



# The Kansas City Physical Activity Plan

## Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) & Parks: A Strategic Partnership for Health

### What is a CHIP?

A Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a long-term, strategic roadmap developed by public health agencies and community partners. It addresses the most pressing health issues in a community, based on data from a Community Health Assessment (CHA).



### How often are CHIPs updated?

CHIPs are generally updated every three to five years by local and state health departments, based on community needs, resources, and accreditation standards. Additionally, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires nonprofit hospitals to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and develop a CHIP at least once every three years.

### Case Example: Johnson County, Kansas ✓

Johnson County, Kansas updates its CHIP on a three-year cycle. The most recent CHIP was released in 2025, following the standard practice of aligning with the CHA process

Johnson County's CHIP focuses on:



Suicide Prevention



Opioid Misuse and  
Overdose  
Prevention



Safe, Stable, and  
Attainable Housing



Social  
Connectedness

### Where to find your local CHIP?

To find your local CHIP, visit your city or county health department's website, usually under "Community Health," "Public Health," or "Reports & Plans." Larger areas may have dedicated CHIP pages with full reports and updates. If unavailable online, check your state's public health department or collaborative, as they may host regional CHIPs. If online searches fail, contact your local health department for assistance. CHIPs may also be found at public libraries, community centers, or local government offices, as they are public documents.



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## How CHIP Data Supports Park Programs

### Guiding Program Design

If mental health is a priority, parks can offer:

- Mindfulness walks
- Nature therapy
- Youth mentorship programs

### Targeting Resources

CHIP data identifies neighborhoods with the greatest need, helping parks:

- Prioritize underserved areas
- Allocate resources effectively

### Evaluating Impact

Parks can:

- Align goals with CHIP objectives
- Use shared metrics to measure health outcomes

### Benefits of CHIP-Aligned Park Programs

- **Align with Health Goals:** Offer fitness classes, walking trails, or mental wellness events.
- **Target Underserved Areas:** Invest in communities with poor health outcomes.
- **Build Partnerships:** Collaborate with health departments, schools, and nonprofits.
- **Secure Funding:** Increase eligibility for public health and philanthropic grants.

## Citations

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