



A Vital Bridge with the Community

PeaceHealth Peace Island Medical Center

2025 Community Health Needs Assessment

Our report to the community

The importance of a Community Health Needs Assessment

Every three years, each PeaceHealth location conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) as required by the 2010 Patient Care and Affordable Care Act.

Tax-exempt hospitals like ours — as defined by IRS Section 501(r) — use the CHNA to report current community needs, statistics and activities. We are also expected to develop an Implementation Strategy outlining our plans to improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

We see our CHNA report and Implementation Strategy as much more than a requirement or obligation. Through this narrative, we are presenting the story of our dedication and service to the community and people we serve. Beyond traditional medical services and care, we are committed to helping people in need.

Click to view previous editions of our [CHNA](#) and [Implementation Strategy](#).

What is our community needs assessment process?

Our assessment builds on the strong work of many local partners who have been keeping a pulse on community health needs and area strengths. References like the San Juan County Health & Community [Services 2023 Community Health Assessment](#), surveys conducted by the Joyce L. Sobel Family Resource Center, and the Opportunity Council's [2024 Prosperity Assessment](#) provided helpful insights. PeaceHealth leaders interviewed local nonprofits and public health workers in November 2024 to hear first-hand the needs they see in the community. The priorities we heard in these meetings are referenced throughout this assessment.

Our key findings

- Access to healthcare, mental health, and housing remain top priorities named by the community. Islanders, more than a third older than 65, navigate unique barriers to rural health, including fewer transportation options, limited facilities, and workforce retention challenges.
- Inequities in health access and a continued focus on language justice in all services are well-documented needs. Community Health Workers have led a multi-year advocacy effort within the Spanish-speaking and Hispanic/Latino community to elevate concerns about health and healthcare access, and it's making a difference.
- Vital supports for families continue to be in high demand. The percentage of San Juan households (39% overall) facing financial hardship has been steadily on the rise since 2010, with only a single drop in 2021 attributed to the Child Tax Credit stimulus. With more people than ever needing to rely on various levels of support and assistance, local investments are needed now more than ever. Trauma-informed, compassionately delivered services are also needed.

One thing remains clear — community is a cornerstone of health. There are many positive examples of community coming together to innovate, restore, and collaborate.

Who we are and what we believe in

San Juan County is an archipelago of more than 170 islands in the farthest northwest part of Washington state, located between the United States and Canada's Vancouver Island. Four islands account for 95% of the population and can be reached by the Washington State Ferry System. The county's total population is approximately 18,000. Of these residents, approximately 34% are over the age of 65, making the population of San Juan County one of the oldest in the state. Each of the ferry-serviced islands — Lopez, Orcas, Shaw and San Juan — has its own unique culture rooted in an appreciation for the natural surroundings and slower pace of island life. The islands and surrounding waters are the sacred lands where Tribal community members live, work and celebrate their traditional practices.

"I am continually reminded of unique responsibilities and opportunities that come with our role in a remote location. We are part of a community that thrives on innovation, sustainability and a shared commitment to serve and support each other. Our island's serenity and self-sufficiency shape our vision, pushing us while fostering a close-knit team dedicated to the islands and our future success."

*— Jack Estrada, chief administrative officer,
PeaceHealth Peace Island Medical Center*



About PeaceHealth Peace Island Medical Center

10

Total licensed beds

0.7

Average daily census

3.46

Average length of stay (days)

72

Inpatient discharges

13,694

Outpatient clinic visits

629

Surgeries

5,122

ED visits

125

Caregivers

225

Active Medical Staff

Source: PeaceHealth Fiscal Year 2024

Supporting health justice for all

Our Mission: From the beginning to present day

The PeaceHealth Mission has remained constant: We carry on the healing Mission of Jesus Christ by promoting personal and community health, relieving pain and suffering, and treating each person in a loving and caring way. Fueled by a commitment to advancing health justice for all, we seek to support collaborations that improve community health for all. We do this by continuously asking the question of 'who is impacted most' and matching investments to benefit those shouldering the greatest impact.

Land acknowledgement

We, PeaceHealth, acknowledge that we provide care on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of Coast Salish People, who have been the spiritual caretakers of these lands since time immemorial.

The Coast Salish way of life, cultural values, and respect for the land and waterways are alive, strong, and resilient.

We honor and accept the responsibility of being in a continuous healing relationship as one people. We raise our hands to welcome and express gratitude to the Coast Salish peoples.



Artwork by Jason LaClair, Lummi Coast Salish artist, created for the Native Liaison Program

About the artwork

The spindle whirl shape is representative of having strong moral fiber and the important role women play in the matriarchal Coast Salish culture. The eagles on each side act as messengers of the creator, carrying prayers up and watching over us in good and bad times. The three human spirits represent how we all need each other and, at the very center, are the Salmon People.

Community we serve

18,662	population of San Juan County
2,613	population of Friday Harbor
4.9%	population growth of San Juan County from 2020-2022
34%	of residents are over the age of 65

Race and ethnicity San Juan County

7%	Hispanic or Latino
3%	two or more races
2%	Asian
1%	Black or African American
21%	of K-12 graders in the San Juan School District are Hispanic/Latino

Source: ACS 5-year estimates Subject Table S0101, 2018-2022; US Census Quick Facts, 2022; OSPI, 2024

Financial hardship and connection to health

Economic well-being and health have a deeply interconnected impact on individuals and communities. According to the World Health Organization, people living in poverty have a decreased life expectancy and increased child mortality rates.

People are profoundly impacted by the social drivers of health (SDOH) — the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. These factors are responsible for a significant portion of health inequities. Financial hardship compounds these conditions in ways that worsen health outcomes and increase susceptibility to disease.

In order to understand financial hardship, we must look beyond the federal poverty level measure (FPL). FPL alone doesn't accurately tell us who is struggling to get by in the community. Instead, we look at a blend of indicators that factor in the cost of living, median income, available supports, and sources of financial assistance. Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) is a better measurement; it captures individuals and families who earn more than the federal poverty level but less than the cost of living for the county and do not qualify for financial assistance. Many ALICE individuals and families continue to struggle despite working one or more jobs and still can't afford the basics (housing, childcare, food, transportation, healthcare and technology).

Combined, 39% households in San Juan County fall below the ALICE threshold higher than the state average, including 43% of Orcas households, 42% of Lopez households, and 34% of SJI households. The percentage of households below the ALICE threshold has been steadily on the rise from 2010 to 2022. The only observed drop happened in 2021 when families benefitted from the American Rescue Plan's Child Tax Credit stimulus payments. The rising numbers underscores the ongoing struggle for financial stability faced by a significant portion of the population.

The Opportunity Council's 2024 Prosperity Project Assessment also offers insight into where access needs are greatest. This assessment provides a detailed look at the experiences of low-income households in three counties, including San Juan County. In each household, people were asked questions about what services are important to them and how easy those services are to access. San Juan County respondents rated 16 service areas on importance and availability.

Dental, medical, jobs and housing were the top four areas named by San Juan County respondents overall, as well as Spanish speakers. Respondents who identified as people of color were more likely to cite a lack of culturally responsive services compared to white respondents. They also cited a lack of insurance (dental and medical) and the cost of services as the main reasons for not accessing these services.

Impacts of financial hardships

3,322 households (39%) fall below the ALICE threshold

Household types that fall into ALICE

38% white household
54% Hispanic or Latino households
81% single, female households with children

Household costs to survive

\$31,404 single individual household
\$56,064 two adult household over 65
\$102,780 family of four with two children in childcare

Source: ALICE Update, 2024

Our community health pillars

We are determined to help create a healthy community beyond the walls of our medical centers and clinics. Our four pillars inform the purpose of community health. Across these pillars is the awareness of our solemn responsibility to protect the most vulnerable and underserved people in our communities while promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in everything we do. These four pillars include:

- **HOME:** Improve access to service-enriched housing,
- **HOPE:** Increase education and access to treatment and prevention of dependence,
- **CARE:** Expand knowledge, access and engagement with community caregivers, and
- **NOURISH:** Address food insecurities to enhance family and child well-being.

"The Community Health Needs Assessment process serves as a conversation starter that leads to an understanding of our communities that statistics cannot create alone. At PeaceHealth, we find value and joy in building the relationships that make those conversations never-ending."

– Liz Dunne, PeaceHealth President and CEO

Recognizing inequities and elevating partnerships

We are stronger when we work together; this is why community-based partnerships like the ones described in this CHNA report are crucial to our community's success. Partnerships are key to making real change in practice, policy and systems that will lead to more equitable health for all. Here we feature one San Juan County partnership that has risen to be a national example.



Home



Hope



Care



Nourish

San Juan, Orcas, & Lopez Latinx community health workers: Strength in numbers

It has been incredible to witness the growth and accomplishments of the San Juan Island Community Health Worker program, which launched in 2021. An early PeaceHealth grant to the [Joyce L. Sobel Family Resource Center](#) was multiplied by a transformative grant from the [North Sound Accountable Community of Health](#). These funds enabled the good work happening in Friday Harbor to spread to two more islands.

A multi-year advocacy effort within the Spanish-speaking and Latinx communities elevated concerns about health and healthcare access. Initial 2021 findings found that only 1 in 5 of these families surveyed had a regular doctor or healthcare provider, and 75% reported not being able to access regular health screening.

Today, community health workers are actively creating solutions to these and other challenges that are co-designed with the community. They have organized pop-up health clinics, hosted health fairs, and taught health education workshops. Community health workers have been instrumental in celebrating culture and heritage through events like the annual Día de Muertos gathering. We celebrate and recognize these instrumental efforts to improve community health.



First county wide convening of CHWs was held at the Lopez Island Family Resource Center



Community priority: Housing for those who serve others

Community need

Safe and affordable housing is a vital condition for health. Unfortunately, affordable housing is very limited county-wide. Sharp increases in home prices, rents and land costs all contribute to a growing housing challenge. The County reports that housing is the biggest need named by the community. The community cited cost, quality and availability of rentals and homes for purchase as the top concerns. This has a direct impact on the community's ability to sustain essential services — education, emergency services, childcare and healthcare.

Despite collaborative efforts, there is also no permanent emergency shelter except for temporary cold winter options. There were 134 unhoused persons counted during the 2024 San Juan Island point-in-time count. Fifty-nine were living out of doors, in vehicles, abandoned buildings, RVs or boats. They often lacked access to drinking water, a restroom, a shower, heat, and cooking amenities. Another 75 were identified as “at risk of becoming homeless”. People ages 55-65 are experiencing a sharp rise in housing insecurity. It's alarming to see long time residents suddenly grappling with no place to live, often because they've been priced out of homes they've rented for years.

There is also a concerning level of San Juan teens experiencing homelessness. A small number shelter in vehicles or tents, but most are unstably housed without a safe place to live. Couch surfing is common, as is moving from place to place, putting the child in risky situations. The reasons for teen homelessness vary, but often, the child is separated from family as a result of conflict, and the child has left for personal safety. Substance abuse or mental health issues, either their own or of family members, can also be a cause. An emerging solution for teens in rural areas without shelter is Host Home programs. Such programs seek to create a safe and stable alternate home by providing some support and structure for both the child and the host household.

An idea in development

A lack of housing and high costs are driving a unique project to develop future housing for healthcare workers on the Island. The San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1 and Peace Island Medical Center are exploring what it would take to build more housing. Efforts like this could relieve some pressure on the limited housing supply and ensure that healthcare workers moving to the island have housing. Functioning healthcare depends on people who are available to work on this island, and the pool of qualified people dwindles every year because people cannot find housing.

Housing realities in San Juan County

- \$956,800** median home price — most expensive in the state
- 37%** of households are cost-burdened, spending more than 35% of their income on housing (16% higher than Wash State overall)
- 18%** of households have issues with overcrowding, high costs or a lack of kitchen or plumbing
- ~16** San Juan Island youth ages 12-18 are homeless, with a similar number on Orcas Island

Source: Washington Center for Real Estate Research 2023; ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profile DP04, 2017-2021 AWB Institute, 2023 Q2; McKinney Vento Act, 2023.



April's Grove, 45-unit affordable housing neighborhood, Orcas Island developed by OPAL Community Land Trust and funded in part by San Juan County's Home Fund.

"Distress over a lack of secure housing impacts staff at all wage levels, and even many who have housing feel that their housing situation is insecure. The exaggerated effort required to find workforce housing adds strain to an already stressed care system."
 — Nathan Butler, superintendent, San Juan County Public Hospital District No.1

Care at home

Support for those aging in place is a multi-agency team effort on San Juan Island. Since 2022, multiple programs have sprung up with the goal of growing and retaining in-home and long-term care workers. San Juan Island residents passed a historic property tax levy to support the purchase of [Village at the Harbor](#) and launch home care services.

The [Economic Development Council](#) also hosts a complementary program that helps individuals get the training and certification needed to work as home care aides, and community paramedicine continues to reach homebound people. Finally, to ease the search for in-home care, the [Mullis Senior Center](#) launched a directory of caregivers.



Committee tours SJC Public Hospital District 1 Skills Lab for training caregivers

PeaceHealth investment

Over the past three years, PeaceHealth has contributed \$110,000 to organizations that work directly with individuals of all ages facing housing insecurity. The collective leadership of the [San Juan Island EMS Community Paramedicine program](#), [San Juan County Public Hospital District](#), [San Juan County Health and Community Services](#), [United Way of San Juan County](#), and the [Joyce L. Sobel Family Resource Center](#) has highlighted areas where more investment is needed.



Community priority: Community healing

Community need

Community solutions that help people struggling with behavioral health and substance use issues are in great demand. Long wait times to access mental health providers are common in the islands. Some virtual options exist, but the community agrees that more in-person options are desirable.

Like many communities across the nation, San Juan County has felt the impacts of a dramatic increase in fentanyl use and overdoses over the last two years. The availability and affordability of this powerful and highly addictive drug have drastically changed the landscape of care. Recognizing one death is too many, the community acted in 2023 to educate parents and teens on the dangers of fentanyl. Two teen overdose recognition and prevention dinners were attended by 110 youth and families who came together to learn about local risks, healthy protective factors and how to use Narcan.

These life-threatening struggles require the community to come together and better understand the lived experience of youth and young children. Adverse childhood experiences (known as ACEs) and the environments in which children grow up (known as Adverse Community Environments) can help us predict the challenges someone may face throughout life.¹ Growing up in a home with domestic violence is one type of ACE. It's common for domestic violence survivors, especially women, to face challenges accessing mental health care when their partner has controlled financial resources. Lack of health care can continue long after the abuse has ended. Free mental health therapy offered by [SAFE San Juans](#) helps families deal with the long-term mental health effects of abuse and interrupts the cycle of generational trauma. Continued funding will be needed to ensure supports like these remain accessible.

The 2024 Youth Community Health Assessment² found that mental health support was the number one concern of youth and young adults. This was closely followed by youth asking for earlier health education on mental health, reproductive health and healthier relationships. While there are promising programs focused on prevention, many, especially those living in remote areas, lack access to supports. One of the biggest barriers to care is that so few behavioral health providers take health insurance and only one provider accepts Medicaid. Many moderate- and middle-income households with health insurance are still unable to access treatment because of the out of pocket costs.

¹ Ellis, 2020

² San Juan County Health & Community Services, 2024

Local data

- 31%** of adults with depression compared to 24% of adults statewide
- 24%** Prevalence of adults 18+ reporting heavy alcohol consumption (2 or more drinks a day for men and 1 or more drinks a day for women) compared to just 7% statewide.

According to survey for SJC Community Health Assessment, respondents reported:

- 42%** had an increase in anxiety or stress in past year
- 25%** felt lonely or isolated
- 26%** reported increase in feeling down or depression in last year

Source: WA Healthcare Authority, 2021 & 2022 WA DOH 2018-2021 BRFSS[CHAT, 2021; SJC Community Health Assessment, 2023.

Growing hope

The Growing Hope project enhances and supports the ongoing community prevention and wellness initiatives that support youth as leaders of today in impacting their peers, their families, the school climate and the community norms of San Juan Island.

With the guidance of the [San Juan Island Prevention Coalition](#), the Helping Out Teens Society (H.O.T.S.) youth prevention team promotes growing hope as a social norm that counters ACEs. Rock Solid youth and coalition adults have studied research-based approaches, like Hope Science. High school youth in the Peer 2 Peer Education program educate middle school youth, and middle school youth educate elementary youth. Six modules were developed during 2020-2021 and presented to all Grade 6-8 students via Zoom.

Since 2007, the Growing Hope project has engaged thousands of residents at the San Juan County Fair, providing them with an opportunity to make personalized T-shirts with healthy messages and pictures.



"Peer 2 Peer was really fun and I learned a lot about how companies try to get kids to buy things. I really liked going to the elementary school to teach the 5th graders what we learned at Peer 2 Peer."
– San Juan seventh grader

Shown left: Youth create lasting connections through Peer 2 Peer learning.

PeaceHealth investment in this program

Over the past three years, PeaceHealth Peace Island Medical Center has invested \$427,000 in all four community health pillars. This significant investment recognizes that no single social driver of health is responsible for overall well-being. Partners in the San Juan Islands appreciate the interconnected nature of mental, physical, spiritual and community well-being — organizations like [Safe San Juans](#) and the [San Juan Prevention Coalition](#) model collaboration and interdependence throughout the islands.



Community priority: Islanders face unique barriers to health

Community need

Community caregiving is about engaging people in their everyday lives and addressing factors impacting their health in places where people live and work. Since social and economic factors are responsible for 40% of a person's total health, community health workers (CHWs), volunteers, and others play a vital and important role in helping people navigate available resources. The San Juan community has a thriving network of CHWs, advocates and volunteers serving diverse communities in unique settings.

Rural access to medical and dental care, perinatal well-being, early learning and childcare continue to be top priorities. There is data to support additional efforts and attention. CHWs are respected experts on the barriers faced by community members. They are also trusted messengers when it comes to health outreach. PeaceHealth and others rely on these trusted individuals to ensure that outreach and approaches to care are linguistically and culturally responsive.

Nearly everything is more costly and harder to access in the islands, from preventative care like dental services to finding childcare. Families face unique hardships. The cost of infant and toddler care has a significant financial impact on many families. Experts recommend that families should spend no more than 7% of their income on childcare. This would equate to \$450 per month spent on childcare in San Juan County, where the median income is \$77,000. The reality is that costs are nearly double this for families, even with reduced tuition rates.

San Juan Island Childcare Cooperative and dental access make waves

Many efforts are underway that are worth celebrating because of the difference they make in addressing the persistent needs of Island living. These efforts are special because they are driven by the community and often powered by volunteers. The [San Juan Island Childcare Cooperative](#) (SJICC) is a unique, community-based program that provides affordable, high-quality childcare for infants and toddlers on San Juan Island. The SJICC's mission is to nurture the next generation by creating a supportive environment where children thrive, and parents learn. Parents benefit from being actively engaged in their child's care and receiving educational opportunities and financial assistance.

"We are committed to expanding our services to meet the growing demand for quality childcare. We are exploring opportunities to enhance our program, such as becoming a licensed childcare facility, so we can further strengthen our impact and provide even more families with the support they need." – Abby Howard, SJI Childcare Cooperative Director

Key access and preventative health indicators higher in San Juan County

	WA	SJC
Median cost of infant care as a percent of income. Ideally, families should spend no more than 7% of their income on childcare	18.6%	25%
Medicaid beneficiaries receiving preventative or restorative dental services	40%	24%
Medicaid beneficiaries ages 3–21 years who had at least one comprehensive well-care visit	45%	31%
Vaccination coverage for the 19–35-month milestone vaccinations	57%	45%

Source: San Juan County Community Health Assessment, 2023.



Benefits of community dental clinics

54	students received oral health services
283	students learned about oral health
92	people with Medicaid or uninsured accessed a community dental clinic
\$67,944	value of dental treatment provided during the community dental clinics

Source: SJICC, 2024

Dental care for children with Medicaid has also improved in the last three years. [San Juan County Health and Community Services](#) (SJCHCS) has partnered with [Fish for Teeth](#) to offer four annual Community Dental Clinics for those who are on Medicaid or uninsured and unable to afford access to care. SJCHCS has also partnered with a dental team from Snohomish to offer school-based oral health services, including exams, hygiene, sealants, and fluoride varnish. CHWs, health professionals, and SJI partners frequently seek out learning and travel to see what is being done in other parts of the country to bring back the very best ideas for the community.

PeaceHealth investment

Over the past three years, PeaceHealth has contributed \$277,000 to organizations that work directly with individuals of all ages to build a network of care support. Partners like the [Joyce L. Sobel Family Resource Center](#), [Mullis Senior Center](#), [Economic Development Council Healthcare Career Pathways](#) program, and [San Juan Island Childcare Cooperative](#) have stepped forward with innovative solutions identified by the community. These solutions include helping navigate health insurance, finding home care aides, accessing early learning and childcare and connecting with transportation.



Community priority: Addressing food insecurity

Community need

Access to healthy, affordable food is a critical issue affecting children and families in our communities. There is a clear connection between food insecurity and high levels of stress, poor nutrition and chronic diet-related diseases like obesity and diabetes. As demands for food in the years post-pandemic rose, food banks across the region had to shift from relying mostly on donations to purchasing food. This added cost to procure food is compounded by the added cost to transport food to the islands.

All this adds up to greater demand and less food available. Food insecurity is part of a complex web of issues related to not having enough resources to meet basic needs. Even households that only experience periodic food insecurity often struggle with multiple challenges, including affordable housing, childcare, healthcare, steady employment, and a living wage. The result is often a series of tradeoffs that explain in part the rise in food bank visits. Friday Harbor Food Bank responded to the increasing demand and grew to serve over 500 households each month in 2024.

San Juan Island School District students eligible for free and reduced school meals grew to 43% of all students in 2023-2024. Unfortunately, fewer people have been signing up to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, also known as “food stamps.” Only around 7% of the San Juan County population were enrolled in SNAP, but county data shows that 1 in 4 people may be eligible for SNAP. Nationwide, most people who participate in SNAP are children, elderly adults or people with disabilities. The SNAP enrollment process is often described as cumbersome, and the benefits are nominal, which explains some of the low enrollment.

The Meals on Wheels and More Nutrition Program is a partnership between Whatcom Council on Aging in Bellingham, San Juan County, and the local nonprofit senior centers on San Juan, Orcas and Lopez Islands. The program provides onsite community lunches twice a week at the senior centers as well as home-delivered meals to eligible homebound seniors age 60+. Besides providing affordable, by donation, nutritious meals for seniors, the program also encourages social interaction and facilitates many seniors aging in their own homes. As our population ages, demand for the program is growing. We experienced 7.8% growth in the number of meals provided in San Juan County from 2023 to 2024.

2024 San Juan County food insecurity

- 43.2%** of San Juan Island School district students on Free and Reduced School meals 2023-24
- 537** households served monthly at Friday Harbor Food Bank
- 55,520** pounds of food distributed monthly at Friday Harbor Food Bank
- 40,159** Meals on Wheels home delivered meals and dine-in community meals for seniors in 2024
- 40%** higher cost for fruits and veggies compared to national averages
- 28%** of low-income respondents reported having experienced hunger in last 12 months because they couldn't get enough food (N=120)

Source: Friday Harbor Food Bank, 2024;
Meals on Wheels and More, 2024;
Opportunity Council Prosperity Report, 2024.

Island Grown in the San Juans' Food Access Program started in 2020 as a pilot project funded by a grant through the Ag Guild to help low-income people afford more fresh, healthy foods for their families and help support local agricultural producers. In just



three short years, Island Grown funds had been used by over 36 vendors in the county. Island Grown provides a \$150 benefit and three options to access healthy food, including a Good Food bag delivery of local produce, dairy and meats, and an [SI Food Hub](#) or Yiftee gift card to spend at eligible farm stands on Lopez, Orcas, San Juan and Waldron Island.

Fresh Bucks and the Island Grown Food Access Program help those who live at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level buy more nutritious food on the islands. Fresh Bucks provides up to \$40 each time a client shops at the [SJI Farmers Market](#). From Memorial Day through September 2024, 192 households and 318 people enrolled with over \$28,000 in funds spent on locally grown fresh foods.

PeaceHealth investment

PeaceHealth has partnered with the [Friday Harbor Food Bank](#) and the [Island Grown in the San Juans](#) to support food accessibility and nutritious options. Peace Island's investment of \$35,000 was made with guidance from the [Nourish to Flourish Coalition](#). The Coalition aims to end hunger on San Juan Island. It has been a leader in improving food access for low-income people locally, with a goal to help make healthy food more accessible and affordable for those most in need. Programs like Fresh Bucks, weekend backpack programs and food bags for Women Infants and Children (WIC) and seniors are making a real difference in addressing food insecurity and ensuring all people have equitable access to healthy foods.

2024 food access benefits to community

103 households and
184 people served by Island
Grown in the San Juans' Food
Access program

192 households and
318 people enrolled in the Fresh Bucks program

Totaling \$43,450 in locally funded food access program benefits to low-income clients to buy locally grown fresh produce, meat, eggs and other SNAP-eligible foods in 2024.



"I have never before planted a garden and used to say that I only grow people, not plants. This past year I started a community garden and now I grow both people and food."

– Yubi Schollmeyer (shown center), case manager and community health worker coordinator for the Latinx community, JLS Family Resource Center