Following the completion of the Community Health Assessment (CHA), Partners for a Healthier Ross County and the steering committee completed a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). While the CHA provides an overall view of the “state of health” in Ross County, the CHIP draws from the CHA and identifies five priority areas that will be the focus of improvement efforts for local agencies/partners. The steering committee will continue to meet and to identify programs and services already in place, and to identify gaps and possible programs that fill those gaps and lead to improved health. The CHIP will serve as a guide for the Ross County Health District as we continue our planning efforts and draft an agency Strategic Plan.

Below are the five health areas from the CHA that were identified by Partners for a Healthier Ross County as health problems that deserved priority status.

WHAT’S NEXT? The Partners for a Healthier Ross County will begin integrating the community health improvement plan into established community efforts and use it to build the missing pieces of infrastructure needed to ensure that activities aimed at improving the health of Ross Countians are focused, communicated, documented and measured to benchmark long-term success. Communication of the finalized plan, as well as integration of it into established work groups, will begin in November 2016, with new work groups convening in January 2017. Partners for a Healthier Ross County believes community-based projects have the best opportunity to make a real difference in the health of individuals and their families, and those providing care. Visions for future community support in all of the priority areas will require the identification of suitable leadership, raising awareness among stakeholders, determining how to involve them, and agreeing on the areas and methods of collaboration. In addition, different strategies will be used depending on the capabilities of participating agencies and their willingness to address the issues.

One of the requirements the State of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Health makes of local health districts is that at least two of the local CHIP priorities align with the priorities identified in the State Health Improvement Plan. Our plan does this: Addiction, obesity, and infant mortality are all identified in the SHIP as well as in Ross County’s CHIP.

Using the County Health Rankings as a model the CHIP sets forth improvement goals, which can be seen below.