

STEPS and NSIP receive foundation funding

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OVID — The Greater Rochester Health Foundation has awarded Phase II grants to neighborhood health improvement programs in southern [Seneca County](#) and eastern [Wayne County](#).

The grants are part of the Greater Rochester Health Foundation's Neighborhood Health Status Improvement Initiative, which was established in 2008.

The second-year grants are going **Where's the story?** to:

- The S2SAY Rural Health Network's Seneca Towns Engaging People for Solutions initiative in [Lodi](#), [Covert](#), [Ovid](#) and [Romulus](#), more commonly known as STEPS.



- Cornell Cooperative Extension of [Wayne County's](#) Neighborhood Status Improvement Project in [Savannah](#) and [Galen](#).

Over the past year, Greater Rochester Health Foundation grants to the two programs have brought residents of those communities together to think about health priorities and identify assets located in their communities to improve health.

The second-year grants will support a year-long planning process where residents will strive to build on identified strengths to create healthier communities.

During these planning phases, there will be many opportunities for groups of residents to come together to lead small-scale programs that will improve the physical, social and economic health of their neighborhoods.

STEP's priorities include chronic disease prevention, increasing the number of social activities for all generations, youth retention, transportation, economic development for small businesses and beautification projects.

Moving forward, residents of the four towns will create plans, activities and overarching strategies to best reach the community, build on local strengths and increase the health of their neighborhoods.

"We want all residents to know there is an equal seat at the table for them to be involved, no matter their age, background or experience," said Theresa Lahr, STEPS project coordinator. "[Seneca County](#) is their home and all residents have the power to make the changes they wish to see to build a healthier neighborhood."

Sandi Bastedo, Neighborhood Health Improvement Project coordinator, said residents and project partners in [Galen](#) and [Savannah](#) "demonstrate a deep commitment" to our project.

"Residents are taking ownership in the initiative to successfully identify health priorities in their communities that are important to them," Bastedo said.

The Greater Rochester Health Foundation's mission is to improve the health status of residents of the greater Rochester community, including people whose unique health care needs have not been met because of race, ethnicity or income.

"These two projects are examples of how residents are creating and leading projects to strengthen their neighborhoods in the Greater Rochester area and outlying counties," said Essie Calhoun-McDavid, board chair.