

# Sheridan Community Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) 2025–2027

## Executive Summary

This Community Health Needs Assessment draft summarizes the most important health needs affecting residents of Montcalm County and surrounding rural communities served by Sheridan Community Hospital. The assessment emphasizes access to care and transportation, rural health equity, financial strain, mental health and stigma reduction, and substance use prevention and recovery support.

Findings show that these needs are closely connected. Rural residents may face long travel distances, limited public transportation, provider shortages, financial barriers, social isolation, and difficulty navigating available resources. Sheridan Community Hospital is well positioned to respond through local care access, community partnerships, Senior Life Solutions, referral coordination, outreach, and ongoing community benefit planning.

## Community Served

Sheridan Community Hospital serves residents of Sheridan, Montcalm County, and nearby rural communities. The service area includes small towns, agricultural communities, older adults, working families, and residents who may experience barriers related to income, transportation, insurance coverage, provider availability, and access to specialty services.

## Priority Health Needs

1. **Access to Care and Transportation:** Transportation limitations and rural distance create barriers to appointments, pharmacies, social services, and preventive care.
2. **Rural Health Equity and Workforce Challenges:** Provider availability, specialty access, workforce shortages, and broadband limitations affect care delivery.
3. **Financial Security and Social Determinants of Health:** Economic strain affects medication adherence, nutrition, housing stability, and the ability to seek timely care.

4. **Mental Health and Stigma Reduction:** Residents continue to need accessible behavioral health support, education, and stigma-free pathways to care.
5. **Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Support:** Community-based prevention, referral pathways, and recovery partnerships remain important needs.

## Key Local Assets

Community strengths include Sheridan Community Hospital, Senior Life Solutions, Montcalm Care Network, Mid-Michigan District Health Department, Area Agency on Aging resources, schools, faith-based organizations, recovery supports, local transportation partners, community volunteers, and regional health and human service agencies.

## Recommended Strategies

- Increase awareness and referrals to Senior Life Solutions for older adults experiencing depression, anxiety, grief, isolation, or related behavioral health needs.
- Develop stigma-reduction education that normalizes mental health conversations and encourages early help-seeking.
- Strengthen screening and referral pathways between primary care, emergency services, behavioral health partners, and community organizations.
- Improve care navigation by connecting patients with transportation, insurance, food, housing, medication, and social service resources.
- Expand partnerships with public health, schools, aging services, recovery organizations, and local agencies to address shared community priorities.
- Monitor rural access barriers and identify opportunities for outreach, telehealth, specialty care coordination, and workforce development.

## Implementation Monitoring Measures

Priority Area	Sample Measures
Access to Care and Transportation	Transportation referrals, resource navigation encounters, appointment access concerns identified, telehealth use when appropriate
Rural Health Equity and Workforce Challenges	Recruitment efforts, service availability, specialty care partnerships, workforce training or student engagement activities

Financial Security and Social Determinants of Health	Social needs screenings, referrals to food/housing/insurance resources, community partner engagement
Mental Health and Stigma Reduction	Senior Life Solutions referrals, outreach events, community education sessions, stigma-reduction materials distributed
Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Support	Referral pathways, prevention education, recovery partner collaboration, community awareness activities

## Board Adoption and Public Availability

The final CHNA will be presented to the Sheridan Community Hospital Board of Directors for review and approval. Following adoption, the CHNA will be made available to the public without charge through the hospital website, upon request, and through appropriate community communication channels. Community members and partner organizations may provide feedback to inform implementation activities and future CHNA cycles.