2024-2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Appendix A - Community Engagement

How Community Was Involved

AHD staff and volunteers regularly engaged with community members throughout the city to better understand their perspective on health. Every step of the way, AHD wanted to get input from our community and report out what we learned. This included:

- Gathering Community Input –
  - Developed an activity at the CHA Kickoff where residents suggested questions, routes, and needed logistics for the Community Walk and Talks. AHD incorporated those suggestions into the final Walk and Talk structure.
  - Invited other City agencies to the Walk and Talks so they could hear concerns or ideas directly from residents.
  - Shared findings from the community health survey in the CHA report.
  - Collaborated with other agencies, committees, and boards and commissions to receive topic area subject matter expertise and feedback that informed the CHA methods.
- Reporting Out –
  - Created a CHA mailing list to keep people involved and aware of CHA activities.
  - Disseminated the analyzed results of the community survey through a webinar, short social media videos, a summary flyer at survey collection locations, and emails with community partners.
  - Shared relevant feedback from the Walk and Talks with the pertinent agencies for any immediate actions.
  - In the CHA release, will share ways community members may participate in the CHIP.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provided guidance on the CHA process and implementation of the 2024-25 Community Health Assessment. The group reviewed planning, marketing, and implementation of community engagement activities, assessment structure, framing, and methods, and community event design. They also played an active participation role in activities, such as facilitating conversations. The Committee also helped shape this assessment's health equity framework.

The Committee met monthly and included a variety of community members, offering their expertise into this process. The full list can be found below.

Name	Organization
Mary Lee Anderson	Senior Services of Alexandria
Jenn Ayers	ALIVE!
Emerald Christopher, Ph.D.	Race and Social Equity Office
Sean Curry	Alexandria Health Department
Chelsea Eickert	City of Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services, Center for Children and Families
Adrienne Fikes	PLTI Alexandria People's Assembly
Ryan Freed	City of Alexandria Office of Climate Action
Lorena Granados	ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia
Avani Hariprashad	Alexandria Health Department
Martine Hippolyte	Alexandria Health Department
Eric Keeler	City of Alexandria Office of Housing
Jane Knops	Neighborhood Health
Allen Lomax	Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria
Rachel Lynch	Northern Virginia Health Foundation
Anita McClendon	Public Health Advisory Commission
Shelley Miller	ACT for Alexandria
Julie Mullen	City of Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services, Center for Economic Support
Katelyn Mullins	Alexandria Health Department
Gerson Paniagua	Alexandria City Public Schools
David Rose, M.D.	Alexandria Health Department
LaKeith Sutton	ForUs Therapeutics
Brian Sutton, Ph.D.	ForUs Therapeutics
Natalie Talis	Alexandria Health Department
Nigel Walker	Inova Health System
Lina Zimmerman	Alexandria Health Department

Community Health Photo Album Methodology

AHD launched a Community Health Photo Album to humanize health issues and capture what impacts our residents' wellness in the community. Participation was open to all community members. Participants submitted photos of community features they are proud of, things that help and harm their health, and shared some of Alexandria's strengths.

Historically, people with disabilities have not had an equitable opportunity to share their input in community-wide assessments. In an effort to amplify voices from the disability community and develop a more inclusive Community Health Assessment, AHD partnered with the Endependence Center of Northern Virginia to create a buddy program. The program allowed interested community members to partner with health department staff to take and submit photos for the album. AHD staff, lead outreach for this initiative and shared the opportunity on social media, via newsletters, and spoke directly with residents to gather submissions. Partnerships with the Endependence Center of Northern Virginia and the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Alexandria were also instrumental to encourage participation in the Community Health Photo Album.

AHD staff reviewed all submissions to identify common themes. From over 90 photo, video, and written submissions, the following themes emerged:

- Alexandria has several features to improve accessibility for residents with disabilities, including reserved parking spaces and automatic doors. Uneven or damaged sidewalks still pose a challenge for many residents using mobility devices.
- Parks and outdoor spaces are enjoyed by many residents and offer a place to enjoy time outside and engage in physical activity.
- Overall, the City is a clean and safe space for residents.

2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH PHOTO ALBUM

As you look at the collage, think about how you see the following themes come through. What other themes are you noticing? Was anything surprising to you?

THEME 1:

RESIDENTS ENJOY TIME OUTSIDE AND ENGAGE IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AT PARKS AND RECREATION SPACES.

THEME 2:

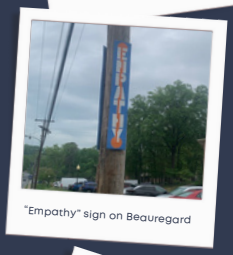
OVERALL, THE CITY IS A CLEAN AND SAFE SPACE FOR RESIDENTS.

THEME 3:

WHILE ALEXANDRIA HAS SEVERAL FEATURES TO MAKE THE CITY ACCESSIBLE FOR RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, THERE IS STILL ROOM TO GROW.

Thank you to everyone who shared their input for the community health photo album!

A special thanks to the Endependence Center of Northern Virginia and the National Federation of the Blind (NFB Alexandria) for their partnership during this project.



"Empathy" sign on Beauregard

It's not just 45 minutes. It's 45 minutes for me.
-Evelyn E. Valdez

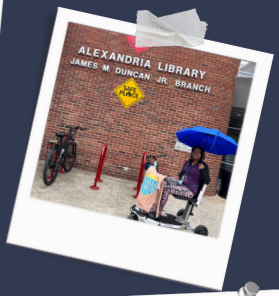
Pictures from Old Town, where there is a clean environment with sidewalks, parks, and proper trash bins.

A vibrant and diverse community to live in.

In 2013, my husband Robert Hartt and I initiated Tuesday Night Tandems.
-Bonnie O'Day, Tuesday Night Tandems Coordinator

It's important to have buttons that are reachable to push and get into the building.
-Janeek Prince

Signage on Health and Wellness at Potomac Yard Park



Suicide Prevention Information at Waterfront Park

The perfect place for a refreshing morning or evening walk, surrounded by stunning natural beauty

The perfect place for a refreshing morning or evening walk, surrounded by stunning natural beauty

Integration of fitness station along pedestrian/bike trail at Potomac Yard Park

These are some pictures from Old Town, where there is a clean environment with sidewalks, parks, and proper trash bins.

Love hanging out with friends
Walking outside Awesome staying busy with my church so when I think about staying healthy if you feel kind of stressed or overwhelmed it's always good for find somebody to talk to awesome it's always good to do some activities outdoors

-Alexandria Resident

A vibrant and diverse community to live in.

I wanted to show you this beautiful area. The side walks are very clean and beautiful.

A beautiful, well-maintained area with clean surroundings, safe crosswalks, convenient access to public transportation, and a nearby bus station, making it easily accessible for everyone.

Ways to stay and remain healthy
-Shanelle Gayden