The Challenge: Community Health Improvement Processes and Plans (CHIPP) aim to identify and address local community health issues and are required for local health departments by the state of Wisconsin. Prior to this grant, there were limited formal models, standards or resources to support the process, and a significant lack of knowledge about the most effective practices. CHIPP quality varied greatly across the state.

Project Goal: The grantee conducted an assessment of current CHIPP resources and processes by conducting focus groups, an online survey, literature review and a national review of standards and best practices. Based on this assessment, an action plan, tools, resources and support services were developed to address gaps in the CHIPP process. Statewide partners and project staff participated in the Wisconsin Partnership-funded Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute Community Teams training and then were paired with 10 communities with fewer resources and lower health rankings. The communities received technical assistance from trainees while completing several phases of CHIPP, setting objectives and identifying strategies and plans to implement priorities.

Results: This project resulted in a CHIPP model, tools and resources that the 10 communities have utilized and are now available on wicomunityhealth.org. A comprehensive data document, published on the website, allows those who conduct CHIPPs to identify a core set of health indicators and choose future targets for their indicators. Through collaborative efforts, 70 percent of these indicators are now available through the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps site, one of the most popular sites for collecting county health data. Additionally, the project resulted in strong partnerships and shared resources and leadership. Collaboration involved state-level leadership as well as academic and community partnerships, which have been sustained. In addition, one of the pilot communities received accreditation and the others stated that they are adequately prepared to plan implementation of their community health priorities.

This project was sustained with a second Partnership Program grant that focuses on implementation and evaluation, and includes system and policy efforts. It will convene communities, utilize partnerships and support implementation of policy-oriented strategies to focus on the priority area of alcohol misuse.