

## Goals for Siouxland

With our Community Impact Taskforce, United Way of Siouxland, has analyzed thousands of local data points and involved local leaders, spanning law enforcement, healthcare, education, workforce development, and beyond. Through this collaborative effort, we have redefined our goals to enhance the impact of our mission on Siouxland.

### **GOAL: Individuals access mental health and addiction resources.**

#### **Priorities**

- Improve access to affordable treatment and recovery resources through expanded hours and/or delivery methods, thereby increasing participation.
- Increase access and participation in prevention programming.

#### DATA Snapshot

- ❖ The amount of illegal drugs seized in Siouxland has increased 300% from since 2020.
- ❖ Siouxland has seen an 18% increase in the number of Poor Mental Health Days the average adult experiences (2019 to 2023). While this mirrors national trends, it brings to light the need for support.

### **GOAL: Adult learners become more employable and independent in the community.**

#### **Priorities**

- Increase adult literacy instruction and participation.
- Increase household income through career development opportunities and job training.

#### DATA Snapshot

- ❖ Even though unemployment rates have dropped back below even our 2018 numbers, currently over 15% of people in Woodbury County and 11% in Dakota County are living in poverty – or earning less than \$30,000 for a family of 4.
- ❖ 15% of adults 25 years and older in Siouxland do not have a high school diploma.
- ❖ 10% of adults have an associate's degree, and 22% have a bachelor's or higher

### **GOAL: Individuals engage in behaviors that improve their health or safety.**

#### **Priorities**

- Promote healthy habits for adults and children to reduce obesity.
- Increase access to violence and trauma treatment and support services.

#### DATA Snapshot

- ❖ Adult Obesity rates are 37% in Union County, 40% in Dakota County, and 39% in Woodbury County – Numbers have risen in each county by 2 to 5% since 2019.
- ❖ Childhood obesity in IA, NE & SD for 10-17 year olds is nearly 14-19%. Childhood obesity is defined as a BMI at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for children of the same age and sex.
- ❖ Domestic Assaults in Sioux City have climbed 38% since 2020.
- ❖ 844 children were abused or neglected in Woodbury County & NE Nebraska in 2021

## **GOAL: Families access quality childcare and early learning opportunities.**

### **Priorities**

- Children are assessed ready for kindergarten.
- Increase safe, affordable, quality childcare slots. (Priority given to infant care and extended hours)

### **DATA Snapshot**

- ❖ A family earning the median income with an infant in childcare would pay 10% of their income if the child was in a registered home or 14% of their income if the child was in a licensed center. 7% is considered affordable.
- ❖ 79% of families in Woodbury County with all parents working & have children under 6 years old compared to 75% across Iowa.
- ❖ Dakota & Woodbury counties see approximately 10% less preschool participation than their corresponding state.
- ❖ When Kindergarteners enter school in the fall, only 36% of Sioux City children are meeting learning benchmarks.

## **GOAL: Youth demonstrate grade-appropriate school readiness academically, socially, and emotionally.**

### **Priorities**

- Help students maintain or improve grade level reading and math skill• Decrease barriers for children to participate in before and after school activities.
- Increase school attendance rates.

### **DATA Snapshot**

- ❖ While we have seen increases in English scores in the Sioux City and Dakota Valley School Districts, Proficiency rates for Math and Language Arts are still less than 60% on average in all areas throughout the tri-state, with proficiencies as low as 29% for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in one county.
- ❖ Chronic absenteeism rates for the Sioux City Community School District were over 35% last year – higher than the state average of 21%. (Chronic Absenteeism is missing two days per month, or 10% of all school days)
- ❖ The percent of English language learners in the Sioux City and South Sioux City schools is over 22%. Approximately triple the state average.

**To learn more about United Way of Siouxland and to join our mission**

**[www.unitedwaysiouxland.com](http://www.unitedwaysiouxland.com)**

**For more local data visit: Source For Siouxland**

**[www.sourceforsioxland.com](http://www.sourceforsioxland.com)**