



A Vital Bridge with the Community

PeaceHealth United General 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 process begins with a thank you to our community partners, upriver to downriver, who have a strong pulse on the needs of our growing community and who work together to address the unique needs our communities face. Our assessment builds on this strong work and references other key reports produced locally, including the Point-in-Time Count, an assessment of the number of unhoused members in our community on any given night, and school-based youth surveys like the Healthy Youth Survey. PeaceHealth leaders also met with leaders from local nonprofits and government agencies to hear firsthand the needs they see in the community. The priorities we heard are referenced throughout this assessment.

Our key findings

- There is a significant need for all types of housing in Skagit County, specifically affordable housing, shelter options and medical respite care for unhoused individuals. The lack of affordable housing options and availability is a concern for the entire community.
- Access to resources for food-insecure households remains a challenge for residents of Skagit County. Members of historically marginalized communities are advocating for better access to sufficient healthy foods that are culturally appropriate for their families.
- The need for service provider connections and support navigating resources across all sectors in support of low income community members persists. Expanding community health workers, peer support specialists and community health advocate programs, along with increased collaborations between all health and social service providers, is critical to improving social drivers of health in Skagit County.
- There is a pressing need for enhanced mental health support for youth in our community. Many young people are facing increasing levels of anxiety, depression, and stress, exacerbated by social pressures and life transitions. Access to counseling services, peer support programs, and mental health education is crucial.

Who we are and what we believe in

Situated near the Skagit River, PeaceHealth United General Medical Center and clinics are located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of Coast Salish People, who have been the spiritual caretakers of these lands since time immemorial. It is a great honor and responsibility to be entrusted with the care of the people who live here, especially the original inhabitants of these lands — the Upper Skagit People.

PeaceHealth's service area is defined by the boundaries of [United General Hospital District 304](#). Services extend to individuals in the surrounding communities of Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, Concrete, Bow, Lyman, Marblemount, Rockport, Clear Lake and Hamilton. There are two other hospital districts in Skagit County: Public Hospital District 1 and Public Hospital District 2.

PeaceHealth works collaboratively with other healthcare providers and community based service organizations, including United General District 304, [Community Action of Skagit County](#) and [Skagit County Public Health](#), to meet the healthcare needs in our community. These collaborations are essential to the residents of Skagit County.

Relationships with organizations like United General District 304 are vital in caring for our community members. The district is headquartered on the same campus as the hospital and leases the land to PeaceHealth. Their focus is on building healthier communities through innovative programs. These district programs support active living, healthy eating and thriving children and families — critical elements of whole-person care. Together, we have collaborated on two projects: the [Skagit Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program](#), which brings healthy food and nutritional education to those who identify as food insecure, and [Help Me Grow® Skagit](#), which connects parents to a continuum of services.



About PeaceHealth United General Medical Center

27.7
Combined average daily census

35
Total licensed beds

3.53
Average length of stay (days)

720
Inpatient discharges

46,070
Outpatient clinic visits

1,682
Surgeries

14,737
ED visits

476
Caregivers

335
Active Medical Staff

Source: PeaceHealth Fiscal Year 2024

“We know a healthy, thriving community requires a delicate balance of vital supports from many different resources. We used a vital connections framework to identify reliable transportation, a sense of belonging, civic muscle and humane housing as indicators of a healthy community. The need for community involvement on multiple levels is essential to good health. Our PeaceHealth mission calls us, challenges us, and inspires us to be the connector for our United General community so that all have an opportunity to thrive.”

*— Chris Johnston, chief administrative officer,
PeaceHealth United General Medical Center*

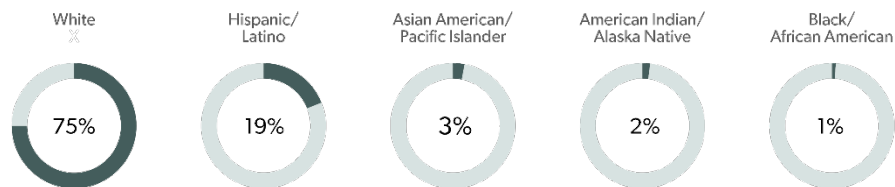
Building a network of care from the inside out

Inspired by a challenge from the Catholic Health Association’s [“We Are Called” Pledge](#), PeaceHealth recognizes that change starts from within, believing that our caregivers can best focus on others when we put our focus on caring for them. This has been an essential element in preserving our 130-year legacy of community service and care.

We are committed to implementing change that is reflective of our core values: respect, stewardship, collaboration and social justice. But we need to do more — and we cannot do it alone. This is why community-based partnerships like those described in this assessment are crucial to our community’s success.

The community we serve

Race and ethnicity, population growth, and rural location



Source: Skagit County Food Security Data Report; Race & Ethnicity of Skagit Residents 2023

Skagit County population

131,417 Skagit County residents

21.47% of Skagit population is aged 65 and older

Source: American Community Survey.

Supporting health justice for all

Our Mission: From the beginning to present day

The PeaceHealth Mission has remained a 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 advance health justice for all, we seek to support collaborations that improve community health for all.

We do this by continuously asking the question ‘who is impacted most’ and matching investments to benefit those shouldering the greatest impact. From 2022 to 2024, PeaceHealth United General Medical Center gave out \$683,000 in direct community benefit grants.

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.

Many agree that the federal poverty level measure doesn’t accurately tell us who is struggling to get by in the community. 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 basics like housing, childcare, food, transportation, healthcare and technology.

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 increase underscores the ongoing struggle for financial stability faced by a significant portion of the population. Focused support to address the economic challenges faced by households exceeds the capacity of many local, dedicated funding sources.

Skagit County ALICE report findings

19,635 households (38%) fall below the ALICE threshold

Household types that fall into ALICE

37% White households

47% Hispanic or Latino households

79% Single, female led households with children

Household costs to survive

\$29,856 single individual household

\$95,640 family of four

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 our community health efforts. 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. Throughout this report, you will read about community-based partnerships focused on improving access and conditions for those impacted most by health inequities and system injustice.



Home



Hope



Care



Nourish

Partnerships improve healthcare access for underrepresented groups

One shining example of partnership started in 2024 and focuses on improving access to preventative health screenings. Access to annual mammograms for people over 40 and earlier for those with family breast cancer history is the best way to detect breast cancers. Unfortunately, underrepresented groups like Black, Latina and Native American women are more likely to face barriers to accessing this life saving screening annually.

Recognizing the pivotal role of community engagement, the mammogram initiative focused on supporting partners with strong community relationships to drive successful screening. Outreach efforts were tailored to meet the needs of each community and speak directly to the concerns of the groups we hoped to reach.

Partnerships like these foster trust and raise awareness about the importance of early detection. It also helps to address cultural and logistical barriers to healthcare access.

Breast cancer outreach efforts were co-led by the Northwest Washington Indian Health Board and PeaceHealth. With hopes to continue this initiative annually, both organizations are dedicated to promoting education and access to vital resources, ensuring that the message of early detection reaches as many individuals as possible.



Native Liaison Program at PeaceHealth

The [Native Liaison Program at PeaceHealth](#) is another shining example of a unique partnership with the Northwest Washington Indian Health Board. The Native Liaison started in 2022 and works seamlessly across settings, advocating for Tribal members as they navigate emergency care, hospitals, hospice, in-home care, specialty visits and childbirth. Trust and emotional support are cornerstones of the 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.



Artwork by Jason LaClair created for the Native Liaison Program



Community priority: Improve access to affordable housing

Community need

Skagit County is grappling with a housing crisis underscored by a low vacancy rate of just 2%, one of the lowest in Washington state. This scarcity is a major contributor to homelessness and housing insecurity, and poses serious obstacles to both physical and mental health, wellness, and recovery. The challenges surrounding housing not only hinder economic development, but also add stressors to the lives of local parents, children, Veterans and seniors. Lack of stable housing creates barriers to success at school and work, and diminish the overall quality of life in the region. In 2023, 30% of Skagit renters were paying greater than 50% of their income on shelter — up 6% from 2021.

“Washington faces significant challenges in providing affordable housing. Homeownership has become less and less affordable for middle-income families, with high interest rates and limited supply combining to put ownership out of reach for many.”¹

In addition to the lack of affordability and quantity, community members are also facing quality issues of available units. At least 16% of households have one of the following issues: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities and/or lack of plumbing facilities.

The situation underscores the pressing need for community-driven solutions that prioritize the well-being of residents. By fostering collaboration among local organizations to work together in addressing these challenges. Enhancing the quality of housing not only benefits individual households but also strengthens the fabric of the community as a whole. Ultimately, ensuring that everyone has access to safe, adequate living spaces is essential for building healthier, more vibrant neighborhoods where all can thrive.

Housing realities in Skagit County

- 19%** of identified individuals experiencing homelessness were 18 years old and under
- 12%** of homeowners are paying greater than 50% of income on shelter
- 191%** increase of unsheltered individuals from 2022–2023
- 241%** increase of chronically homeless individuals from 2022–2023

Source: Skagit County Public Health, 2024

¹ Washington Center for Real Estate Research

Cascade Landing opens doors to the community

In Skagit County, the demand for affordable housing has become increasingly critical. With rising living costs and economic pressures, many residents struggle to find suitable accommodation. [Cascade Landing Apartments](#) stands out as a solution that not only provides affordable living options but also supports community health and well-being. Cascade Landing was a celebrated partnership between PeaceHealth United General Medical Center, Community Action of Skagit County, a local developer and private donors.

Cascade Landing is a 34-unit apartment complex situated on the second story of an existing office building in Burlington. The units were designed to be affordable to residents, who earned 60% of the area's median income — about \$2,900 a month for an individual. Those below that threshold are still eligible for rental assistance. Some units are reserved for veterans.

PeaceHealth investment

PeaceHealth has partnered with multiple organizations to support systems that respond to those in the housing crisis over the past three years. Investments totaling \$320,000 supported [Community Action of Skagit County's Cascade Landing project](#), [Family Promise of Skagit County](#), [Skagit First Steps Center with Friendship House](#) and the [Skagit Housing Consortium](#). Together, these partners along with the North Star Housing Task Force have been a vital support to unhoused community members and those at risk for homelessness.

Key benefits of Cascade Landing

Affordability and Accessibility

The primary goal of Cascade Landing is to provide affordable living options without compromising quality. Rent prices are capped to ensure they remain within reach for the target demographic.

Community Health Benefits

- Stable housing
- Social cohesion
- Access to case management services



"Without stable housing, transportation becomes difficult, without both a home and a job, obtaining insurance and healthcare is nearly impossible. While community programs exist, accessing them can be a hurdle without reliable transportation or internet access. A lack of housing triggers a chain reaction affecting all aspects of life."

— Holly Bombatch, Burlington Healthy Community Coalition



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 throughout Skagit County. Like many communities across the nation, Skagit has seen 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 and impacted how individuals engage with the healthcare system. The number of reported opioid overdoses increased by 82% in 2023, and 1 in 6 opioid overdoses ended tragically in death.

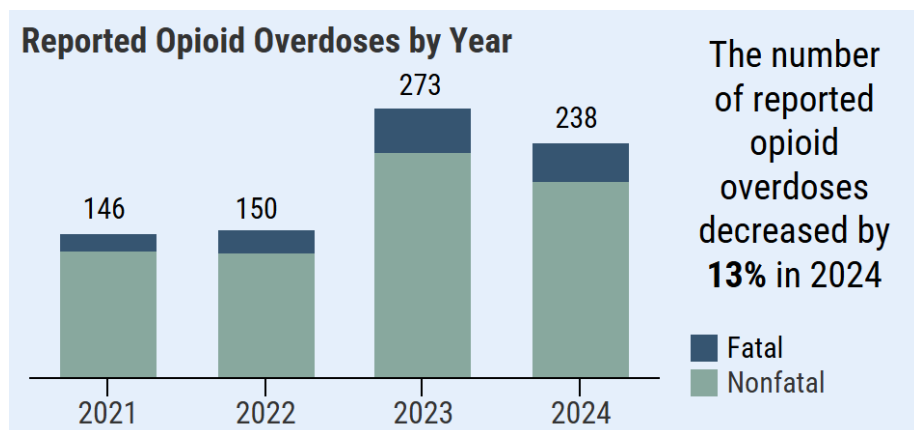
Building on the challenges faced, Skagit County has made remarkable strides through strong partnerships and community engagements, through programs like the [Street Outreach Program at Community Action](#) and at [Helping Hands Food Bank](#). Local health agencies and nonprofits have come together to implement innovative programs that address opioid misuse and support those in recovery. Initiatives through harm reduction strategies, educational campaigns, and improved access to treatment have fostered a collaborative environment focused on healing and prevention.

The commitment of community members and organizations has not only raised awareness but also created a supportive network that empowers individuals to seek help and rebuild their lives. This united approach showcases the community's resilience and dedication to overcoming the opioid crisis.

Opioid Overdose in Skagit County in 2024

- 1 in 6** opioid overdoses ended in death
- 39** median age for opioid overdose
- 92%** of opioid overdoses were primarily fentanyl-related
- 87%** of reported overdose events included administration of Naloxone (Narcan)
- 20%** of those experiencing an overdose were unhoused

Source: Skagit County Public Health
Snapshot: Opioid Overdose, 2024



Source: Skagit County Public Health: Opioid Overdose Snapshot, 2024.

Community Action Street Outreach and Street Medicine form a unique team

Community Action of Skagit County's Street Outreach team works to provide immediate needs and support year-round to the unhoused community in Skagit County. Street Outreach acts as a bridge to engage with clients and build the trust needed to work with case management. The team works with clients who are struggling with substance use disorder, mental health conditions and various behavioral health concerns.

Over time, this professional, dependable, prosocial relationship builds resiliency and engagement in treatment planning and goal setting. Clients can begin to see a possible self that isn't unhoused or ostracized from society. Narcan is always on hand. The team works to connect clients to detox and treatment facilities, mental health crisis and management services, physician care, and also enrolls them into the housing interest pool and connects them with education and employment support.

Street Outreach grew stronger with the partnership of two retired physicians, Dr. Stark, MD, and Dr. Graves, MD, who are passionate about addressing the urgent healthcare needs of the unhoused. Community Action has played a pivotal role in the program's success. They understand the local needs and have a more effective outreach strategy.

Together, Dr. Stark, a retired PeaceHealth family practice physician, and Dr. Graves, a retired emergency department physician, work alongside Street Outreach to reach at-risk populations from Mount Vernon to Concrete. The program continues to seek partnerships with local nonprofits and organizations to enhance resource availability, including food, shelter, and mental health services.

"Medical problems we address in the field include psychiatric care, chronic medical problems (such as hypertension, diabetes, and acute infection), and there is also a big need for wound care. Many 'medical visits' turn into social visits just letting folks know someone cares."

- Dr. Stark, street medicine physician, Community Action.

Key benefits of Street Outreach

1,145 clients served in 2024. Vital services received include:

Direct engagement: A connection with unhoused community members, at-risk youth or those with substance use disorder, fostering trust and communication.

Access to resources: Food, shelter, healthcare and case management help individuals meet their basic needs.

Crisis intervention: Prompt intervention in crises, helping to de-escalate situations and connect individuals with appropriate services.

Holistic support: Services tailored to individual needs, addressing not just immediate crises but also underlying needs like mental health care or job training.



"We work with unhoused community members in active use, in a way that many programs simply cannot. With PeaceHealth's support, we are able to get much needed warmth supplies, hygiene supplies, tents and food to our most vulnerable community members who are not able to be served by our winter shelter system."

– Steven Simmons, Unhoused Community Outreach Programs manager, Community Action

PeaceHealth investment in this program

Over the past three years, PeaceHealth has contributed \$55,100 to partner organizations that work directly with individuals of all ages in our community to prevent and address mental health and substance use disorders. [Community Action of Skagit County's Street Outreach Program](#) has been the leading partner in these efforts to elevate the importance of prevention through their outreach and [Skagit Recovery Navigator Program](#). Investments have also been made in [Vamos Outdoors Project](#) and Burlington High School's [Gear-Up](#) program. All are shining examples of programs that seek to reduce stigma and promote healthy living.



Community priority: Community connectors as a bridge to better health

Community need

In an era where youth face unprecedented challenges, the need for robust mental health supports has never been more critical. Factors such as social media pressure, academic stress and the lingering effects of the pandemic have significantly impacted the mental well-being of young people.

In March 2023, the Washington State Department of Health Healthy Youth Survey assessed the health behaviors and mental health and resiliency of more than 217,000 youth in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12. Although still concerning, the results of the survey showed improvements in the mental health of youth when compared to the past surveys completed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Feelings of depression or contemplation of suicide among 10th graders declined from 30% in 2021 to 15% in 2023 — the lowest it has been in 20 years.

Students also reported an increase in support from trusted adults and schools and academic success for the same period. Sexually and gender diverse students (or LGBTQIA+ identifying students) continue to report higher incidences of depression and self-harm. These statistics reflect the positive work that has occurred to support youth since the pandemic but continue to highlight the need for more mental health support for youth.

Implementing comprehensive mental health program can foster resilience and equip young individuals with coping strategies. By prioritizing mental health education and support, we empower the next generation to thrive, ensuring they have the tools necessary for a healthy future. It is imperative that we advocate for these essential services, recognizing mental health is just as important as physical health.

Providing a safe haven for kids

In today's fast-paced and often overwhelming world, the urgency for effective mental health supports for youth has reached a critical level. [Boys & Girls Clubs in Skagit County](#) serve as safe havens for children and teens, providing them with a sense of belonging and community. However, to effectively address the mental health challenges they face, it is essential to equip these clubs with trained professionals who can offer guidance, counseling and support.

Skagit County Healthy Youth survey highlights

- 13%** of children under 18 years living in poverty
- 42%** of 8th graders unable to stop or control worrying in the past two weeks
- 16%** of 10th graders considered attempting suicide in the past year
- 20%** of 8th graders had 4 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Source: Healthy Youth Survey, Skagit County Results, 2024

The partnership and investment of mental and behavioral health providers in each of the Boys & Girls Clubs represents a transformative initiative that significantly enhances the well-being of young members. By integrating mental health professionals into these community hubs, the Clubs provide accessible resources and support tailored to the unique challenges youth face today. This investment not only fosters a safe environment where young people can express their feelings and seek guidance but also cultivates resilience and coping strategies essential for their personal development. The presence of trained professionals helps reduce stigma surrounding mental health, encouraging more youth to reach out for help when needed. Consequently, these initiatives lead to improved emotional well-being, better academic performance, and strong social connections among participants, ultimately equipping them with the tools to navigate life's challenges more effectively.

PeaceHealth investment

Over the past three years, PeaceHealth has contributed \$285,000 to organizations who work directly with individuals of all ages to build a network of care supports. Partners include the [Help Me Grow® Skagit](#), [Boys & Girls Club of Skagit County](#), [Children of the Valley](#) and the joint Burlington and Sedro-Woolley Fire Department Mobile Integrated Health Program. Each of these partners have stepped forward with innovative solutions identified with help from the community. These supports range from help accessing health services, finding social services, education and much more. The combined efforts are making a real difference.



Key benefits of Club participation

Improved access to support: Youth have immediate access to mental health resources, making it easier for them to seek help without barriers.

Reduced stigma: By normalizing conversations about mental health, the program encourages young people to discuss their feelings and seek help.

Academic improvement: With better mental health support, youth often experience improved focus and performance in school, leading to high academic achievement.

"We knew we needed to offer more supports to our members. They were struggling with resiliency, conflict management and stress response and needed more training on how to manage their own wellbeing. We didn't anticipate that the added support, small groups and coaching would make such a tremendous difference."

— Ian Faley, executive vice president, Chief Development Officer, Boys & Girls Club of Skagit County

Enhancing health outcomes: The impact of a Mobile Integrated Health program on local care

In recognition of the great need in our community, the [Burlington Fire Department](#) and the [Sedro-Woolley Fire Department](#) worked together to co-design a mobile integrated health program. Mobile integrated health is designed to expand the role of emergency medical services (EMS) professionals beyond traditional emergency response. The program aims to improve access to healthcare, reduce hospital readmissions and reduce the number of EMS calls received. PeaceHealth invested \$200K in the pilot program.

“This program highlights the need the need of traditionally independent healthcare entities to work together to achieve positive outcomes for our shared communities. The collaborative work exponentially increases any one of our individual efforts.”

*Chris Johnston, chief administrative officer,
PeaceHealth United General Medical Center*

By focusing on prevention, chronic disease management, and collaboration with local healthcare providers, these programs help reduce hospital admissions and improve patient outcomes. As they continue to evolve, mobile integrated health programs hold the promise of creating more accessible, efficient and patient-centered healthcare systems.



Mobile Integrated Health in action



Community priority: Addressing food insecurity

Community need

Skagit County, like many regions, faces significant challenges related to food insecurity. Despite its rich agricultural landscape, a considerable portion of the population struggles to access nutritious and affordable food. Factors contributing to this issue include economic disparities, with low-income families and individuals finding it difficult to make ends meet. The high cost of living, combined with limited access to transportation, exacerbates the problem, making it tough for many to reach grocery stores or food banks. In 2023, 11% of Skagit residents, including 16% of children under 18 were experiencing food insecurity.

All this adds up to greater demand and much 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.

Tri-Parish Food Bank: Nourishing hope and community

The [Tri-Parish Food Bank](#) serves as a crucial resource for the local community, addressing food insecurity and providing essential services to families in need, with a particular focus on serving seasonal workers. Recognizing the unique needs of this community, the food bank has prioritized providing culturally-sensitive foods that align with the diverse backgrounds of those they serve.

To effectively combat food insecurity, the Tri-Parish Food Bank collaborates with local farms and organizations to source fresh produce and culturally relevant food items. This approach not only meets the nutritional needs but also respects the cultural preferences of the community, including many Hispanic/Latino and Indigenous groups.

By the end of 2024, Tri-Parish Food Bank was serving more than 650 families per week and 200 people experiencing homelessness per month. The food bank is also serving 40 families through the Concrete School District.

Overall, the Tri-Parish Food Bank's commitment to culturally sensitive service is a vital part of its mission to support the well-being and dignity of all community members in Skagit County.

Skagit County food insecurity

- 57%** of individuals think that food is too expensive
- 38%** utilized more than one food resource (e.g., food bank, Meals on Wheels)
- 63%** of those who identify as Hispanic or Latino worry about having enough money for food, and
- 2.8x** *more likely.* Those identifying as Hispanic or Latino were 2.8x more likely to have skipped a meal compared to other respondents.

Source: Food Security Survey,

Tri-Parish Food Bank highlights

11,048 individuals served monthly

Referral services connect clients with other community resources such as housing assistance, job training and healthcare services.

Reduced stigma around food assistance creates a welcoming environment, helping to normalize the use of food assistance services and reduce stigma often associated with seeking help.

PeaceHealth investment

PeaceHealth has partnered with multiple organizations to address food insecurity and increase access to nutritious foods. Three years of investments totaling \$27,500 were made to programs such as the [Tri-Parish Food Bank](#) and [The Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program](#) at United General District #304.



"We were fortunate enough to receive funding to purchase culturally appropriate food for our clients and would like to continue to do so. Many of our clients do not have the luxury of purchasing or even finding foods they are accustomed to. Last year, we were able to purchase hominy, tortillas, cinnamon sticks, jalapenos, and more! By providing these foods, we heard stories, shared experiences, and learned about one another's cultures."

– Lilia Ortiz, director, Tri-Parish Food Bank

Final thoughts

At PeaceHealth, we recognize that the journey to health and well-being is constant. Driven by our belief that good health, prevention, and community wellbeing is a fundamental right, we are humbled and honored to serve and learn from our communities. Our Community Health Needs Assessment process holds us accountable to listening and learning from our communities and informs the development of our Community Health Improvement Plan. The needs are forever evolving—and so are we. We pledge to continue our collaborative work in the community and invite you to join us in our pursuit of health justice for all.