

AROOSTOOK COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP (A-CHIP)



A LOCAL APPROACH

The Aroostook Area Agency on Aging, a local social services agency, is the leader and convener of A-CHIP, a local community partnership comprised of representatives from health care, social services, and public health. They are one of three [Rural Community Health Improvement Partnerships \(R-CHIP\)](#) demonstration sites in Maine transforming how local health systems operate to better address health-related social needs and improve health outcomes.

A-CHIP has spent the last 18 months establishing their partnership, creating governance structures, conducting a detailed readiness assessment, identifying priority health-related social needs (HSRNs) of their communities, and developing strategies to address those needs. They have also sought funding opportunities to support implementation of their identified strategies.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- High level of engagement among key partner organizations in healthcare, behavioral health, transportation, education, public health, housing and tribal communities.
- Completed extensive lived experience research, reaching 800 residents via survey and conducting 60 key informant interviews, which allowed us to identify transportation, belonging, and access to care as initial priorities.
- Assessed readiness for change and addressed gaps necessary to enable ongoing work.

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

Address Priority Transportation Needs

Initiate an implementation project to improve the acceptability of public transit for non-emergency medical transportation.

Community Voice

Continue to center the lived experience of County residents, ensuring that our work is responsive to the realities of life in our remote rural context.

Strengthen Partnership

Integrate strategic insights from leaders, foster participant relationships, and onboard new organizations to enhance collaborative, systems-level impact.

LEAD ORGANIZATION:
AROOSTOOK AREA AGENCY
ON AGING

LEAD SECTOR:
SOCIAL SERVICES

PARTNERSHIP LOCATION:
AROOSTOOK COUNTY

**YEAR PARTNERSHIP WAS
FOUNDED:**
2023

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
20

WHAT COMMUNITY PARTNERS ARE SAYING ABOUT A-CHIP

“The strategies developed in this process have successfully identified how several sectors can collaborate to provide direct services and access to services. I think once the plan is fully implemented, there is a lot of capacity for more community partners to add utilize the network.”

-A-CHIP Community Partner

“We dedicated our response to a problem and are moving ahead to fix it.”

-A-CHIP Community Partner