

Advancing Health in Terrebonne Parish:

A Comprehensive Community
Health Needs Assessment

Implementation Planning Report

2026

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Terrebonne
GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM

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Mission

Providing exceptional healthcare with compassion.

Vision

It is the vision of Terrebonne General Health System to be a leading medical provider by transforming healthcare delivery using innovative solutions that pave the way toward excellence.





Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Strategy Plan Introduction

Terrebonne General Health System ([Terrebonne General](#)) and Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center ([CMC](#)) have continued their collaborative partnership in conducting the 2026 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Implementation Strategy Plan (ISP), reflecting a shared commitment to improving health outcomes across Terrebonne Parish and the broader Southeast Louisiana region. Both organizations serve overlapping primary service areas and care for many of the same patients, families, and communities, making a joint approach both practical and impactful. By working together, Terrebonne General and CMC can leverage shared resources, integrate data, and coordinate community engagement efforts to develop a more comprehensive and accurate understanding of regional health needs. This collaboration reduces duplication of efforts, strengthens continuity of care across both systems, and enables the development of aligned, strategic initiatives that more effectively address persistent and emerging health challenges. Through this unified effort, both organizations are positioned to maximize their collective impact, enhance access to care, advance population health initiatives, and improve overall community health outcomes.

As the healthcare environment continues to evolve, driven by regulatory changes, rising operational costs, workforce pressures, and increasing demand for services, strategic planning and resource prioritization have become increasingly critical. Terrebonne Parish faces growing healthcare needs, including higher rates of chronic disease, expanding behavioral health concerns, and ongoing barriers to equitable access to care. Terrebonne General, in particular, has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to addressing these challenges through partnerships with local organizations, public agencies, and community leaders. These collaborations have supported the development of innovative, community-centered solutions that target gaps in care and prioritize vulnerable populations. Combined with a strong focus on delivering high-quality, patient-centered services, these efforts position Terrebonne General to continue advancing the health and resilience of the community while adapting to an increasingly complex healthcare landscape.



In 2026, Terrebonne General initiated the CHNA process to gain a deeper, data-driven understanding of the health status, challenges, and priorities of residents across its service area. Given the region’s unique mix of rural, coastal, and urban communities, as well as its vulnerability to environmental risks, economic pressures, and health disparities, the CHNA was designed to identify unmet needs and uncover opportunities to strengthen care delivery. The assessment provides a critical foundation for aligning healthcare services, community partnerships, and long-term investments with the most pressing needs of Terrebonne Parish residents.

The CHNA process itself was comprehensive and collaborative, engaging a wide range of stakeholders, including healthcare providers, educators, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and community members. Through a rigorous methodology that incorporated both primary and secondary data analysis, stakeholder interviews, community surveys, and a structured prioritization process, key health needs were identified based on severity, impact, and feasibility. An independent analysis conducted by Tripp Umbach further ensured the integrity and depth of the findings. These identified priorities now serve as the basis for developing targeted, measurable strategies within the ISP. Moving forward, Terrebonne General remains committed to leveraging these insights, strengthening partnerships, and implementing evidence-based solutions that drive meaningful, sustainable improvements in health outcomes and support the long-term well-being of the communities it serves.

The CHNA followed a multi-step approach.

Figure 1: Methodology Flow Chart

CHNA PHASE





About Terrebonne General Health System

Terrebonne General Health System stands as a leading, highly trusted healthcare provider in Southeast Louisiana, serving as a cornerstone of high-quality, community-centered care throughout Terrebonne Parish and the surrounding region. As a publicly owned, mission-driven organization, Terrebonne General has evolved from a traditional community hospital into a comprehensive, integrated health system offering advanced clinical services, preventive care, chronic disease management, and population health initiatives. This transformation has been driven by ongoing investments in modern facilities, advanced technology, workforce development, and strong community partnerships that collectively address health needs across the full continuum of care. The region continues to face significant challenges, including elevated rates of chronic disease, growing behavioral health needs, access-to-care barriers, disaster resilience concerns, and persistent socioeconomic disparities. In response, Terrebonne General remains deeply committed to improving community health by expanding access, enhancing care coordination, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that residents can receive high-quality care close to home. The system's strong performance and continued national recognition reinforce its capacity to effectively address the priority needs identified through the CHNA.

Terrebonne General's reputation for excellence is further demonstrated through numerous prestigious accreditations and awards that highlight its commitment to quality, safety, and innovation. The health system has earned an "A" Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade for six consecutive terms, reflecting the highest standards in patient safety and error prevention. It has also received the 2025 Healthgrades Patient Safety Excellence Award™, placing it among the top 10% of hospitals nationwide, and has been recognized by CareChex as being in the top 10% in the nation for overall medical excellence and patient safety. In addition to these systemwide achievements, Terrebonne General has been honored with several specialty recognitions, including the Women's Choice Award® for Patient Safety and Emergency Care, designation as a Blue Distinction® Center for Knee and Hip Replacement, and multiple Healthgrades awards for coronary interventional excellence, including being named among America's 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention in 2026. The system has also received the Louisiana Birth Ready Designation, demonstrating its commitment to safe, equitable maternity care, and the CHIME Digital Health Most Wired Award, which underscores its leadership in leveraging digital innovation, telehealth, and data-driven care coordination to enhance patient outcomes.

Complementing these honors, Terrebonne General maintains full accreditation from The Joint Commission, ensuring adherence to rigorous national standards for quality and continuous improvement. Collectively, these recognitions reflect the organization's unwavering dedication to clinical excellence, patient-centered care, and innovation. They also highlight the commitment of its physicians, nurses, staff, and leadership to advancing healthcare delivery and improving the well-being of the communities they serve.

Terrebonne General Health System's current and previous CHNAs are available [here](#).



2026 Community Health Needs

The CHNA and accompanying ISP for Terrebonne General Health System are fully aligned with the requirements of the PPACA, which has transformed the healthcare landscape by emphasizing cost containment, enhanced care coordination, and improved quality of care. In response to these evolving expectations, Terrebonne General remains committed to advancing community health through strategic planning and strong collaboration with local, state, and national partners. Tripp Umbach collaborated with Terrebonne General to complete the CHNA, which was formally adopted by the organization's Board of Directors in early Spring 2026. Building on the findings of the assessment, the ISP outlines the prioritized community health needs identified through the CHNA and establishes the strategies Terrebonne General will implement over the next three years. Through this structured, data-driven approach, Terrebonne General is committed to addressing each identified priority through targeted, measurable initiatives to improve health outcomes, strengthen access to care, and enhance the overall well-being of residents across Terrebonne Parish and the broader Southeast Louisiana region.

The requirements imposed by the IRS for tax-exempt hospitals and health systems must include the following:¹

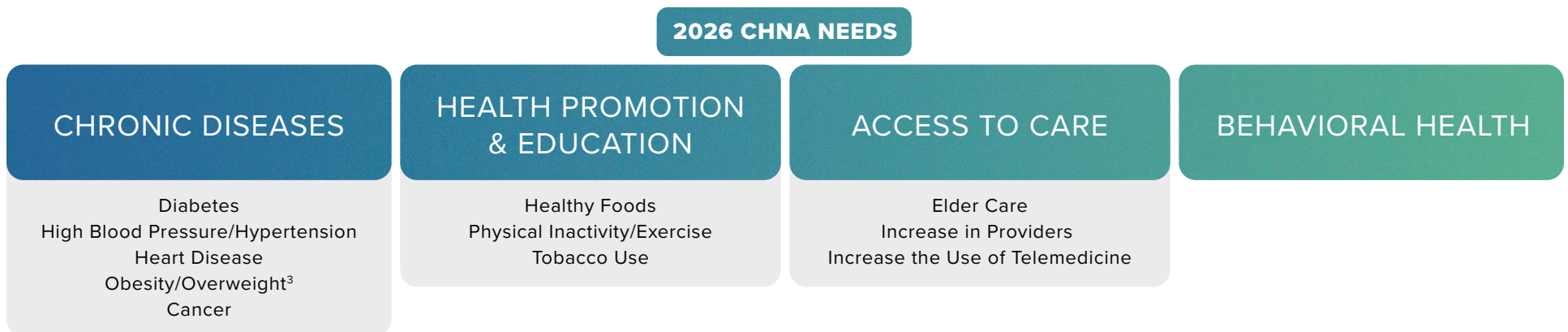
- Conduct a CHNA every three years.
- Report on how it is addressing the needs identified in the CHNA and describe the needs not being addressed and the reasons why.
- Define the community served by the hospital facility.
- Assess the health needs of that community using data and stakeholder input.
- Include input from persons who represent the broad interests of the community/have knowledge of, or expertise in public health.
- Identify and prioritize significant health needs of the community.
- Describe resources potentially available to address identified needs.
- Make the CHNA publicly available, including posting it on the hospital's website and making a printed copy available.
- Adopt an implementation strategy to meet the community health needs identified through the assessment.
 - Outline goals, actions, and resources the hospital will use to address identified health needs.

¹ For specific CHNA requirements for charitable hospital organizations, please visit the [Internal Revenue Service](#).



The final priorities for the 2026 CHNA for Terrebonne General Health System were identified through a comprehensive, multi-step process that integrated quantitative data, qualitative insights, and broad community input, including secondary data analysis, stakeholder interviews, and community surveys conducted across Terrebonne Parish and Southeast Louisiana. Through a structured prioritization process, Terrebonne General leadership, partners, and community stakeholders evaluated needs based on severity, disparities, feasibility, and urgency, resulting in four key priority areas for 2026.

Figure 2: 2026 CHNA Needs²



² It is important to note behavioral health was an identified CHNA need; however, CMC will address the CHNA need.

³ Includes Adult and Childhood Obesity/Overweight.

Chronic Diseases

(Diabetes, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure/Hypertension, Obesity/Overweight, and Cancer)

Chronic diseases continue to represent a significant and persistent public health challenge in Terrebonne Parish and across Louisiana, driving high rates of morbidity, mortality, and healthcare utilization while placing a substantial burden on individuals, families, and the healthcare system. Conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure/hypertension, obesity/overweight, and cancer are among the leading contributors to poor health outcomes in the region, with Louisiana consistently ranking among the lowest-performing states nationally on key health indicators. For example, approximately 15.4% of adults in Louisiana have been diagnosed with diabetes, well above the national average of 12.0%, with many more individuals living with prediabetes, increasing the likelihood of future complications and long-term health impacts.⁴ Heart disease remains the leading cause of death, with conditions such as coronary artery disease, heart failure, and stroke closely linked to high rates of hypertension, obesity, smoking, and physical inactivity.⁵ These conditions often develop silently and remain undiagnosed or poorly managed, particularly among populations facing barriers to care, leading to increased risk of severe complications, including heart attack, kidney disease, and premature death.⁶ In Terrebonne Parish, the burden of heart disease is especially pronounced among older adults, though it also affects middle-aged populations with prolonged exposure to risk factors, with disparities evident across demographic groups.⁷

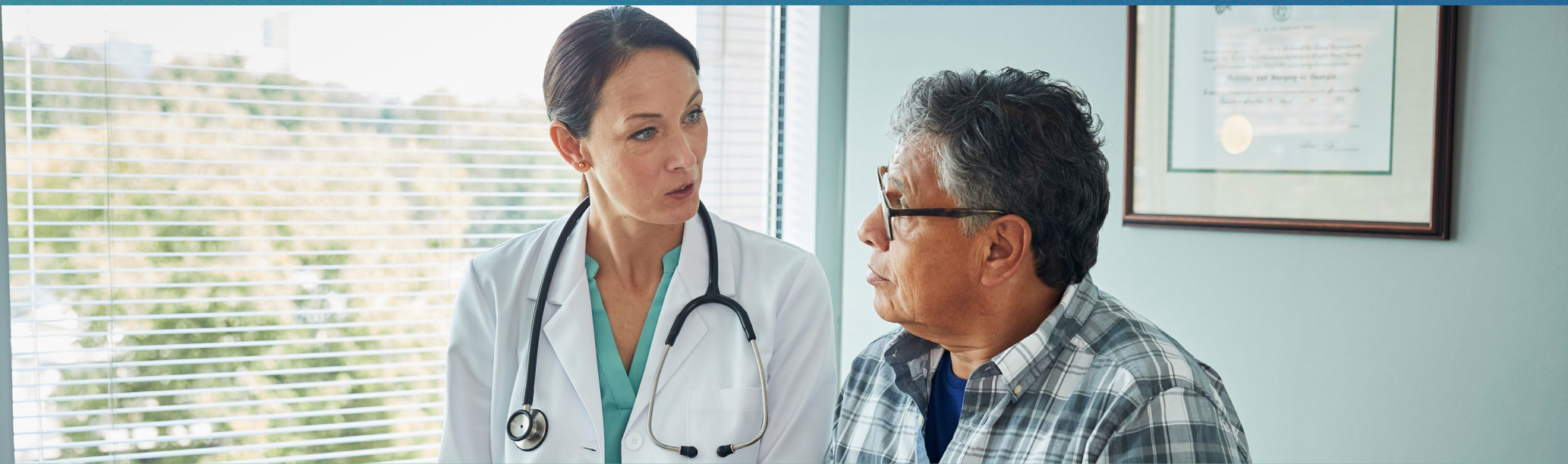
⁴ [America's Health Rankings](#)

⁵ [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

⁶ [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

⁷ [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)





Men often experience earlier onset of cardiovascular events, while women, particularly older women, face worse outcomes due to delayed diagnosis and coexisting conditions, and low-income populations and communities of color are disproportionately affected due to social determinants such as limited access to preventive services, healthy foods, safe environments for physical activity, and consistent primary care.⁸ Obesity further exacerbates this burden, with nearly 40% of adults in Louisiana classified as obese, contributing directly to higher rates of diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, stroke, and certain cancers.⁹ Addressing obesity is particularly challenging due to barriers such as food insecurity, limited access to affordable, nutritious options, long work hours, transportation limitations, and a lack of safe recreational spaces, all of which hinder sustained lifestyle changes. Cancer also remains a leading cause of death in Terrebonne Parish, with incidence rates comparable to state levels and a continued need for improved screening, early detection, and access to comprehensive treatment services.¹⁰ These chronic conditions are interconnected and largely driven by modifiable behavioral risk factors, including tobacco use, poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and excessive alcohol consumption. National data from the CDC further underscore the magnitude of this issue, indicating that six in ten adults live with at least one chronic condition, while four in ten live with two or more. Collectively, these findings highlight the urgent need for coordinated, community-based strategies focused on prevention, early intervention, and disease management to reduce disparities, improve quality of life, and strengthen long-term health outcomes for residents of Terrebonne Parish.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ [America's Health Rankings](#)

¹⁰ [NIH State Cancer Profiles](#)

Priority 1: Chronic Diseases

Goal: Improve access to provider-based and supportive services for increased utilization of healthcare services by residents.

Anticipated Impact: Increase access to healthcare services for residents served by Terrebonne General Health System.

DIABETES ^{11,12,13}				
WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?	TARGET POPULATION	GOAL(S)	EVALUATION METHODS/METRICS	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)
Increase awareness and provide healthcare initiatives to reduce chronic diseases related to diabetes.	Residents within Terrebonne General's service area.	Provide programs and education to increase awareness.	- Number attendees - Number of people screened	- HTV (Houma Television) - Cardiovascular Institute of the South - Office of Public Health Region 3 - Market at the Marina

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE/HYPERTENSION ^{14,15}				
WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?	TARGET POPULATION	GOAL(S)	EVALUATION METHODS/METRICS	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)
Educate the community and provide health care initiatives to reduce chronic diseases related to high blood pressure and hypertension.	Residents within Terrebonne General's service area.	Provide programs and education to increase awareness.	- Number attendees - Number of people screened	- HTV (Houma Television) - Cardiovascular Institute of the South - Office of Public Health Region 3 - Market at the Marina



HEART DISEASE¹⁶

WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?	TARGET POPULATION	GOAL(S)	EVALUATION METHODS/METRICS	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)
Increase awareness and interest in healthcare programs and initiatives to reduce chronic diseases related to heart disease.	Residents within Terrebonne General's service area.	Provide programs, screenings, and education to increase awareness.	- Number attendees - Number of people screened	- HTV (Houma Television) - Cardiovascular Institute of the South - Market at the Marina - Terrebonne Parish School District - Mobile Care Clinic - Terrebonne Parish Health Unit - Louisiana Department of Health - START Corp. - Terrebonne Parish Public Library - Holy Family Church - Anchor Church - University of Texas Health - Community Outreach

OVERWEIGHT/OBESITY^{17,18}

WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?	TARGET POPULATION	GOAL(S)	EVALUATION METHODS/METRICS	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)
Increase awareness and interest in healthcare programs and initiatives to reduce chronic diseases related to obesity.	Residents within Terrebonne General's service area.	Increase community awareness on obesity and the impact on health.	- Number attendees - Number of people screened	- HTV (Houma Television) - Cardiovascular Institute of the South - Office of Public Health Region 3 - Live Healthy Houma - Terrebonne Parish public, private, and Catholic Schools - Market at the Marina

CANCER^{19,20}

WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?	TARGET POPULATION	GOAL(S)	EVALUATION METHODS/METRICS	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)
Increase awareness and interest in early detection and provide cancer education and screenings.	Residents in the Terrebonne General community.	Increase awareness and provide cancer education and screenings.	- Number attendees - Number of people screened	- Mary Bird Perkins - Houma Television (HTV) - Terrebonne Parish School District

¹¹ The previous diabetes goal, “Provide programs to increase awareness and knowledge to residents at risk of being diagnosed with diabetes” was updated to “Provide programs and education to increase awareness” to be more inclusive of residents in the community.

¹² The diabetes metrics were updated to coincide with the updated goal. Terrebonne General will continue to utilize these metrics while expanding to a broader methodology to ensure more comprehensive data capture across all programs.

¹³ The goal, “Educate Terrebonne General’s residents on the value of leading a healthy lifestyle to reduce those likely to be diabetic” was removed as a standalone metric as coverage of Terrebonne Parish and surrounding parishes is already captured in the previous goal, eliminating the need for duplication. With the goal’s removal, the metrics were also removed. Terrebonne General maintains its established methods and metrics while implementing a more comprehensive methodology to ensure a robust and consistent data capture across all programs.

¹⁴ The goal, “Increase awareness and provide education to reduce chronic diseases related to high blood pressure/hypertension by providing health screenings and educational consultations” was updated to “Provide programs and education to increase awareness” to be more inclusive of residents in the community.

¹⁵ The high blood pressure metrics were updated to coincide with the updated goal. The revised metrics reflect the evolution of Terrebonne General’s programming efforts as each department will now document their events and attendees, ensuring that all current and newly introduced programs are accurately captured and represented in the outcomes. Additionally, the reporting metrics were updated to reflect a more comprehensive methodology, ensuring consistent and accurate data are capture across all programs while maintaining Terrebonne General’s established methods and standards.

¹⁶ The goals, “Enhance literacy programs and events to increase awareness and knowledge to the community about heart disease” and “Provide preventative screenings and information for residents in the Terrebonne General community through early detection of heart disease” were removed, along with its metrics and partners. These measures were transitioned to a broader more inclusive framework to expand community reach and better reflect Terrebonne General’s evolving programming. Terrebonne General remains committed to its established methods while implementing a more comprehensive data collection methodology across all programs. Each department will now maintain a detailed record of events and attendees, ensuring that all active and newly introduced programs are accurately captured and represented within the updated reporting measures.

¹⁷ The metrics that aligned with the goal, “Increase community awareness on obesity and the impact on health” was updated to “Increase awareness and interest in healthcare programs and initiatives to reduce chronic diseases related to obesity” to better reflect Terrebonne General’s evolving programming, as each department will now maintain a comprehensive record of events and attendees, ensuring that all active and newly introduced programs are accurately documented and highlighted within the updated reporting measures. Terrebonne General remains committed to its established methods and reporting measures while adopting a broader methodology to ensure more comprehensive data capture across all programs.

¹⁸ The goal, “Educate and improve residents’ access to preventative health programs and the overall value of physical activity and wellness” was removed along with its metrics and partners. This measure was removed into a broader, more comprehensive initiative to expand community reach and ensure more accurate representation of Terrebonne General’s evolving programming. As some programs have been discontinued or modified, the reporting measures were updated to reflect current offerings overall, with each department now responsible for maintaining a detailed record of events and attendees. This approach allows Terrebonne General to capture a more complete and meaningful picture of all active and newly introduced programs through a methodology that better aligns with the organization’s current capacity and community impact goals.

¹⁹ The strategy, “Increase awareness and provide cancer education” and its goal “Increase awareness and provide cancer education by providing cancer screenings and educational consultations” and metrics were updated. The reporting measures were updated to reflect a broader, more inclusive approach to community outreach and programming. Terrebonne General remains committed to its established methods while adopting a more comprehensive data collection methodology to ensure accurate and meaningful tracking across all programs. To better capture the full scope of Terrebonne General’s evolving initiatives, each department will now maintain a detailed record of events and attendees, ensuring that all active and newly introduced programs are fully documented and represented within the updated reporting measures.

²⁰ The strategy, “Increase awareness and interest in early detection”, and the goal, “Provide outreach events and programs to increase access, awareness, and knowledge of cancer screenings to the community, target population, and partners were removed.” The goal was removed and adopted into a broader, more inclusive approach in the current strategy to better serve a greater segment of the community, while each department now tracks events and attendees to accurately reflect current and newly introduced programs, ensuring Terrebonne General continues to capture comprehensive and meaningful data across all initiatives.



Health Promotion & Education

(Healthy Foods, Physical Inactivity/Exercise, and Tobacco Use)

Health promotion remains a critical priority, particularly in addressing key behavioral risk factors such as nutrition, physical inactivity, and tobacco use, all of which significantly influence health outcomes and overall community well-being. Across Louisiana, dietary habits, limited access to healthy foods, and food insecurity continue to pose major barriers to achieving optimal health. Many residents of Terrebonne Parish live in areas with limited access to affordable, fresh produce and nutritious food options, contributing to poor dietary quality and higher rates of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.²¹ Promoting access to healthy foods through community partnerships, nutrition education, and local programs is essential to improving long-term health outcomes and reducing preventable disease burden.

In parallel, physical inactivity remains a significant concern, as a substantial portion of adults report no leisure-time physical activity, increasing their risk for chronic conditions such as heart disease, stroke, and obesity. Barriers such as long work hours, lack of safe recreational spaces, limited transportation, and environmental factors, particularly in coastal and rural areas, contribute to low levels of physical activity among residents. Encouraging regular exercise through community-based initiatives, accessible recreational programs, and health education can play a vital role in improving cardiovascular health, enhancing mental well-being, and supporting healthy aging.²²

²¹ [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

²² [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)





Tobacco use also remains a major contributor to poor health outcomes in Louisiana, where smoking rates continue to exceed national averages and are strongly associated with higher rates of cancer, respiratory illness, and cardiovascular disease. In Terrebonne Parish, tobacco use disproportionately affects low-income populations and individuals with limited access to cessation resources, further exacerbating health disparities. Comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation efforts, including education, counseling, and increased access to cessation programs, are essential to reducing the long-term impact of tobacco-related illnesses.

Factors such as nutrition, physical activity, and tobacco use are deeply interconnected and collectively drive a significant portion of the chronic disease burden within the community. National data indicate that many of the leading causes of death, including heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, are largely preventable through lifestyle modifications and improved health behaviors.²³ Recognizing this, Terrebonne General continues to prioritize health promotion as a cornerstone of its community health strategy, leveraging partnerships with local organizations, public health agencies, and community leaders to implement targeted, evidence-based interventions. By addressing upstream determinants of health and empowering residents with the knowledge, resources, and support needed to make healthier choices, Terrebonne General is working to create sustainable improvements in population health, reduce disparities, and enhance the overall quality of life for individuals and families throughout Terrebonne Parish.

²³ [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Priority 2: Health Promotion and Education

Goal: Improve access to information in the community to reduce poor health outcomes and behaviors.

Anticipated Impact: Increase health education and information to residents within the region.

HEALTHY FOODS ²⁴				
WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?	TARGET POPULATION	GOAL(S)	EVALUATION METHODS/METRICS	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)
Improve community knowledge and access to healthy foods.	Residents within Terrebonne General's service area.	Increase awareness and access to healthy foods and the health benefits it offers.	Number of attendees	- HTV - Market at the Marina - Downtown Development District - Mobile CARE Clinic

PHYSICAL INACTIVITY AND EXERCISE ^{25,26,27}				
WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?	TARGET POPULATION	GOAL(S)	EVALUATION METHODS/METRICS	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)
Improve awareness and education to the community on benefits of physical activity and exercise.	Residents within Terrebonne General's service area.	Increase awareness and knowledge to residents about the importance of physical activity and exercise through health education.	Number of attendees	Terrebonne Parish Schools

TOBACCO USE ²⁸				
WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?	TARGET POPULATION	GOAL(S)	EVALUATION METHODS/METRICS	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)
Ensure residents have a resource for smoking cessation and education about the ill-effects of smoking.	Residents within Terrebonne General's service area.	Increase awareness of the dangers of smoking and the benefits of quitting.	Number of attendees	- Hospital Providers - Community Outreach - Ochsner Health - Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS)



²⁴ The reporting metrics for Healthy Foods was updated to reflect a broader, more inclusive approach to community outreach, ensuring a greater reach and impact across a larger segment of the population. As Terrebonne General's programming has evolved, with some programs being discontinued or modified, each department will now maintain a comprehensive record of events and attendees to accurately reflect all current and newly introduced programs. Terrebonne General remains committed to its established methods while implementing a more expansive data collection methodology to ensure consistent, accurate, and meaningful tracking across all initiatives.

²⁵ The strategy, "Improve community knowledge about available resources" was updated to the current approach to be broader and more inclusive of community residents.

²⁶ The current metrics was updated to reflect Terrebonne General's evolving programming landscape and to coincide with the new strategy. Some programs have been discontinued or modified, and each department will now maintain a comprehensive record of events and attendees to ensure all current and newly introduced programs are accurately documented. Terrebonne General remains committed to its established methods while implementing a broader, more comprehensive data collection methodology to ensure meaningful and consistent tracking across all initiatives.

²⁷ The strategy, "Provide information and education to increase awareness and inserts related to obesity and long-term effects on being overweight" was removed, along with its goals, and partnering organizations from this ISP phase. The removal reflects a broader, more inclusive approach to community outreach in the current identified strategy. Terrebonne General's evolving programs has each department documenting their events and attendees while continuing to build upon established methods through a more expansive data collection methodology. Terrebonne General continues to uphold its established strategies while refining its approach and adopting a more comprehensive data collection methodology to better capture and reflect program impact.

²⁸ Tobacco's evaluation methods and metrics were updated to be more broad and to include a wider audience. It is important to note that some programs previously included in the implementation strategy plan are no longer offered or have evolved over time. To ensure the report accurately reflects current activities, each department will identify the programs and events it currently offers or participates in, along with associated attendance and participation data.

Access to Care

(Elder Care, Increase in Providers, and Increase Use of Telemedicine)

Access to care remains a critical issue across Louisiana, shaped by an aging population, persistent workforce challenges, and the expanding role of telemedicine in modern healthcare delivery. As the population of adults age 65 and older continues to grow, the demand for accessible, coordinated, and consistent healthcare services has intensified, particularly in communities such as Terrebonne Parish, where geographic and socioeconomic barriers can complicate access to care. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Louisiana's aging population is increasing steadily, driving greater need for primary care, chronic disease management, and long-term services and supports. Older adults are more likely to experience multiple chronic conditions, mobility limitations, and functional impairments, all of which require more frequent interaction with the healthcare system.

In regions with limited transportation infrastructure and rural or coastal geography, accessing in-person care can be particularly difficult, making it essential to develop care models that support aging in place, reduce unnecessary emergency department utilization, and improve continuity of care. Strengthening provider availability is another foundational component of improving access. Louisiana has historically faced shortages of primary care physicians and specialists, especially in rural and underserved areas; however, recent trends indicate gradual improvement. Analysis from Invest Louisiana highlights growth in the state's primary care workforce, contributing to better continuity of care and a higher proportion of residents reporting access to a personal physician, an important factor associated with increased preventive care utilization and improved chronic disease outcomes.²⁹ Continued investment in workforce development, particularly in primary care, geriatrics, and behavioral health, will be essential as healthcare needs become more complex.

²⁹ [Invest in Louisiana](#)





Telemedicine has emerged as a transformative tool in addressing access barriers, particularly for older adults and individuals facing mobility or transportation challenges. Utilization of telehealth services expanded rapidly during the COVID-19 pandemic and remains significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels. Research analyzing Louisiana Medicaid claims demonstrates that older adults are among the most frequent users of telemedicine, underscoring its effectiveness in maintaining access for populations managing chronic conditions and functional limitations. Louisiana's supportive policy environment, which allows reimbursement for a wide range of telehealth services, including video and, in some cases, audio-only visits, has been instrumental in sustaining access.³⁰ Telemedicine enables routine follow-ups, medication management, behavioral health services, and chronic disease monitoring without the burden of travel, while also expanding access to specialists beyond local service areas. Despite these advancements, challenges such as limited broadband access, digital literacy gaps, and affordability barriers persist, particularly among low-income and rural populations. Addressing these gaps, alongside continued workforce expansion and integration of telehealth, will be essential to improving access to care. Through coordinated investment and strategic planning, Louisiana can strengthen its healthcare delivery system, improve outcomes for older adults, and ensure that all residents have access to the care they need.

³⁰ [Louisiana Department of Health](#)

Priority 3: Access to Care

Goal: Improve awareness and access to medical services for our community residents.

Anticipated Impact: Increased access to care and services across our service areas.

INCREASE IN PROVIDERS ^{31,32,33,34}				
WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?	TARGET POPULATION	GOAL(S)	EVALUATION METHODS/METRICS	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)
Increase the number of available physicians in the region.	Residents within Terrebonne General's service area.	Terrebonne General has goals to meet physician recruitment needs.	Number of new physicians recruited	- Practice Link - Recruitment Firms - Career Fairs - Medical Schools - Fellowships - Residency Programs
Ensure the continuation of medical services at Ochsner Chabert Medical Center.	Bayou region patients including uninsured and underinsured.	Continue partnerships with Ochsner to operate a safety net facility through a public private partnership maintaining access to the underserved and underinsured in the region.	Continued Partnership with CMC	- Ochsner management - Corporate Department Staff - Ochsner specialty departments (CMC and Ochsner)

INCREASE USE OF TELEMEDICINE ^{35,36}				
WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?	TARGET POPULATION	GOAL(S)	EVALUATION METHODS/METRICS	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)
Provide telehealth visits for patients.	Residents within Terrebonne General's service area.	Increase awareness about use of Telemedicine.	- Number of attendees - Total number of visits per year	- Terrebonne General - Outpatient departments

ELDER CARE

WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?	TARGET POPULATION	GOAL(S)	EVALUATION METHODS/METRICS	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)
Provide education and programs geared to the population over 60.	Residents within Terrebonne General's service area.	Provide education and programs for adults over 60.	• Number of attendees • Number of Events	• HTV (Houma Television) • Cardiovascular Institute of the South • Market at the Marina • Mobile CARE Clinic • Terrebonne Parish Public Library • Community Outreach

³¹ The goal, "Terrebonne General will set priority goals for the following specialties to meet physician recruitment needs" was updated to "Terrebonne General has goals to meet physician recruitment needs" to reflect a broader, more inclusive approach to community engagement and impact. Terrebonne General remains committed to its established methods and reporting measures while expanding its methodology to ensure more comprehensive and accurate data capture across all programs. To better reflect Terrebonne General's evolving programming landscape, each department will now maintain a record of events and attendees, ensuring that all active and newly introduced programs are fully documented and represented within the updated reporting measures.

³² The reporting metrics under the sub-CHNA need, Increase in Providers, was updated to reflect a broader, more inclusive approach to community outreach and engagement. As Terrebonne General's programming has evolved, each department will now maintain a comprehensive record of events and attendees, ensuring that all active and newly introduced programs are accurately captured and represented within the updated reporting measures.

³³ The metrics that coincide with the goal, "Continue to partner with Ochsner and Terrebonne General to operate a safety net facility through a public private partnership maintaining access to the underserved and underinsured in the region" was updated. The reporting metrics reflect that the partnership remains active and ongoing; however, tracking patient volumes, payer mix, and ED volumes is no longer necessary to demonstrate its effectiveness and impact.

³⁴ The strategy, "Provide education on chronic health conditions and healthy nutrition through community education, screenings, and physical activity," its target population, goal, "Provide education on chronic health conditions and healthy nutrition through community", metrics and partners were removed. The strategy was transitioned into a broader, more inclusive initiative to expand community reach and impact within the other strategies. As Terrebonne General's programming has evolved, the reporting measures were updated to reflect current offerings, with each department now maintaining a comprehensive record of events and attendees to ensure all active and newly introduced programs are accurately captured. Terrebonne General remains committed to its established methods while implementing a more comprehensive methodology to ensure consistent and meaningful data collection across all programs.

³⁵ The goal, "Implement telehealth visits in Terrebonne General Outpatient department clinics" was updated to "Increase awareness about use of Telemedicine", as telehealth services are already fully implemented. The focus of this goal has shifted to increasing community awareness and promoting utilization of available telehealth options.

³⁶ The metrics that coincide with the goal was updated as Terrebonne General re-evaluated its data collection approach for telehealth promotion and patient visits to ensure more accurate and meaningful measurement of outreach efforts and service utilization.



Adjusting Goals, Strategies, and Metrics

The Terrebonne General Health System has refined and streamlined elements from its previous ISP to strengthen the 2026 report with greater focus, clarity, and alignment. By consolidating related initiatives and coordinating efforts across programs, the updated ISP presents a more cohesive and efficient roadmap for addressing identified community health needs in Terrebonne Parish and the surrounding region. This approach ensures that resources are strategically directed toward shared priorities, maximizing impact while maintaining alignment across departments and community partnerships. Additionally, the updated ISP enhances communication with both internal and external stakeholders by clearly outlining priorities and establishing a framework for ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. Through this refined structure, Terrebonne General reinforces its commitment to delivering coordinated, data-driven, and measurable improvements in community health outcomes.

In developing the ISP, Terrebonne General prioritized strategies that offer the greatest potential for impact and sustainability. As a result, select goals, strategies, and metrics from the previous plan have been refined, consolidated, or discontinued to reflect operational realities and evolving community needs. These adjustments were informed by considerations such as staffing capacity, financial resources, shifting organizational priorities, and levels of community engagement. This intentional realignment allows Terrebonne General to remain responsive and adaptable while focusing efforts on high-impact, feasible strategies that support long-term improvements in health outcomes across the region.

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Moving Forward

With the completion of its CHNA and corresponding ISP, Terrebonne General is positioned to advance a focused, action-oriented approach to improving health outcomes across Terrebonne Parish and the surrounding service area. This phase marks a shift from assessment to implementation, in which identified priorities are operationalized as targeted, measurable initiatives. Grounded in extensive community input and data analysis, Terrebonne General will concentrate its efforts on key priority areas, including Chronic Diseases, Health Promotion and Education, and Access to Care. These priorities reflect both the most pressing health challenges facing the region and the areas where the organization can drive meaningful and sustainable impact.

As implementation moves forward, Terrebonne General will leverage its clinical capabilities, academic partnerships, and community relationships to strengthen care delivery and expand access to essential services. Collaboration with local organizations, public health entities, and community-based providers will remain central to ensuring that strategies are responsive to community needs and effectively address social and structural barriers to health. Key areas of focus will include enhancing behavioral health integration, expanding preventive care and chronic disease education, and improving access to care to reduce barriers to such services.

To support accountability and continuous improvement, Terrebonne General will establish clear performance metrics and evaluation processes to monitor progress and assess outcomes. Ongoing stakeholder engagement will play a critical role in this effort, allowing for real-time feedback and adaptive strategy refinement as community needs evolve. Over the next three years, Terrebonne General will continue to align its resources and partnerships with identified priorities, reinforcing its commitment to health equity, community-centered care, and long-term population health improvement.

Special Acknowledgments

The ISP phase translated CHNA findings into clear, measurable actions to guide Terrebonne General's work over the next three years. Led by a dedicated team and supported by strong leadership, this effort reflects a coordinated transition from assessment to impact. Through collaboration with community leaders, providers, and local organizations, the Working Group identified practical solutions, aligned resources, and prioritized high-impact interventions. Tripp Umbach thanks Terrebonne General Health System and their partners, for their leadership and commitment. Moving forward, Terrebonne General will implement strategic, community-informed initiatives designed to improve outcomes and strengthen the health of Southeast Louisiana residents.

In alphabetical order by last name.

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Additional Information

Terrebonne General is committed to leveraging its strengths, clinical expertise, and deep-rooted community partnerships, reflecting its strong investment in the health, well-being, and long-term vitality of the Terrebonne Parish community. The ISP will guide coordinated efforts to address the priority health needs identified in this assessment and advance meaningful improvements in the health and well-being of residents across Terrebonne Parish. For questions or additional information regarding the CHNA/ISP or its findings, please contact:

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Consultants

Tripp Umbach brings more than 30 years of national experience conducting CHNAs, developing implementation strategies, and planning population health for hospitals, health systems, public health agencies, universities, and community-based organizations. As a recognized leader in the field, Tripp Umbach has completed hundreds of CHNAs nationwide, working in diverse settings ranging from large academic health centers to rural critical access hospitals. Our team is highly skilled in analyzing complex quantitative data; synthesizing community voices through interviews, focus groups, and surveys; and facilitating structured prioritization processes that lead to clear, actionable results. We have deep expertise in identifying health disparities, evaluating social determinants of health, and supporting clients in building sustainable, community-centered strategies to improve health outcomes. Beyond assessment, Tripp Umbach works closely with organizations to develop evidence-based implementation plans, strengthen partnerships, and align resources to support long-term, measurable impact. With decades of experience and a proven track record of producing IRS-compliant, high-quality CHNAs, Tripp Umbach provides the insight, rigor, and strategic guidance necessary to help communities and health systems advance meaningful change.



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