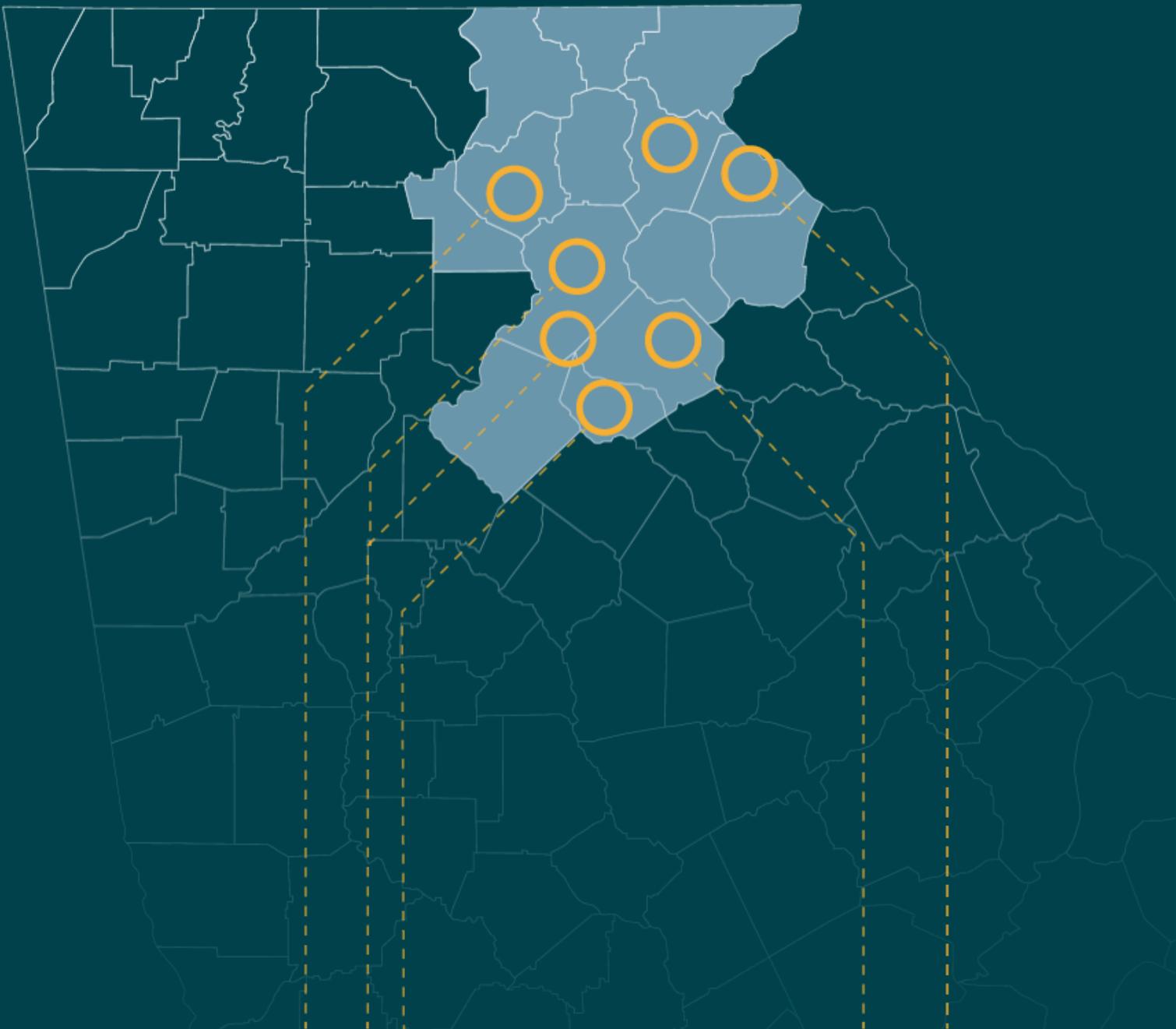


# Northeast Georgia Regional **COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT**



**Executive Summary**

**2025**

# Executive Summary

## Background & History

As part of their commitment as a partnership of not-for-profit organizations, a collection of five hospitals and other community agencies studied northeast Georgia's community health needs for the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). A CHNA is a measure of the relative health or well-being of a given community and is both the activity and the end-product of identifying and prioritizing unmet community health needs. This assessment is conducted by gathering and analyzing data, soliciting community feedback, and evaluating past and future opportunities. As a result of the Affordable Care Act, non-profit hospitals are required by law (2013) to conduct a health needs assessment of the communities they serve every three years. Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) has conducted community health needs assessments since the late 1990s. Stephens County Hospital began collaborating with NGMC in 2019.

The following organizations partnered to conduct a CHNA for the communities they serve in the northeast Georgia region:

**NGMC Gainesville & Braselton**  
**NGMC Habersham**

**NGMC Lumpkin**  
**Stephens County Hospital (SCH)**

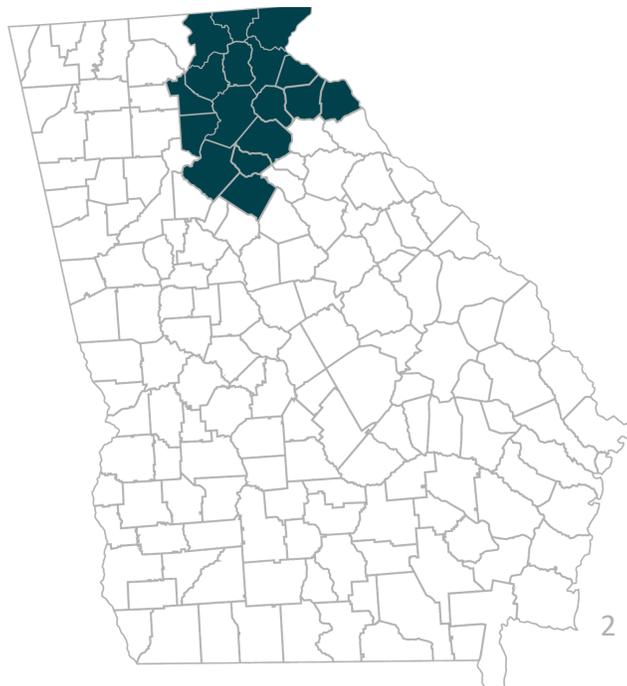
**District 2 Public Health**  
**Good News Clinics**

Hospitals must prioritize identified significant health needs, adopt an implementation strategy, and make the CHNA publicly accessible. The assessment report is shared broadly via the Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) and Stephens County Hospital (SCH) websites. An interactive data tool is also available, which makes it easier for individuals and organizations to use the data. This tool can be found at [www.NortheastGeorgiaCHNA.com](http://www.NortheastGeorgiaCHNA.com).

## Communities Included

Communities served by each partner overlapped and combined to include all or part of 17 counties in Northeast Georgia. These communities reflect the following service areas, which together comprise the region:

- District 2 Public Health: Banks, Barrow, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White counties
- Good News Clinics: Hall County
- NGMC Habersham: Banks, Habersham, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White counties
- NGMC Gainesville: Hall County, parts of Banks and Jackson counties
- NGMC Braselton: Barrow and Jackson counties, parts of Gwinnett and Hall counties
- NGMC Lumpkin: Dawson and Lumpkin counties, parts of Forsyth and Hall counties
- NGMC Barrow: Barrow and Walton counties, parts of Gwinnett County
- Stephens County Hospital: Stephens and Franklin counties



# Executive Summary

## Approach

Phillippa Lewis Moss and Monica Newton, D.O., are Co-Chairs for the Regional 2025 CHNA. Holly Lang of Public Goods Group (PGG) was engaged for her expertise on data collection and analysis. Phillippa Lewis Moss and Lisa Thomas of The ThoMoss Group facilitated focus groups and key stakeholder interviews. Online surveys were conducted: one for the general public and one for employees of the participating organizations. The surveys were available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. To ensure we heard from the community's most vulnerable, we worked with community partners such as the Housing Authority, Good News Clinics, The Compass Center, and in homeless camps to conduct short face-to-face interviews for feedback. Over 3,600 community members' voices were heard through focus groups, interviews, and surveys to gain insight into the greatest health needs of our community.

## Health Priorities

After a thorough review of data and public input, NGMC, with the help of community partners and advisors, identified the following health priorities:



 **Social Determinants of Health**

The conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, including income, education, employment, housing, neighborhood conditions, transportation systems, and social connections.

 **Health Equity**

The state in which everyone has the opportunity to attain full health potential, and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or any other socially-defined circumstance.



# Executive Summary

## Action Plan

NGMC's Implementation Plan (action plan) can be found at [nghs.com/community-benefit-resources](https://nghs.com/community-benefit-resources).

Both the CHNA and the subsequent implementation strategies are designed to meet Internal Revenue Service regulations, as found in the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(r).

The NGMC hospital board of directors approved the health priorities on August 25, 2025 and the Implementation Plan on January 20, 2026.

**For questions or comments, contact [communityhealthimprovement@nghs.com](mailto:communityhealthimprovement@nghs.com) or (770)219-8085.**