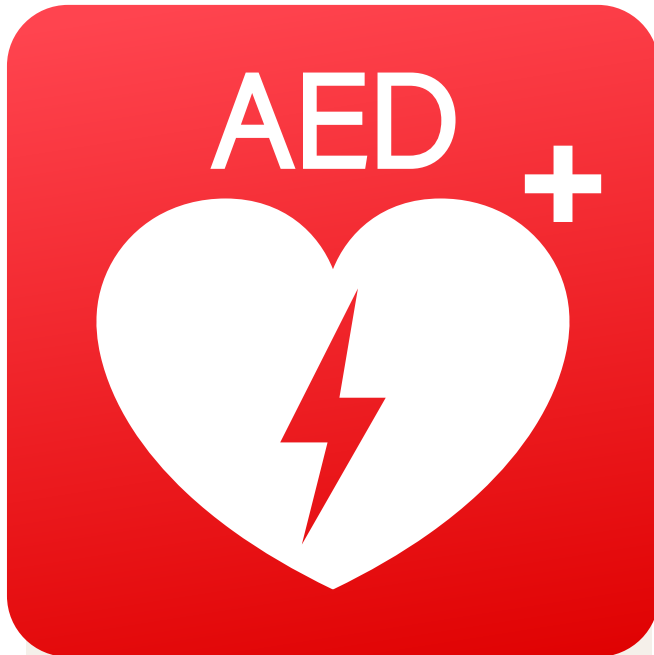


NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026



Spotlight: Chaska Public Safety Open House

The Chaska Public Safety Open House was a huge success! Hundreds of community members came out to see the Public Safety Facility, engage with community resources, take rides on trucks, and watch live demonstrations.

Huge shout out to our Heart Safe leader, Sarah Cody, for all of her hard work on the event.

About Us

Heart Safe designation recognizes a community's efforts to prepare its citizens to recognize when someone suffers a sudden cardiac arrest and how to respond.

Heart Safe communities work to prevent death from sudden cardiac arrest by:

- Increasing community and public awareness
- Placing automated external defibrillators (AEDs) wherever people live, work and play
- Educating the public on how to administer CPR



SEPTEMBER UPDATES

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Although mental health and suicide prevention is important to address year-round, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month provides a dedicated time for people, organizations, and communities to join their voices and share that there is hope, help is available, and healing is possible.

Minnesota Department of Health is hosting a number of webinars throughout the month on suicide prevention and resources. Two upcoming trainings are highlighted below.

Postvention 101: Responding to Suicide Loss

Suicide loss can have a profound impact on individuals, organizations and communities. Postvention is a critical component of suicide prevention, providing structured support to those affected while reducing the risk of future suicides. This webinar will define postvention and explain why it is an essential component of comprehensive suicide prevention. This webinar is for community leaders, schools, workplaces, first responders, and mental health professionals.

Date and time: Tuesday, September 22, 11 a.m. - noon CDT

Registration: [Postvention 101: Responding to Suicide Loss](#)

Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) Workshop

The Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) Clinical Workshop prepares behavioral health professionals and others providing counseling or supportive services to incorporate lethal means safety into suicide prevention practice. Participants learn practical, client-centered strategies for discussing temporary access to firearms, medications, and other lethal means during periods of elevated suicide risk.

Date and time: Thursday, September 24, 9 a.m. - noon CDT

Registration: [Counseling on Access to Lethal Means \(CALM\) Workshop](#)

Resource: Minnesota Suicide Prevention Trainer Network

The Minnesota Suicide Prevention Trainer Network (MSPTN) was created with one goal in mind - to prevent suicide. Their mission is to ensure that every Minnesota gets trained in suicide prevention. Individuals, community partners, suicide prevention organizations as well as local, county, and state departments are coming together to bring education, training, and resources to all Minnesotans. The MSPTN offers mental health and suicide prevention trainings to organizations for low or no cost. Find out more and request a training here: [Minnesota Suicide Prevention Trainer Network](#)

Resource: 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States and its territories. Learn more here: [988 Lifeline](#)

Order free 988 materials here: [988 Print Materials Order Form](#)

988
SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

SEPTEMBER UPDATES

National Preparedness Month

September is also National Preparedness Month! This is an opportunity to encourage our community members to be prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, business, and communities. Preparedness is everyone's responsibility, and disasters and emergencies can happen any time, anywhere, and sometimes without warning.

[Ready.gov](#) provides resources and information on how to prepare for an emergency. Ready outlines four key steps individuals can take to prepared for emergencies:

Emergency Alerts

Stay informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses. You can learn about different types of emergency alerts here: [Ready Emergency Alerts](#)

Family Emergency Plan

Make an emergency plan with your family. You may not all be together when a disaster strikes, so it is important to know how to contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place and is familiar and easy to find. [Steps for a Family Emergency Plan](#)

Build an Emergency Supply Kit

After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for several days. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. [Basic Emergency Disaster Supplies Kit List](#)

Get Involved

Join local and national volunteer organizations to be ready to support your community during and after a disaster. You can join the [Minnesota Responds Medical Reserves Corps \(MRC\)](#) to become a qualified volunteer with Carver County Public Health. FEMA also offers free first responder trainings through their [Emergency Management Institute.](#)

MDH Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

The Minnesota Department of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Division (EPR) fosters integrated preparedness, response, and recovery planning among state, local and tribal public health and health care partners.

The EPR's mission is to strengthen response systems to minimize death, disability, and suffering from health emergencies.

Check out their website for more information: [MDH EPR](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Opioid Settlement Community Projects

Carver County is now accepting applications for the 2027 funding cycle for eligible community-based projects supported by the National Opioid Settlement! In 2021, Carver County joined a nationwide lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors. As a result, settlement funds are now being reinvested in local prevention, treatment, and harm reduction efforts.

Carver County has up to \$250,000 available, to be distributed collectively across all projects, for community projects in 2027. Funding is open to:

- Nonprofits, community-based, and faith-based organizations
- Educational institutions and healthcare providers
- Local governments and substance use disorder treatment providers

Apply for Funding

Priority will be given to applicants located in Carver County, but organizations outside the county that serve Carver County residents will also be considered. Learn more about this funding opportunity and complete an application at: [Opioid Prevention Funding Applications](#)

Submission Deadline: October 16, 2026 at 4:30 pm CST

Questions? Contact Holly Magdanz hmagdanz@carvercountymn.gov

Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) Projects

Carver County Public Health is now accepting Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) project ideas for the 2026–2027 SHIP funding cycle. SHIP supports local projects that create long-lasting policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes to improve health in our communities.

SHIP supports projects that focus on:

- Healthy eating and access to nutritious food
- Active living
- Preventing commercial tobacco use and helping people quit
- Supporting breastfeeding
- Improving mental wellbeing
-

Timeline

- Priority deadline for Interest Form submissions: October 5, 2026
- Proposal invitations sent: October 12, 2026
- Full SHIP Project Proposals due: November 9, 2026

Submit a Project Idea

If your project aligns with SHIP strategies, complete the [SHIP Project Interest Form](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Victoria Fire Department Community Open House

Monday, September 21st 5:30-8:00 PM

8250 Kochia Lane, Victoria

Stop by the Victoria Fire Department Open House for an interactive, family-friendly evening. Meet Victoria's firefighters, explore emergency vehicles, and learn how you can prepare for fire emergencies at home. For more information: [Victoria Fire Department Open House](#)

Mental Health & Substance Use Community Roundtable

Thursday, September 24th 6:30-8:30 PM

Ridgeview Auditorium, Ridgeview Waconia Campus

500 S. Maple Street, Waconia

Carver County Public Health and Ridgeview are hosting a free community roundtable to discuss the current mental health and substance use landscape in our area. This event brings together local experts to share updates, identify challenges, and explore opportunities to collaborate on solutions to address mental health and substance use concerns and strengthen community wellbeing.

Register Here: [CC Mental Health and Substance Use Roundtable Registration](#)

Carver Fire and Public Services Open House

Tuesday, October 6th 5:00-7:30 PM

801 Jonathan Carver Parkway, Carver

Bring the kids and join us at the Carver Fire Department and Public Safety Open House! Come say hello to your local heroes and public services staff to learn about the important services they provide, and enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities. For more information: [Carver Fire Department Open House](#)

Norwood Young America Free Food Distribution

Wednesday, October 14th 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

NYA City Hall, 210 Elm Street

Volunteers are needed to sort food, prepack items, distribute food into vehicles, and clean up. We can find tasks for people of all ages and abilities. All events are held outside, so please dress and plan accordingly. [Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

Chaska Free Food Distribution

Thursday, October 22nd 9:30 AM-1:00 PM

2100 Stoughton Ave, Chaska

Volunteers are needed to sort food, prepack items, distribute food into vehicles, and clean up. We can find tasks for people of all ages and abilities. All events are held outside, so please dress and plan accordingly. [Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Old AED Cabinets

East Carver County Schools recently replaced their AED cabinets and have a number of used ones available to be donated. The dimensions are as follows:

- One box - 16 3/4L X 71/2W X 14 1/2H
- Other boxes - 17 1/4L X 6W X 15 1/2L

See photo to the right.

If your organization has a use for these old AED boxes, please let Rachael know:
rmills@carvercountymn.gov



Save the Date!

We will be hosting a Health Community Partners meeting on Thursday, November 5th. Rachael will be in touch via email in the next week with more information, including time, location, and presenters.

Get in Touch

Feel free to reach out to if you have anything you'd like highlighted in the next Heart Safe Collaborative newsletter or an upcoming meeting. We'd love to hear about:

- Upcoming events
- Recent successes in your community
- Staffing updates
- Questions and barriers to Heart Safe Designation
- Resources and information
- Anything else you'd like to share with us!

Sara Cody
scody@chaskamn.gov

Rachael Mills
rmills@carvercountymn.gov