

# HEALTHY Gallatin!

## What is a community health assessment?

Everyone wants to be healthy. Some of us aren't. This project will **measure how healthy we are**, what health conditions we suffer from, and the **root causes** of those health problems.

**Where will the information come from?** We will use a variety of data sources, including surveys, vital records, program and facility data, as well as interviews and in-depth community discussions.

## Why should community members be involved?

**Community involvement is vital** for an effective health assessment and improvement project. Community members are needed to **prioritize the health needs**. There will be several opportunities for community members to share their views and experiences and suggest strategies for action.

## How will this improve health?

Once we know what the priority health needs are (and what the root causes of those problems are) we will **develop a plan to fix the problems**.

Hospitals, health departments, and other community organizations will use the plan to target their efforts based on **what the community decides** are the most important health problems. **By all of us moving in the same direction, we will maximize our impact on important health problems.**

## Why are we doing this now?

Hospitals have a **new mandate under the health reform law** to conduct a 'community health needs assessment' every three years, starting in 2012. Local health departments have a long tradition of health assessment and improvement activities, and those who are seeking national accreditation must conduct assessments and develop improvement plans, so **partnering together just makes sense** in these times of scarce resources.

## What geographic area does this cover?

In-depth community discussions will occur in 7 communities around Gallatin County: Three Forks, Belgrade, Bozeman, Big Sky, West Yellowstone, Manhattan, and Gallatin Gateway.

## How long will the project take?

Following national best practices, **our project will take about a year** from starting the assessment to completion of the improvement plan. However, effective community health improvement is part of a **continuous cycle** of measurement, planning, action, and evaluation... continually refining efforts to respond to community conditions.

**For more information please call 406-582-3119**



**A Partnership:**

Bozeman Deaconess Health Services, Community Health Partners,  
Gallatin City-County Health Department, & Montana State University

Funded by a grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) with funding from the R. W. Johnson Foundation