THE ISSUE

Good health is fundamental to an individual’s capacity to provide for his/her family and contribute to society. The impact of health goes beyond the individual. With medical insurance costs growing rapidly, preventing disease is one of the best ways to improve the health of our country and local community.

“Life in the Capital Region: 2014 Assessment of Our Community” revealed that:

- 43,671 people in Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties are without medical insurance.
- Nearly a third of the local population is considered obese and another third is overweight.
- Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the region.

SOLUTIONS AND STRATEGIES

A solution to this issue includes strategies to help un- and underinsured individuals and families navigate the health care system, overcome barriers to care and find a primary medical home.

Moving the needle on access to health care in the Capital Region will take a new way of work. Businesses, nonprofits, schools, places of worship, government and individuals must work collectively to develop lasting solutions. A backbone organization is necessary to pull together diverse partners. Working together, partners must share:

- Common goals
- Methods to measure and report progress to the community
- Resources
- Strategies and ways of work

PRIORITY COMMUNITY ISSUE: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Community Goal: Improve access to health care for un- and underinsured individuals in the Capital Region.

Primary Care, Behavioral Health and Oral Health Components
- Identify Barriers
- Engagement Strategies
- Patient Support Strategies

Insurance Coverage Components
- Identify Barriers
- Engagement Strategies
- Uninsured and Underinsured Patient Strategies

Administrative Components
- Work Groups and Backbone Organization

PILOT PROJECT

A community initiative focusing on access to health care will begin as a pilot project targeting the un- and underinsured in the City of Harrisburg. The project will employ community health workers to help individuals and families navigate the health care system, overcome barriers to care and connect with a primary medical home. This pilot project is scalable to ensure it can grow in capacity and serve people in need in rural, suburban and urban parts of our community.

For more information, please contact United Way of the Capital Region at 717.732.0700.