

# DOWNEAST HOUSING COLLABORATIVE (DHC)



## A LOCAL APPROACH

Healthy Acadia, a local social services organization, is the leader and convener of DHC, 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.

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

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Built trust with 19 cross-sector partners that are fully engaged and committed to improving the health and well-being of residents in our local communities.
- Successfully conducted a community readiness assessment to uncover priority health-related social needs in our region. (ex: housing, mental health, workforce development)
- Developed a robust regional implementation plan across the continuum of care, to address housing insecurity and related social needs.

## PRIORITY STRATEGIES

### Housing Interventions

Utilize the implementation plan to offer solutions and interventions across the continuum of housing – including our focus areas: emergency housing, supportive housing, low-income housing, moderate-income housing.

### Deepen Partnerships

Work collaboratively with our partners to continuously identify priority health needs of our communities and develop strategies to address them.

### Amplify Community Voice

Ensure that community voice and lived experience shape our interventions and strategies.

**LEAD ORGANIZATION:**  
HEALTHY ACADIA

**LEAD SECTOR:**  
SOCIAL SERVICES

**PARTNERSHIP LOCATION:**  
HANCOCK + WASHINGTON  
COUNTIES

**YEAR PARTNERSHIP WAS  
FOUNDED:**  
2023

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**  
19

## WHAT COMMUNITY PARTNERS ARE SAYING ABOUT DHC

“The collaborative has supported us in building stronger connections between services.”

-DHC Community Partner

“We appreciate the focus on HRSNs and the ability to focus more specifically on housing, as this is a critical issue for our communities. The process of governance, then readiness assessment, then implementation plan development is excellent as well.”

-DHC Community Partner