

Guiding Principles and Values for a Milton Community Health Assessment

Examine Milton’s challenges, opportunities, and strengths to promote a healthier community

We will identify key health problems and concerns within the community and leverage our community’s strengths and assets, as well as opportunities and resources in the region, to address gaps in programs, policies, and services.

Use highest quality quantitative and qualitative data

In order to assess the health status of Milton, we will use a variety of informational sources including statistical data and reports (quantitative data), and use narratives (qualitative data) from the town’s residents and workforce via surveys, interviews, discussions and focus groups

Use both evidence based and innovative practices to address health challenges

In order to address the challenges, we discover, we will develop a community health improvement plan (CHIP) that incorporates the latest and most effective processes.

Encourage proactive, broad, and diverse multi-sector community engagement

Milton is a diverse community, and as such, we will actively work with community residents and leaders—of all ages and backgrounds—to understand and address our health challenges.

Commit to understanding health disparities in our community and use a “health equity lens” to address them

Certain groups of people have higher rates of physical and mental illnesses, injuries, disabilities, and premature death. These differences are often found by race and ethnicity, income and education levels, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status and/or special health care needs-- and they exist for different reasons. Those reasons are often attributed to the socio-economic factors in our society, called the social determinants of health. Because we believe everyone has the right to the best health possible, we will do our best to find data that illuminate which groups may be at greatest health risk in Milton and understand the various factors which account for these differences so that we can prioritize their needs and strive for the best possible health outcomes for all.

Use a public health approach that focuses on preventable illnesses and injuries

Improving the health of Milton residents involves not just treating illnesses and injuries as they arise, but preventing them from occurring in the first place. Through prioritizing prevention initiatives, the quality of life and cost of health care for Milton residents will likely improve.

Ensure **maximum transparency and communications** to improve community engagement and accountability

We will regularly communicate our progress, findings, results, and processes to the public and be responsive to any concerns, requests, or guidance from residents.

Engage in evaluation to promote **quality improvement**

We will not only evaluate our methods and progress internally, but we will also develop a Community Health Improvement Plan that will be utilized as a basis to measure progress and change in the community's health over time.