program or work area had a mascot, what would it be and what would it represent about your impact?”

SUSTAINING COMMUNITY HEALTH.

The people, investments, and collaborations that strengthen community health for the future.



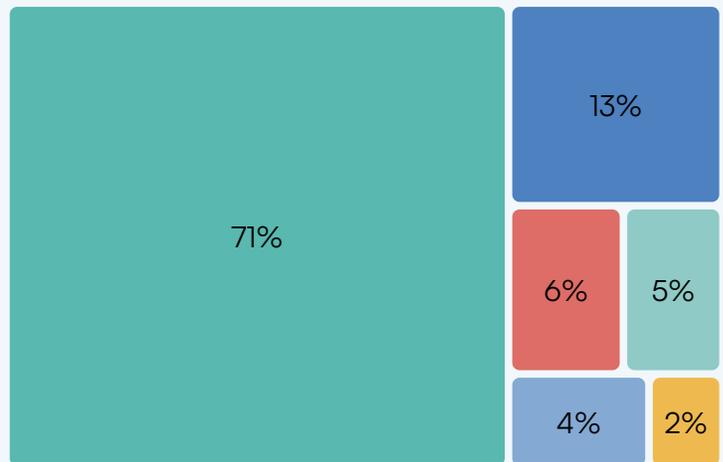
Investing in Community Health

Garfield County Public Health is funded through a mix of local, state, and federal dollars, along with grants that support specific programs.

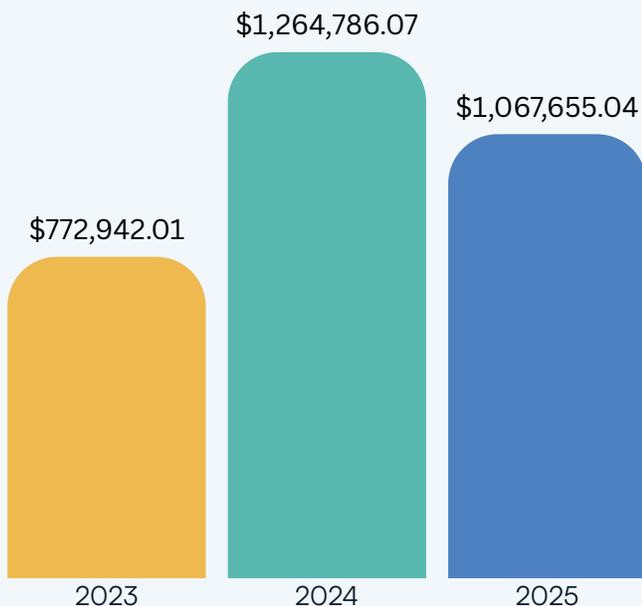
These investments strengthen the programs our community depends on — from disease prevention and environmental health to childcare navigation, outreach, and emergency preparedness. Funding supports the staff, training, tools, and partnerships needed to protect health every day and to respond quickly when challenges arise.

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| ■ FPHS + 5930 | \$763,154.00 |
| ■ Federal | \$135,982.36 |
| ■ State | \$61,011.40 |
| ■ Investment Interest | \$48,933.88 |
| ■ Other/Fees | \$23,323.40 |
| ■ Local | \$16,250.00 |
| Total | \$1,067,655.04 |

Percentage of Income by Funding Source

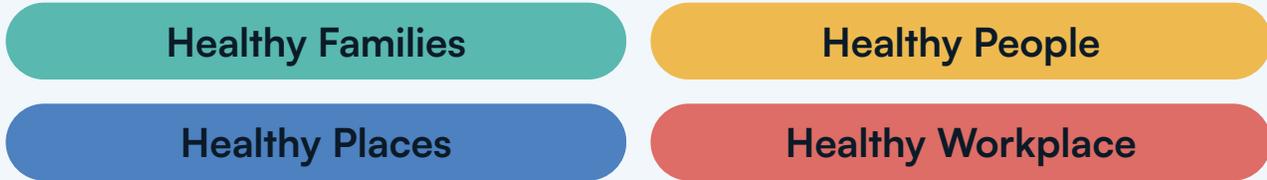


Total Income by Year



Overview of Public Health Flow Charts

These flow charts provide a clear, visual map of how Garfield County Public Health delivers services across four primary impact areas:

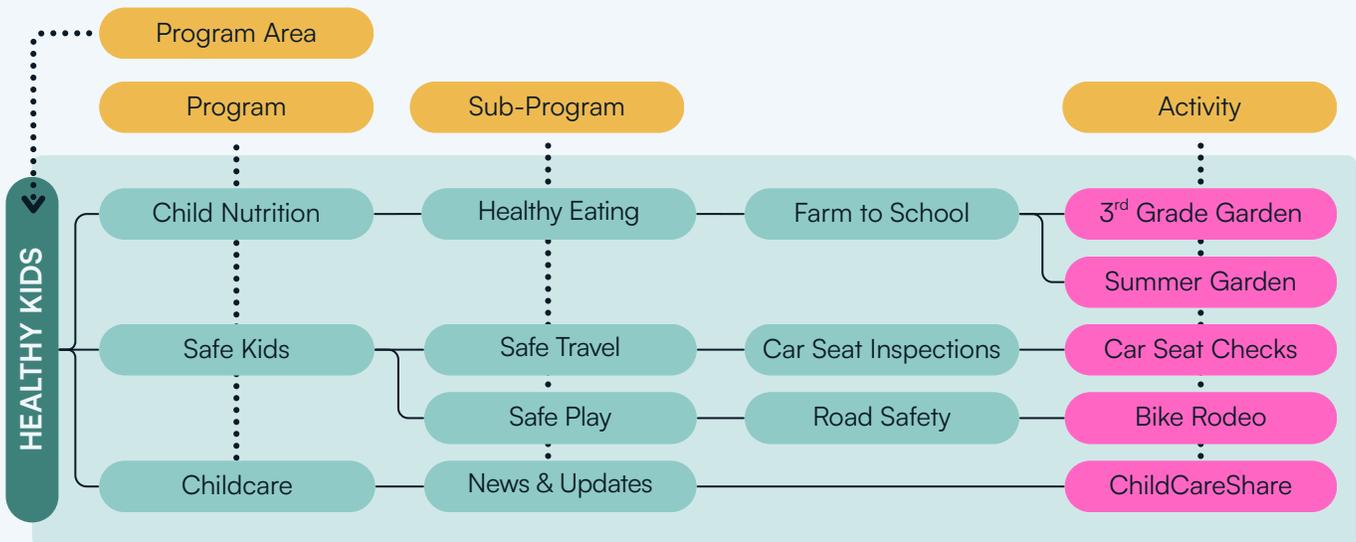


What the Charts Show

Across all four charts, teal, gold, blue, and coral pathways connect program areas to the activities and events they produce. This illustrates:

- How a single program (e.g., Safe Kids) translates into multiple actions (car seat checks, bike rodeo, road safety).
- How education, outreach, clinic assistance, and environmental work all feed into community health outcomes.
- How cross-cutting activities like communication, equity, and emergency preparedness strengthen all program areas.

The visual layout makes it easy to see where work overlaps, where staff collaborate, and how each service fits into the larger public health system.



Why It Matters

The charts provide a clear picture of how a small rural health department delivers broad, essential public health services. They help the Board of Health see:

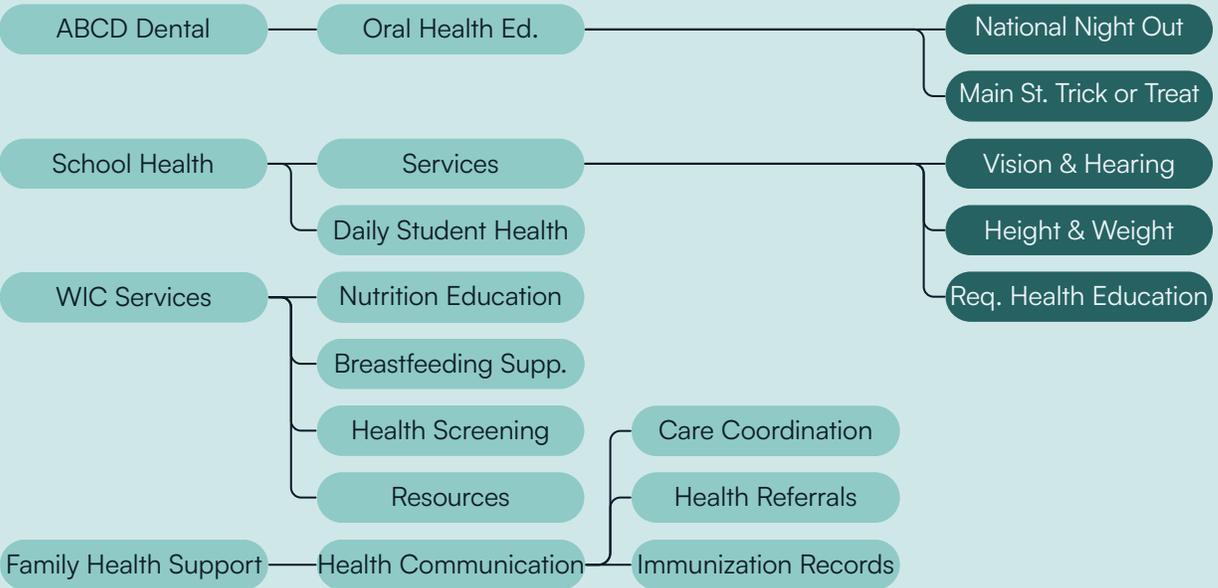
- The full range of programs offered
- How services align with FPHS and state expectations
- Where staff time is focused
- How our work translates into measurable community impact

HEALTHY FAMILIES

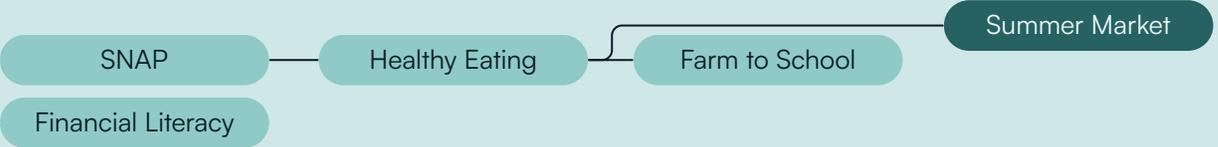
HEALTHY KIDS



NURSING & FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES



FOOD

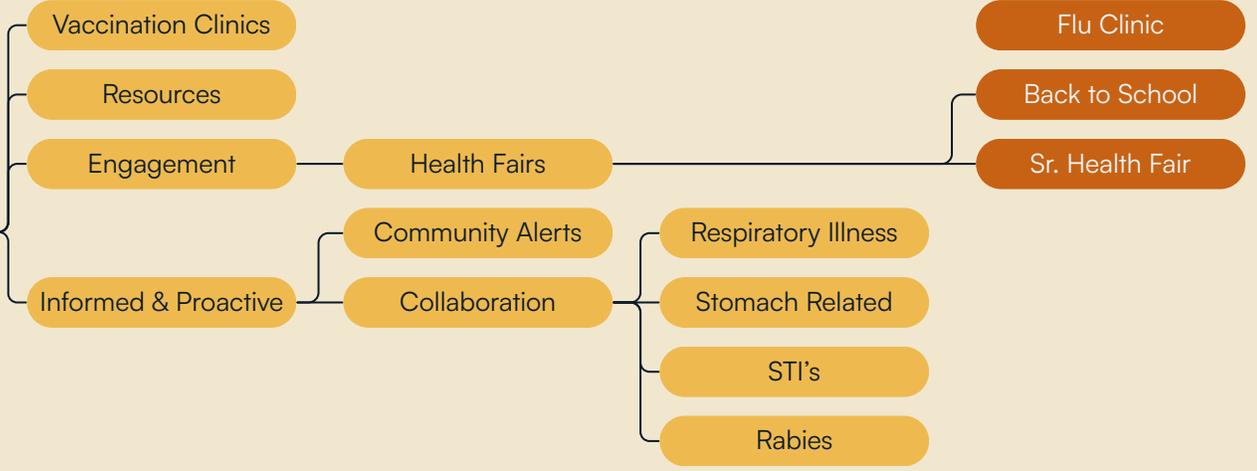


HEALTHY LIVING



HEALTHY PEOPLE

DISEASE PREVENTION



VITAL REC.



PHEP



COMMUNITY DATA

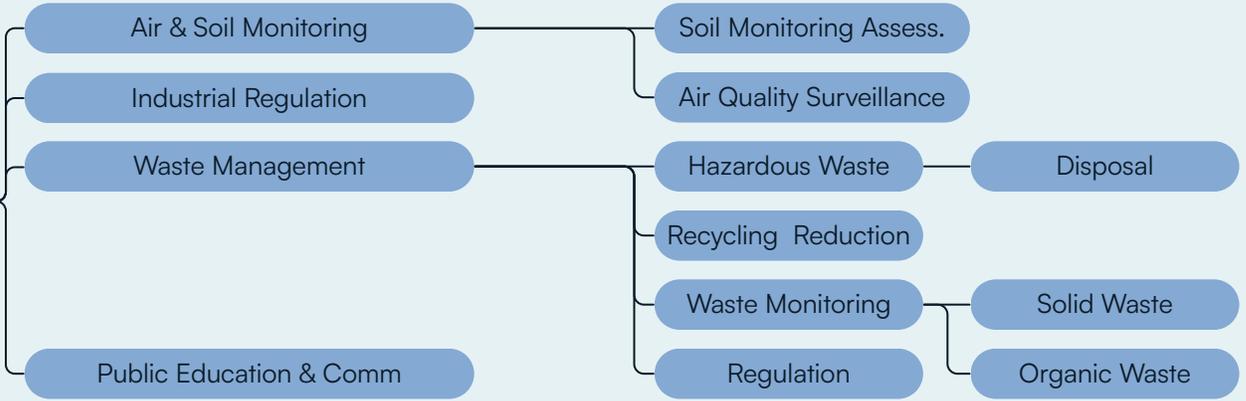


HARM REDUCTION

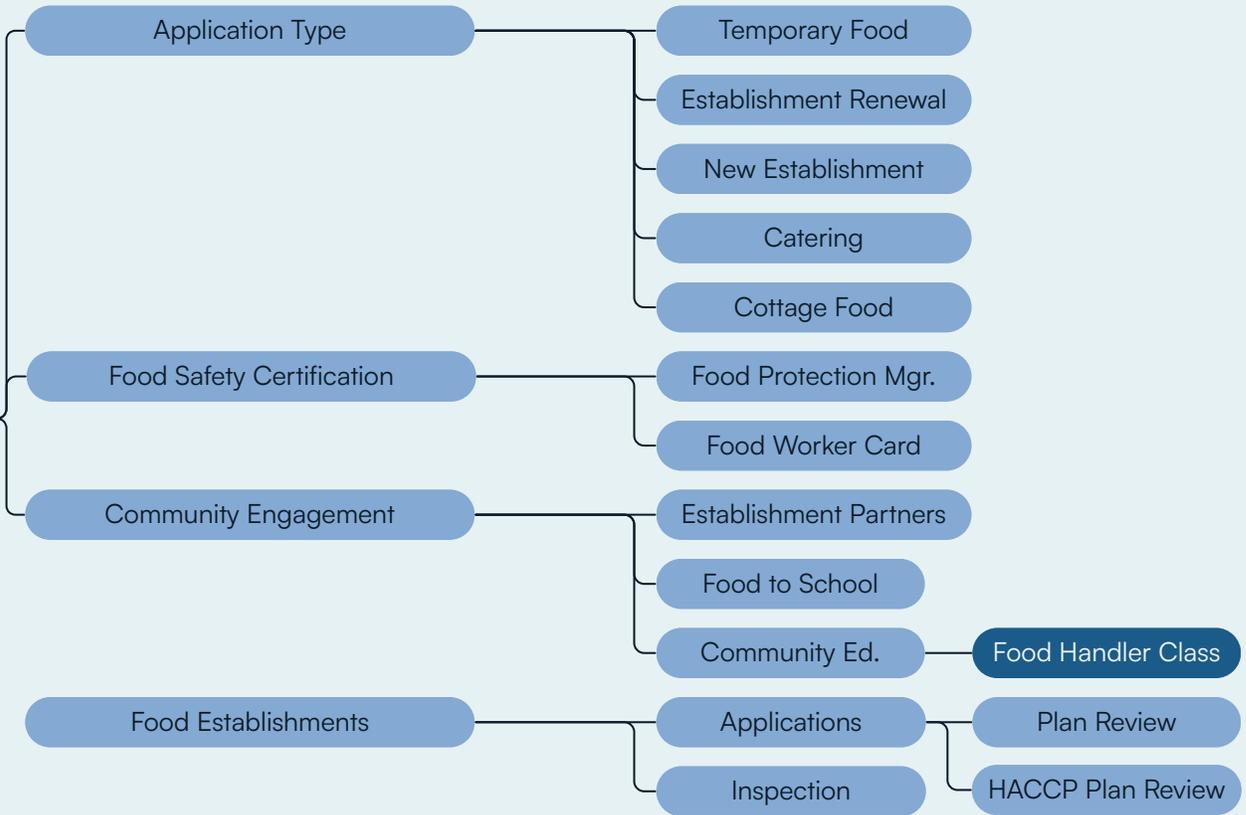


HEALTHY PLACES

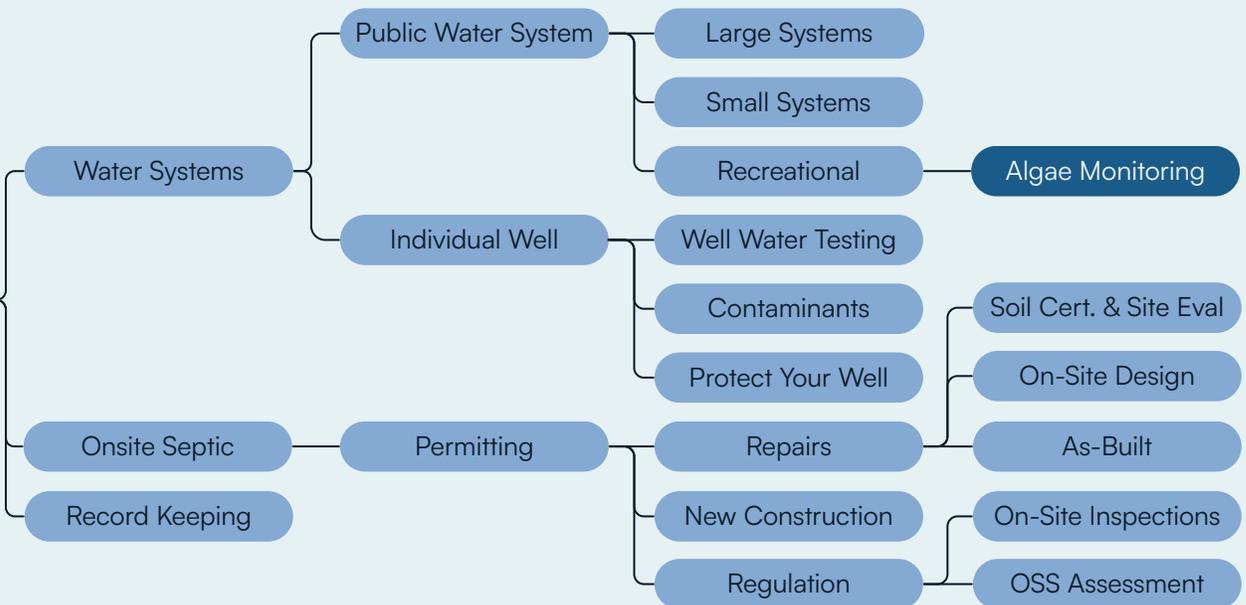
HAZARDS & TOXINS



FOOD SAFETY

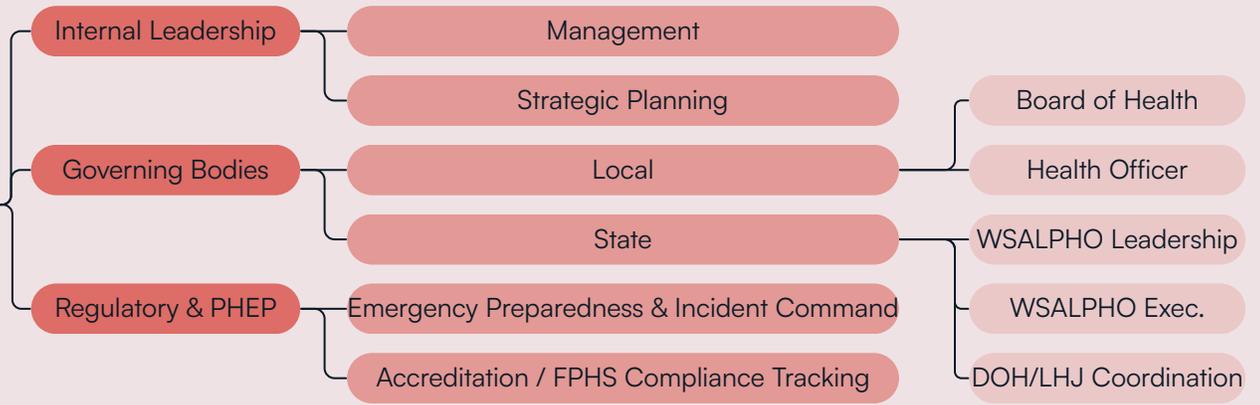


LAND DEVELOP



HEALTHY WORKPLACE

LEADERSHIP/GOVERNANCE



EQUITY



OFFICE IMPROVEMENT



COMMUNICATION



WORKFORCE



The People Behind the Work

Board of Health

Jim Nelson, Chair
Garfield County Commissioner

Justin Dixon
Garfield County Commissioner

Larry Ledgerwood
Garfield County Commissioner

Mathew Slaybaugh
Board Member

Patty Blachly
Board Member

Vonni Mulrony
Board Member

Public Health Staff



Martha Lanman
Administrator



Dr. Megan Guffey
Health Officer



Elizabeth Stringer
Public Health Nurse



Jackie Tetrick
Public Health Nurse



Laura Dixon
Fiscal Manager



Chelsey Eaton
Program Coordinator



Jessica Nelson
EH Specialist



Alesia Ruchert
Childcare Navigator

Looking Ahead Together

The health of our community is not shaped by a single program, grant, or year — it is built over time through trust, partnership, and shared commitment. As we look ahead, Garfield County Public Health remains focused on strengthening the systems, relationships, and supports that help our community thrive at every stage of life.

The past year reinforced a simple truth: community voice matters. Listening to residents, responding to local needs, and working alongside trusted partners will continue to guide our priorities and investments. From expanding access to childcare and mental health supports to strengthening food security, environmental health, and opportunities for connection, our work moving forward is rooted in what our community has told us matters most.

Looking ahead, we are committed to:

- Deepening community partnerships that amplify impact and reduce barriers to care
- Building sustainable infrastructure that supports long-term health and resilience
- Investing in prevention and early support, especially for children, families, and older adults
- Using data and lived experience together to guide decisions and measure progress
- Remaining adaptable and responsive as community needs continue to evolve

Public health is not something we do for the community — it is something we build with the community. Every conversation, collaboration, and shared effort moves us closer to a healthier, more connected Garfield County.

As we move forward, we do so together — grounded in community, guided by trust, and committed to a healthier future for all.

- Garfield County Public Health Team



