Oregon's 2026-2030 MACH Title V Priorities- Resource Guide

Safe and Healthy Environments

For more information or technical assistance with Safe and Healthy Environments strategies please contact:

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A safe and healthy environment provides a foundation for positive health outcomes by supporting community connectedness and preventing injury in Oregon communities. By assessing injury and community violence rates and supporting partnerships and programming aimed at creating safer environments, communities will be more connected and injury rates can be reduced. This priority area is focused on improving the built environment through policy development, building partnerships with existing and new organizations and programs, and coordinating systems to increase access to resources. This work is focused on populations across the lifespan, from birth to adulthood, with a focus on the maternal, childhood, and adolescence populations.

Strategies:

1. Develop and implement policies to improve community safety and/or child health outcomes.
2. Coordinate systems to enhance access to resources for community violence and/or child injury prevention.
3. Implement or promote programs and initiatives that create safe and healthy environments and promote the prevention of child injury and community violence.
4. Create safe community spaces or events to promote recreation, physical activity, violence prevention and/or community connection.
5. Conduct assessment of local child injury safety and community violence needs and/or disseminate data to increase understanding and mobilize partnerships around safe and healthy environments.

Below are examples of what this work can look like for grantees. These project ideas are offered to help with planning, but grantees are also welcome to develop their own projects/ activities/ measures. Note: Activities should be outlined in a way that helps outline how the project will be done. Include at least one measure per project for the annual plan.

Safe and Healthy Environments
Strategy #1: Develop and implement policies to improve community safety and/or child health outcomes.

Unsafe living environments contribute to decreased physical and mental health outcomes. This strategy is focused on developing or implementing policies or practices through partnerships with local agencies or communities to reduce community violence and improve safety so families and children can recreate and thrive. Partnerships can include community safety partners such as community-based organizations, police or sheriff departments, neighborhood associations or neighborhood watch, local parks and recreation departments, death/fatality review boards or committees, and school administrators. Policies can be focused on safe infrastructure, reducing harassment, and establishment of safe spaces.

Example Local Level Projects/Work

- **Example A:** Partner with local government and community organizations to identify opportunities and promote community safety for residents when recreating.

  Residents in a community have reported feeling unsafe when recreating at local parks and recreation infrastructure due to increased drug use and violence being observed. Residents would like to use the built environment but are feeling unsafe.
  - Possible activities related to this project/work:
    - Meet with local organizations to see if more organized activities could be planned in the local park or plaza to encourage residents to use the space.
    - Meet with the local parks and recreation team to see if additional streetlights or bench infrastructure can be installed.
    - Meet with the local community-based organizations doing outreach to houseless or individuals using substances and/or local police or sheriff department to advocate for policies that can help deter unsafe activities when families are wanting to recreate.
    - Develop a safety plan to address one or more of the identified needs.
    - Implement community activities identified in the plan.
  - Possible measures related to this project/work:
    - Number of safety plans developed for safe recreation
    - Number of community events hosted in the park to promote recreation
  - Resources/Evidence
    - [National Recreation and Park Association: Creating Safe Park Environments to Enhance Community Wellness](#)
    - [Safe Routes Partnership: Connecting People to Parks](#)
    - [What Role can Design Play in Creating Safer Parks?](#)

- **Example B:** Work with local education/school partners to address recent reports of students experiencing harassment on school grounds.
  - Possible activities related to this project/work:
    - Meet with the local school board administration and identify policies that could be developed or can be enforced to reduce harassment.
    - Host workshops with local educators and after school programs on reducing harassment and creating safe spaces.
  - Possible measures related to this project/work:
    - Number of policies created and/or implemented to reduce harassment
    - Number of attendees at specialized trainings to reduce harassment or create safe spaces
  - Resources/Evidence
    - [Hotspot mapping for violence prevention](#)
    - [Best Practices to prevent discrimination and harassment in the schools](#)

Resources/Evidence related to this Strategy:

- [Community-Based Approaches to Safety](#)

Other Project Ideas for this Strategy:

- Meet with local community safety partners to discuss concerns and solution to address and discuss strategies for reducing violence in the community.
- Partner with local parks and recreation team or land use planner to identify safety concerns and solutions for making public spaces safer environments to recreate.
- Partner with school boards, students, parents and teachers to promote more policies on harassment and safe spaces.
- Coordinate and partner with local domestic and sexual violence agencies to support their violence prevention efforts.

Safe and Healthy Environments
Strategy #2: Coordinate systems to enhance access to resources for community violence and/or child injury prevention.

When programs, resources, and services are already in place in a community, improving the coordination and collaboration of those efforts can reduce community violence and child injury. This strategy is focused on assessing and coordinating available supports and programs to prevent gaps and enhance access to existing services. Partners may include local injury prevention partners including domestic violence shelters, services for domestic and sexual assault survivors, and organizations focused on child safety including efforts around transportation, swimming/drowning, poisonings, and child abuse.

Example Local Level Projects/Work

- **Example A:** Attend or convene coalitions or task force meetings to enhance access to community violence or injury prevention resources within local schools or the larger community.

  Some existing committees may include a local child fatality review boards, school program and activities, or participation in a health fair, or the planning of a cultural event. Efforts help identify specific prevention activities that can be implemented by the county and their partners.
  - Possible activities related to this project/work:
    - Identify the local landscape of child injury prevention efforts including a local child fatality review board and community partners currently offering child injury prevention supports.
    - Attend established fatality review board to identify ways to provide public health education on child injury topics.
    - Partner with local organizations to complete an assessment of violence or injury prevention needs in the community.

- - Develop a plan to improve services or implement a new initiative based on the findings of the local services landscape report.
    - Participate in the planning or support of a community cultural event to understand the current local trends as well as build relationships with local organizations that may already be providing supports.
  - Possible measures related to this project/work:
    - Number of meetings convened to enhance access to community violence or injury prevention resources
    - Number of reports produced on the local child injury prevention landscape
    - Number of trainings offered which enhance access to resources for community violence and/or child injury prevention
    - Number of community events attended to spread awareness of community violence and/or injury prevention resources
  - Resources/Evidence
    - [National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention](#)
    - [Comparing types of child fatality review in the US](#)
    - [Oregon County Child Death Review Teams](#)

- **Example B:** Improve the referral system for services for survivors of violence.

  For example: improve the communication between domestic violence, suicide, child abuse, SNAP, and housing service providers.
  - Possible activities related to this project/work:
    - Identify the need for improvement in the referral system.
    - Identify and convene service providers in the community.
    - Map opportunities for referrals and warm hand offs between services.
    - Implement enhanced referrals.
  - Possible measures related to this project/work:
    - Number of service providers identified.
    - Number of opportunities for enhanced referrals identified.
    - Percent of clients with referrals between identified services.
  - Resources/Evidence:
    - [New Resources to Help Pediatricians Support IPV Survivors](#)
    - [How Do We Connect the Dots? Local Approaches to Preventing Multiple Forms of Violence](#)

Resources/Evidence related to this Strategy
- [Breaking Down City Hall's Silos](#)

Other Project Ideas for this Strategy:
- Bring awareness to existing resources, share toolkits, templates, and talking points to increase advocacy.
- Share information on programing that already exists that can benefit communities.

Safe and Healthy Environments
Strategy #3: Implement or promote programs and initiatives that create safe and healthy environments and promote the prevention of child injury and community violence.

Creating new programs to address community needs help ensure adaptability and ongoing community support. This strategy is focused on implementing new programs and initiatives that address identified community needs for prevention of child injury and community violence.

Example Local Level Projects/Work

- **Example A:** Implement a community car seat distribution program that includes health education on recommended car seat use.

  Data shows that child fatalities continue to be a concern for young children and toddlers who are not properly restrained in a car seat. Furthermore, many families experience financial barriers in purchasing the appropriate car seat especially during transitions from infant to toddler which leads to unsafe child transportation practices.
  - Possible activities related to this project/work:
    - Reach out to Oregon Department of Transportation to inquire about their car seat technician training and car seat distribution program.
    - Reach out to the Coordinated Care Organizations to identify what supports and resources they can provide for members.
    - Train at least one staff member to be a car seat technician.
    - Purchase or receive car seats for distribution.
    - Identify and partner with the local birthing facilities to share information about available resources (car seats, trainings) that can be distributed to new families.
    - Identify and partner with local pediatric health care providers (pediatricians, nurse practitioners, physician associates, midwives) to support car seat distribution and education during childhood car seat transitions.
    - Create flyer that can be distributed to community partners sharing the available resources and training.
  - Possible measures related to this project/work:
    - Number of car seat technicians trained
    - Number of car seats distributed
    - Number of partners who received flyers for distribution
    - Number of community events attended to spread awareness about program
  - Resources/Evidence
    - [Safe Kids Worldwide: Car Seat Safety Tips](#)
    - [Safe Kids Columbia Gorge](#)
    - [Safe Kids West Oregon](#)
    - [Buckle Up Program](#)

- **Example B:** Sponsor an injury-prevention focused education series in collaboration with a local community-based organization.

  There has been an increase in child injury rates for both intentional and unintentional injury. Parents and families in the communities could benefits from awareness about safe households. Topic may be focused on a particular community need or group.
    - Possible activities related to this project/work:
        - Identify community partners that can help host and facilities the series.
        - Identify topics for the series.
        - Schedule the dates and times while coordinating with guest speakers on each topic.
        - Distribute information on sessions to local medical provider offices, community the local department of human services office where families may be seeking services, and other identified partners.
        - Offer incentives related to topics. For example, if you are doing an unintentional injury prevention series and the topic is around safe firearm storage with young children, offer locked gun storage boxes. If one topic is on water safety and children, offer floatation devices (life jackets) and have options for families to sign up for swim classes funded by the county department.
    - Possible measures related to this project/work:
        - Number of sessions hosted
        - Number of participants attended
        - Number of flyers or materials distributed
        - Number of incentives distributed
    - Resources/Evidence
        - [Safe States: Injury Prevention Inventory includes strategies for education and skill enhancement programs for parents and caregivers](#)
        - [Stanford Medicine: Injury Prevention and Safety](#)

Other Project Ideas for this Strategy:
- Develop a helmet (ex. bike, dirt bike, ATV, horse, ski/board) distribution program.
- Distribute personal floatation devices and promote/offer swim lessons for families.
- Promote poison prevention by offering safe storage containers, activity sheets for children to identify potential poisons in their household and bringing awareness to the Oregon Poison Help line.
- Host an ongoing child safety education program for parents in the community to learn about child proofing their home and creating a safe environment.
- Implement or support mentorship programs in communities and schools (ex: Coaching Boys to Men).
- Offer ongoing CPR and First Aid Training courses for parents.

Safe and Healthy Environments
Strategy #4: Create safe community spaces or events to promote recreation, physical activity, violence prevention and/or community connection.

Safe community spaces are foundational for encouraging physical activity and improving community connection which can impact the overall health of a community. Individuals with lower community connections may experience loneliness, social isolation, and inadequate social supports. This strategy is focused on actively creating safe community spaces for people to come together in community through planned activities, events, and collaborations with other agencies and departments.

Example Local Level Projects/Work

- **Example A:** Partner with local agencies, including parks and recreation departments, community-based organizations, or community champions promoting health and wellness, to host monthly movie screenings in the park.

  Support from local businesses can be used to offer free popcorn and treats during the summer as an opportunity for families to connect more with their community and their built environment.
  - Possible activities related to this project/work:
    - Identify community partners willing to participate and support event set up.
    - Get permissions to screen movie in the park.
    - Schedule dates and promote event across wide network of partners.
  - Possible measures related to this project/work:
    - Number of screenings completed
    - Number of partners engaged
    - Number of participants at events
  - Resources/Evidence:
    - [National Recreation and Park Association: Creating Safe Park Environments to Enhance Community Wellness](#)
    - [Park Pride: Tips for Planning a Community Event in Your Park](#)
    - [CDC – Promising Approaches to Promote Social Connection](#)

Other Project Ideas for this Strategy:

- Host community health event with live animal visits and/or pet therapy.
- Facilitate an ongoing local walking group for mothers and children – identify community members to participate and lead.
- Organize exercise programs for specific groups.
- Collaborate with municipal agencies to improve playground equipment, sports facilities, green spaces, Improve lighting, access to public restrooms, and trash cans.
- Collaborate with local library or parks and recreation department to create and promote events for community connection (ex: Story time, resume building, and job connection).

- Collaborate with community-based organizations to host events promoting the use of the built environment including playgrounds, local parks, local water attractions, etc.
- Support family friendly community events (organized movies in the park, bike rides, markets and fairs.
- Offer fee waivers for school sports and organize gear swaps.
- Offer parenting support through events and resource sharing.
- Organize a bike rodeo at a local park or the local schools.

Safe and Healthy Environments
Strategy #5: Conduct assessment of local child injury safety and community violence needs and/or disseminate data to increase understanding and mobilize partnerships around safe and healthy environments.

Understanding the current data and landscape of safety and community needs is a critical step in supporting local public health initiatives This strategy is focused on conducting and/or gathering assessment data for the current landscape of child injury and community violence to support later activities for developing safer and healthier environments.

Example Local Level Projects/Work
- **Example A:** Review statewide available data from FCH, IVPP, HPCDP, and other available data sources to understand the current landscape of safety and community needs.
  - Possible activities related to this project/work:
    - Request data from partners. This can include statewide and local available data on fatality rates and intentional and unintentional child injury rates and reasonings.
    - Review and analyze data.
    - Develop a report and accompanying flyer or one pager to disseminate to partners and mobilize partnerships.
    - Identify partners that can support moving forward work on identified needs.
  - Possible measures related to this project/work:
    - Number of local needs assessment reports and/or flyers produced on community violence and child injury prevention
    - Number of partners currently supporting prevention efforts
  - Resources/Evidence
    - [What is data modernization and why it matters](#)
    - [Using Data and Digital Tools in Public Health](#)

- **Example B:** Conduct hot spot mapping in a defined space or environment like a school, park, or public area to identify areas where students or individuals feel are unsafe or where they have experienced bullying harassment, or violence and propose changes to the physical environment that would increase safety in the "hot spots".

- Possible activities related to this project/work:
  - Convene a team to conduct the hotspot mapping in a defined location.
  - Gather information from the community and data sources to inform the mapping.
  - Identify "hot spots".
  - Create recommendations to improve safety.
  - Coordinate with public and private partners to implement the recommendations.
- Possible measures related to this project/work:
  - Hot spot mapping plan and timeline completed (Yes/No)
  - Number of meetings
  - Number of partners involved
  - Completion of the recommendations
- Resources/Evidence
  - [PCADV- Hotspot Mapping](): Hot-spot mapping involves identifying areas where certain events or activities occur more frequently than expected. In the context of communities, it's used to pinpoint concentrated areas of issues, concerns, or disconnection
  - [Using Data and Digital Tools in Public Health]()