

# Capital Area Public Health Network

## Welcome to the CAPHN Monthly Newsletter!

This month we are highlighting the 2026 Community Health Needs Assessment. We are also sharing a bit of what our team has been up to in March, spotlighting New Hampshire Hunger Solutions and their important advocacy work, and previewing some of the events we are looking forward to in April.

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## Community Health Needs Assessment

What are the most important health needs in the Concord and Lakes Region? Local health and community organizations are working together to answer that question through the **2026 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)**—and your input is essential. This survey effort is being led by **Concord Hospital and community partners** as part of the region's Community Health Needs Assessment process.

We invite community members to take a **brief 10-minute survey** to share perspectives on the health challenges and opportunities facing our region. Feedback from past surveys has helped guide programs, partnerships, and investments that improve access to care and strengthen community supports. The results of this survey will also help inform the **Capital Area Public Health Network's ongoing Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)** and the priorities we work on together as a region.



The survey is **anonymous**, and participants can choose to enter a **drawing for a \$25 gift card** as a thank-you for sharing their feedback.

### Take the survey:

<https://survey.jsi.com/s3/2026-Concord-Lakes-Region-2026-Community-Health-Needs>

Your voice helps ensure that local health organizations and community partners are focusing on the issues that matter most.

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## Family Advocacy Workshop



On March 24th, Capital Area Public Health Network and New Futures hosted a Family Advocacy Workshop at Mill Brook School in Concord. This workshop equipped community members with the skills to use their experiences and voices to make a difference in policies affecting children and families. Participants learned how to navigate the General Court website, identify their elected officials, track key bills, remotely sign in to committee hearings, and craft effective advocacy messages using their stories. This training was full of passionate community members eager to use their voices to advocate for change, and we are so excited to see them make a positive difference in New Hampshire!

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## NHTI Wellness Fair

On Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, CAPHN was invited to table at NHTI's Wellness in Motion Fair. This fair, organized by the Lynx Care Coordinators, was an opportunity for students to learn about community wellness resources, engage in movement practices designed to support mental health, and connect with each other. At the CAPHN table, we were able to chat with students about initiatives that can support their well-being and mental health, including 211, the Strong as Granite campaign, healthy relationship resources, and more. Students were also able to craft a small pocket guide for self-care, creating a personalized resource of tools and strategies to support their mental health as students.

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## Statewide Needs Assessment Survey on Dementia

The NH Subcommittee on Alzheimer's and Other Related Dementias is conducting a statewide needs assessment survey to better understand the needs of individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. This survey has been developed to gather input from Granite Staters living with dementia and their caregivers, ensuring that their experiences shape New Hampshire's approach to Alzheimer's and dementia in the years ahead.

This survey takes approximately 5 minutes. All responses are confidential and will only be used to generate a collective report of findings to help guide state decision-makers.



Take the survey here: [🌐 Alzheimer's Needs Assessment Survey](#)

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## Resource Spotlight: New Hampshire Hunger Solutions

In honor of March being National Nutrition Month, we are spotlighting the important nutrition advocacy work being done by our partners at **New Hampshire Hunger Solutions**. Their mission is to *advocate to end food insecurity, improve equitable access to nutritious food, and address hunger's root causes for all New Hampshire residents*. They engage in this important work through grassroots advocacy, outreach and education, and coalition support. You can learn more about NHHS [here](#).

### New Hampshire Hunger Solutions' 2026 legislative priority areas include:

- Protecting and Strengthening SNAP Benefits
- Keeping SNAP Funded
- Ensuring Kids are Fed – In School and During the Summer

Now that we are past Crossover (the deadline for bills that start in the House to move over to the Senate, and vice versa), we are sharing some of their key bills moving forward and ways you can take action!

- **HB 1727 will keep kids fed when school is out for the summer.** This bill will allow the Department of Education to securely share student addresses with DHHS, allowing Summer EBT benefits to be sent directly to eligible families.
  - NHHS strongly supports the original version of the bill, but the House added an amendment that would force local schools to redesign their paperwork.
  - **Action Item:** Contact the Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee and urge them to support the original version of this bill
- **SB 615 Study Commission**
  - The Senate House and Human Services Committee unanimously voted to amend SB 615 to create a commission to study the bill. This will include experts on food insecurity in our state, people with lived experiences, and elected officials who will study the impact of the bill.
  - **Action Item:** Contact your Senators and urge them to vote for the amendment that will create a study commission before further action is taken.
- **HB 1797 threatens food security.** This bill will cut eligibility for SNAP, add layers of bureaucracy, and cause thousands of our neighbors to lose access to essential food.
  - **Action Item:** Email the members of the committee to urge them to vote “Inexpedient to Legislate” on HB 1797

**If you are interested in getting involved with local food access work, you can connect with the Capital Area Food Access Coalition (CAFA)! Email [jtelgener@nhhungersolutions.org](mailto:jtelgener@nhhungersolutions.org) to learn more!**



## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Details
Month	Alcohol Awareness Month	
Month	National Child Abuse Prevention Month	
Month	Sexual Assault Awareness Month	
Month	National Stress Awareness Month	
6-12	National Public Health Week	<a href="https://www.apha.org/initiatives/national-public-health-week/about-nphw">https://www.apha.org/initiatives/national-public-health-week/about-nphw</a>
20-24	Every Kid Healthy Week	<a href="https://www.actionforhealthykids.org/get-involved/every-kid-healthy-week/">https://www.actionforhealthykids.org/get-involved/every-kid-healthy-week/</a>
1	Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action	<a href="https://www.takedowntobacco.org/day-of-action">https://www.takedowntobacco.org/day-of-action</a>
22	Earth Day	<a href="https://www.earthday.org">https://www.earthday.org</a>
22	Regional Mental Health Event - Cabin Thoughts	5:30 - 8:30 PM at the Bank of NH Stage <a href="#">Register Here</a>
25	National Take Back Day	<a href="https://www.dea.gov/takebackday">https://www.dea.gov/takebackday</a>