Clinton County Health Department
Division of Health Planning & Promotion
Annual Report 2019
Clinton County Health Department

Vision
Clinton County…Healthy People in a Healthy Community

Mission
Our mission is to improve and protect the health, well-being, and environment of the people of Clinton County

Core Values
Advocacy, Collaboration, Excellence, Innovation, Integrity, Service

Health Planning and Promotion Division

Overview
The Health Planning and Promotion Division uses evidenced-based practices to promote and plan community based interventions. It supports healthy lifestyles and chronic disease risk reduction through built environment improvement and system and policies changes.

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On the cover: CCHD helped coordinate a series of cooking classes that gave residents hands-on experience prepping locally sourced ingredients.
Executive Overview

The Health Planning & Promotion (HPP) team jumped into 2019 with big plans to challenge themselves and the status quo.

For the second year in a row, the team helped facilitate over 40 health related policies across the region and continued to engage the community through a number of coalitions and educational opportunities. HPP was also prominently involved in the Community Health Assessment throughout the year and demonstrated its ability to adapt to and integrate learning from past experiences in garnering resident and stakeholder input throughout the process. Read more on page 6. You’ll also see HPP applied its skills to streamline newsletters and communication pieces, like the Profiles in Public Health series. And HPP used its experience in public health detailing and community engagement to connect public health to local health system transformation efforts. This project was selected as HPP’s Featured Initiative on page 9. HPP wrapped up formal work in food pantries across the region but will continue to support healthy donations and work that strengthens the local food system. In fact, a lot of work in 2019 focused on reducing food insecurity.

As planned, many new activities were undertaken in 2019, setting the division up for an exciting 2020. HPP was able to help the Department pilot test a tracking mechanism for participation in community events. The combined data is giving the agency a clearer picture of how it is engaging the community and who it is reaching. More work will be done on this cross-divisional collaboration in 2020. HPP was also able to secure funding through new sources, diversifying not only its partners but its range of health promotion activities. These new projects, like one that will provide education on food scraps recycling, will get underway in 2020.

In short, 2019 proved that while HPP enjoys trying new things, it also likes the challenge of improving upon its previous work that has shown promise and sharing its growing expertise.
Featured Community Partnerships

Partner Nurse Program

The Partner Nurse Program (PNP) connects local health care professionals in clinical practice to those in community preventive services. In 2019, PNP added 5 additional healthcare practices to the program and now visits 37 health services sites in the county quarterly. Receptiveness of the program remains high and providers are accommodating longer face-to-face visits. In 2020, the PNP will pilot a new program approach, providing information electronically, in an effort to reduce paper consumption and increase access to shared materials within health care practices.

Team Adirondack Breakfast and Lunch Educators (TABLE)

Team Adirondack Breakfast and Lunch Educators is a partnership between local school food service directors and the Clinton County Health Department. TABLE meets monthly to share best practices and tackle work plan goals. This past year they worked on harvest of the month projects, school wellness policy reviews/revisions and healthy celebrations. In August, TABLE held its third annual Summer School Food Service Professional Academy for over 100 staff from ten area school districts. The training covers education on topics such as food safety, offer vs. serve and cafeteria safety. Most school food service staff meet 100% of their annual training requirements by attending.

Tobacco Use Reduction Network (& T21)

Tobacco (T) 21, an effort to raise the minimum age of sale for the purchase of tobacco products, gained enough momentum in 2019 to become law in New York State. In December 2019, T-21 became federal law. The Clinton County Tobacco Use Reduction Network (TURN) was a leader in educating local decision makers about the benefits of this legislation. As facilitator for TURN, HPP also helped the group establish goals and objectives to address the rapidly growing epidemic of youth vaping. The Network hosted two forums for legislators and community members; participated in two radio (WIRY) interviews; and issued two media releases in addition to individual member organization activities to address all forms of tobacco use. Tobacco Prevention has been selected as a focus area in the 2019-2021 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).
Breastfeeding in Clinton County

The Clinton County Breastfeeding Coalition coordinates collaborative efforts to support breastfeeding families across the county. In 2019, the group completed follow-up visits to local pharmacies to deliver new versions of the Thomas Hale book, *Medications and Mother’s Milk*. The *Cozy Corner* breastfeeding tent, was placed at six community events throughout the county to encourage and support breastfeeding in public.

CCHD celebrated its 5th year of collecting infant feeding data from Clinton County pediatric practices in 2019. This data is the most locally sensitive of its kind. It is used to monitor the status of breastfeeding in Clinton County and to develop community level interventions aimed at increasing initiation and duration of breastfeeding. A one page summary detailing findings and shared accomplishments was created. Data has shown a 6.5% increase in breastfeeding rates since 2013 and 75% of all Clinton County babies born in 2017 received some breastmilk. The coalition continues to analyze local breastfeeding data to identify gaps in services. The gains seen in breastfeeding reflect the results of clinical-community partnerships to increase support and education throughout Clinton County.

Community Support for Breastfeeding: 2018 Highlights

- **45** The number of local restaurants who currently participate in the *Breastfeeding Welcome Here* campaign.
- **7** The number of worksites the CCBFC assisted in 2018 to receive "Breastfeeding Friendly" designation.
- **5** The number of community events using the *Cozy Corner* (a comfy space for families to relax), in 2018.
- **18** The number of partners currently represented on the Clinton County Breastfeeding Coalition.

Trends in local breastfeeding were summarized in a one-page handout (available at [www.clintonhealth.org/cbfc](http://www.clintonhealth.org/cbfc)). The handout celebrated community support.

Public Health Connection Newsletter

The *Public Health Connection (PHC)* is a quarterly 2-page newsletter providing current local public health information to health care providers and specialists. While the newsletter seeks contributions from all divisions and staff at CCHD, HPP staff plan, coordinate, format, edit and distribute the publication. Since its inception in the early 90s, the newsletter has undergone many revisions, but has remained a vital link for direct communication to medical providers within the community. In 2019, the publication’s template was redesigned by HPP staff to enhance readability and professional style of the document. Each quarter the newsletter is distributed to nearly 150 local health care providers, school nurses, and pharmacists, many of whom share further within their practices. The PHC is available on CCHD’s website at [www.clintonhealth.org/newsletters](http://www.clintonhealth.org/newsletters).
Community Engagement and Education Activities

- 89% of attendees at educational events reported a gain in health knowledge.
- Created over 250 traditional and social media engagements.
- Facilitated 41 health related policies.
- Supported 16 built environment/ activated spaces projects.

Featured Events and Activities

Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN) Wellness Education Series

For several years, HPP has offered educational sessions to clients of BHSN’s Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds group. In 2019, HPP completed ten educational sessions with almost 200 participants on topics including physical activity, summer safety, and staying well. More than half of the participants reported gaining confidence, motivation, or skills to make health-related changes by participating in the session, and 63% indicated an increased interest to learn more.

Sun Safety Initiative

Through funding received from the Adirondack Rural Health Network in 2019, HPP was able to increase the number sunscreen dispensers throughout Clinton County. Dispensers are now located at 21 sites commonly used for outdoor recreation. Community partners are helping maintain the dispensers. Sun safety messages reached more than 700 residents at community events this past year. Messages were viewed almost 10,000 times across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The CCHD Summer Safety Guide also highlighted sun safety tips for residents. HPP staff completed a second survey of residents to assess the practice of key sun safety behaviors and to determine if messaging and resources have influenced how residents protect their skin. In 2020 CCHD will release a summary report detailing the results of that survey and sun safety will also be a topic addressed in an upcoming Profile in Public Health.

Profiles in Public Health

CCHD’s Profiles in Public Health provide the department with an opportunity to explore current public health issues of local relevance, offering context for readers. Collaborating with content experts throughout the department, HPP staff are responsible for the development of these publications. The Profiles differ from traditional educational documents created by the department, and instead detail a comprehensive review of an issue. The state of the issue is described and supported by local data, when available. Recommended actions for residents, healthcare professionals, and community leaders are also detailed in the reports. In 2019, issues highlighted included food safety and rabies. All of CCHD’s Profiles in Public Health may be accessed in the ‘Statistical Data’ section of CCHD’s website (www.clintonhealth.org/#xl_xr_page_default_sdata).
Action for Health & the 2019-2021 Community Health Assessment (CHA)

After a year-long process, Clinton County health partners selected the area’s two health priorities that will be the focus of collaborative work over the next three years. To do this, staff from CCHD and CVPH facilitated/oversaw: two community-based, health-related surveys; a review of over 300 health indicators; a priority setting session; a finalization process; and the creation of shared action plans. A new format for the Community Health Priority Setting Session was piloted and resulted in participation from 11 different community sectors at the event. An increased reliance on engaging infographics over charts and graphs and a simplified final CHA document were also noted improvements in the process.

Action for Health members continued to meet every other month throughout the year to monitor progress in the current Community Health Improvement Plan and review new health data, resources, emerging opportunities and potential threats to health.

Community Health Assessment Resident Survey
As part of the CHA process, CCHD surveyed Clinton County residents about community health. Residents were asked to identify features of a strong, vibrant, healthy community; for their opinions on health, social and environmental challenges in the community; to identify health and social challenges and any barriers to medical care experienced by themselves or a family member within the past year; and for demographic information about individual respondents and their households.

Over a five-month period, HPP staff developed, fielded, and analyzed the results of the survey. The survey was made available to community members through a web-based link, as well as through paper copies. An email with the web-based link URL was sent to many community partners (10 school districts, 2 universities, more than 250 worksites, and 18 municipalities) and in-person survey fielding was completed at a number of community events. CCHD’s Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages were utilized to promote the survey through 9 social media posts.

A total of 1,573 responses were received (1,378 of which were complete and from Clinton County residents). After taking this resident input and stakeholder voting results from the Priority Setting Session into consideration, Clinton County will maintain its current priority health areas of Prevent Chronic Diseases and Promote Well-being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders. The full survey summary and CHA can be found on the department’s website (http://www.clintonhealth.org/pdf%20files/CHA.pdf).
Community Engagement and Education Activities, Featured Data

HPP Education Activities 2015-2019

- Professional Educational Events
- Community Education Events

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Estimated Number of Participants in Education Activities, 2019

- Professional Participants: 962
- Community Participants: 864

HPP Traditional Media Engagements, 2019

- Type of Media: Radio, Newspaper, Press Releases, TV/News

HPP Social Media Engagements, 2019

- Type of Media: Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Blog

Health Related Policies Facilitated by HPP, 2015-2019

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2019 Health Related Policies Facilitated by HPP

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<tr>
<td>School Wellness Policy</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worksite Healthy Food &amp; Beverage Policy</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite Policy</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>41</strong></td>
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Social Media at CCHD

A comprehensive work plan guided the activities of the Social Media Team (SMT) throughout 2019, resulting in significant growth across social media platforms. The Team, led by HPP staff, saw changes in division representatives from Environmental Health & Safety and Health Planning & Promotion. Engaging staff throughout the department in social media initiatives was central to 2019 activities. Frequent social media updates and communications from the SMT were provided to staff via email and in-person at Agency and Division-level meetings. Staff knowledge regarding the process for social media submissions and familiarity with CCHD’s social media applications was reassessed and compared to 2018 responses, resulting in revisions and simplification to CCHD’s Social Media Guidance and Submission forms. Targeted social media campaigns, such as *10 Tips to Stay Well* and *CCHD Loves Our Pets*, sought additional engagement from staff. Lastly, many programs and initiatives included social media in their plans and activities, resulting in a diverse representation of CCHD across social media platforms.

To evaluate effectiveness of 2018 and 2019 social media activities in increasing viewership and community reach of CCHD’s social media, a Facebook analysis was repeated, assessing page data and post activity from 7/1/18 to 6/30/19. Findings were compared to a 2018 analysis assessing 7/1/17 to 6/30/18; notably CCHD post reach, impressions and engagement all increased. Other social media activities during 2019 were intended to improve efficiency within the Team, including a post database and ‘how to’ guidance for members.

| CCHD Social Media Account Followers (by application from 12/31/18 to 12/31/19) |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------|
|                               | Account Followers |
|                               | 2018 | 2019 | % Increase |
| Facebook                      | 1,670 | 2,553 | 53% |
| Twitter                       | 211  | 292  | 38% |
| Instagram                     | 485  | 813  | 68% |

Goals for 2020 include: standardizing a CCHD social media introduction for new staff; defining a social media campaign for the department; utilizing new features on CCHD social media applications, such as *Stories* and *Livestream*; and increasing awareness of CCHD’s role within the community. In addition, the SMT will reassess staff knowledge regarding CCHD social media processes and platforms, and provide staff social media ‘refreshers’.
Featured HPP Initiative

Leading Local Health Care Transformation: A Public Health, ACO and Primary Care Collective

Initiative Highlights
- Over 70% of targeted practices participated.
- 63% of practices demonstrated process improvements.
- Social media messages were viewed over 12,000 times.

In 2019, CCHD partnered with the Adirondacks Accountable Care Organization (ACO) to work collaboratively with local primary care providers on a practice-level quality improvement project and a coordinated community-based patient education campaign. The project aimed to improve practice performance while simultaneously increasing patient awareness and practice of preventive health behaviors.

The pilot project topic chosen in 2019 was the pediatric-to-adult health care transition. This was selected based on metrics identified by the local ACO as needing improvement; specifically, attendance of well visits by persons 7-11 years, 12-19 years, and 20-44 years of age. Once the topic was identified, HPP staff and the ACO worked together to develop project objectives, a timeline, and to identify evidence-based resources available for use in the project.

Simultaneous to practice-level QI projects, a community campaign was developed and launched by HPP staff to increase awareness among adolescents and parents of their responsibilities. Fourteen social media messages were created and shared 34 times across 3 different platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). A blog on the topic was also published. In addition, CCHD worked with the SUNY Plattsburgh Communications Department and produced 8 PSAs that were distributed to 14 regional radio stations.

2019 Analysis:
- Collaborative approach acknowledges limited resources, especially time, by all partners.
- Shorter project periods are realistic for practice based systems and process changes.
- A definition for a “community campaign” would assure consistency and clarity among partners.

Focus for 2020:
- Share pilot project outcomes with stakeholders across the region.
- Develop a definition for a CCHD social media “community campaign”.
- Apply partnership process to one new health system performance metric.
Grant Funded Initiatives

Healthy Neighborhood Initiative

The Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative (HNI) supports the efforts of individual communities to expand opportunities for physical activity across the spectrum of age and ability. In 2019, HNI helped communities increase their capacity to engage residents and access resources to enhance existing spaces or create new opportunities. HNI also helped small, independent convenience stores offer and promote healthier food choices, and worked to recruit a convenience store chain to the family of Better Choice Retailers (BCRs).

2019 Program Highlights

- Sub-awards and technical assistance were provided to 3 communities to enhance spaces for physical activity.
- Two community liaisons received grant-writing assistance; one successful application garnered project funding.
- A Try-Five Challenge was initiated to encourage use of trails and walking paths in Clinton County.

The Towns of Champlain and Chazy and the Village of Dannemora applied for 2019 HNI sub-awards. Each combined their award with other funding to create multi-generational physical activity options in their respective communities. HNI also continued to support previous sub-award recipients as they made additional improvements to their sites. A workshop to introduce the ioby - 2019 Healthy Neighborhoods Challenge resulted in three communities (Towns of Champlain, Chazy and Altona) receiving technical assistance to conduct community-driven crowdfunding campaigns and gain matching funds. HNI’s Try 5 Challenge aims to increase use of Clinton County trails by all residents but especially those who are novice hikers.

2019 Analysis:

- Moderate changes within most Better Choice Retailer locations are holding. Continued attention is needed to help stores increase their healthy options.
- Communities are actively seeking opportunities to enhance local spaces so that more residents of varying ages and abilities can take part in healthy physical activity.
- Collaboration with Champlain Area Trails in 2019 will help sustain the momentum of HNI’s trail promotion activities when the HNI funding period ends.

Focus for 2020:

- Onboard 12 Stewarts Shoppes into the BCR program.
- Work with grant funders (NYSHF) to identify areas for continued support.
- Launch a new grant funded project that will focus on pedestrian and active transportation.
Creating Healthy Schools and Communities

Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) is a five-year (2015-2020) coordinated, multi-sector public health initiative, funded by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), to reduce major risk factors for obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases in 85 high-need school districts and communities statewide. With a goal of increasing demand for and access to healthy, affordable foods and opportunities for daily physical activity, CHSC uses evidenced-based policies, place-based strategies, and promising practices to meet its goals. CCHD partners with the Essex County Health Department to carry out grant objectives in targeted communities in Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties.

2019 Program Highlights

- 100% of participating schools have completed WellSAT 2.0 post-assessments.
- 14 worksites were recruited into the Better Choice Workplace program; 11 sites adopted Healthy Food and Beverage Policies.
- 26 worksites completed state mandated post-assessments.
- 2 towns adopted Complete Streets Resolutions.
- 4 CHSC communities worked on Complete Streets concept plans.

Year 4 of the CHSC grant has been successful in implementing a comprehensive, community-based approach to increasing opportunities for physical activity and improved nutrition for people across the age span. CHSC has made great strides in policy, systems and environmental change work and is focusing on sustainability of these efforts as it enters its last year of funding.

2019 Analysis:

- Established relationships with key partners remain the motivating force behind positive changes across all sectors.
- Staff turnover in schools, worksites and towns proves to be challenging when trying to move projects forward, complete post assessments and sustain change.
- Successes in small town, rural projects spreads quickly and draws the interest of neighboring communities, making it easier for recruitment and expansion across the region.

Focus for 2020:

- Increase the number of participating Better Choice Workplaces by 4.
- Increase the number of participating Better Choice Retailers by 1.
- Increase the number of towns who have adopted a Complete Streets Resolution by 1.
- Implement Complete Streets concept plans in 4 communities.
Securing Better Health

Securing Better Health was a 9 month project funded by the Adirondack Health Institute (AHI). Clinton County Mental Health and Addiction Services (CCMH&AS) partnered with CCHD to address food insecurity (FI) across the county. The project aimed to leverage the collective strength of clinical-community partnerships and existing technology to make a cooperative systems change in how Clinton County identifies, addresses and utilizes local resources to help residents manage and overcome food insecurity. It also pilot tested different approaches to addressing food insecurity.

2019 Program Highlights

- 19 community-based organizations and 245 staff received training on food insecurity screening and resources.
- 100% of pediatric practices are screening for food insecurity and 67% are collecting FI data.
- 20 cooking classes were held for area residents. Over 65% of participants identified as food insecure.
- 3,000 Farm Fresh Cash cards were distributed.
- 5 mini-grants were awarded to community partners to help combat food insecurity within their identified populations.

In the short timeframe for this project, staff worked on increasing food insecurity self-efficacy for FI screening and referrals amongst those delivering direct patient care. This included connecting with health, human services and social services professionals. Training focused on identifying root causes of FI like money, access, food preparation knowledge and special medical/dietary and review of local resources to address each.

2019 Analysis:

- Competing priorities within the health care practices and barriers with electronic health records proved challenging while trying to obtain data.
- Catchy cooking class names, hand-selected seasonal recipes and social media promotion kept cooking classes at capacity… most with waiting lists.
- An algorithm developed through this project will consistently guide local professionals through screening and referral processes for FI.

Focus for the Future:

- Analyze and interpret population level FI data collected.
- Maintain an up-to-date algorithm for FI screening guidance and local resources.
- Identify additional funding opportunities to maintain efforts.
Creating Breastfeeding Friendly Communities

Creating Breastfeeding Friendly Communities (CBFC) is a five year (2017-2022) public health initiative funded by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to establish a breastfeeding friendly care continuum from pregnancy through the postpartum period and infancy. Funding is used to promote evidence-based breastfeeding education and management to help mothers meet their breastfeeding goals while increasing breastfeeding initiation, exclusivity and duration rates.

2019 Program Highlights

- 1 family health center submitted materials to NYSDOH to achieve Breastfeeding Friendly Practice designation.
- 2 health care providers created and adopted network-wide Breastfeeding Friendly Practice policies.
- 10 Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite policies were created and adopted, in accordance with NYS Labor Law 206-c.
- 17 worksites were designated as Breastfeeding Friendly Workplaces.
- 17 child care providers created and adopted Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care policies and received NYSDOH’s Breastfeeding Friendly designation.
- 205 professionals received breastfeeding related training.

Year 3 efforts focused on implementing sustainable practices such as network-wide policies, staff trainings and media campaigns. These efforts have resulted in collaborative partnerships that will strengthen breastfeeding resources throughout the region.

2019 Analysis:

- Instituting network-wide Breastfeeding Friendly Health Care Practice policies is time intensive resulting in fewer designated health care practices this year but changes will impact a large number of North Country residents.
- Utilizing traditional and social media outlets is an effective way to educate and inform the general public.
- Gaining stakeholder buy-in is vital for sustainable implementation of breastfeeding friendly practices in all settings.

Focus for 2020:

- Explore alternate staffing models for Baby Cafés®.
- Establish a breastfeeding coalition in the Southern Tier.
- Increase the number of Breastfeeding Friendly Practices by 2.
- Increase the number of worksites supportive of breastfeeding moms by 15.
- Increase the number of Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Sites by 12.
Health Planning and Promotion:
Focus for 2020

HPP is already looking ahead to 2020. Multiple new grants are getting underway way to support active transportation and food system capacity. Through these and its existing initiatives, HPP will continue to contribute to collaborative health improvement. In 2020, HPP plans to:

Work across boundaries of all kinds.

HPP will be creating Clinton County’s first Food Action Plan, expanding focus beyond the food environment and food insecurity to a more systems view. The plan will include insight from food system partners and intends to outline potential collaborative work to be undertaken in the years ahead. The Division has also applied for funding from the NYSDOH that will, if received, allow CCHD to geographically extend its Complete Streets and School Wellness Policy work to nearly all communities in the county.

Learn more from its experiences.

HPP has gained significant capacity for program evaluation over the past several years. As the team continues to hone its skills to collect primary data and participant feedback, it will be aiming to use this information in ways beyond meeting project deliverables. Critical reflection on findings can support ongoing learning so approaches to education, engagement and promotion are continually adapted to meet community needs. To do this HPP will be revising its participant evaluation tool, expanding its cross-divisional tracking of community engagement and completing more in-depth analyses of resident input received from the community health survey fielded in 2019, among other activities.

Continue to engage in and share its practice-based research.

As in year’s past, HPP values what it learns from its partners in health and strives to contribute to public health’s evidence base whenever possible. HPP has already submitted 2019 work for consideration as a “model practice” for the field and is in the process of planning events that will facilitate sharing among partners within the county completing health policy and space revitalization projects.
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List of Acronyms

ACO- Account Care Organization
AFH- Action for Health
BHSN- Behavioral Health Services North
CCCNC- Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country
CMMH&AS- Clinton County Mental Health & Addiction Services
CHIP- Community Health Improvement Plan
CVPH- Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital
FI- Food Insecurity
HPP- Health Planning & Promotion
NYSHF- New York State Health Foundation
SMT- Social Media Team
TABLE- Team Adirondack Breakfast and Lunch Educators

AHI- Adirondack Health Institute
BCR- Better Choice Retailer
CBFC- Creating Breastfeeding Friendly Communities
CCHD- Clinton County Health Department
CHA- Community Health Assessment
CSPAP- Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program
HNI- Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative
NYSDOH- New York State Department of Health
PNP- Partner Nurse Program
USDA- United States Department of Agriculture