



2025 Impact Report

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services

Our Mission

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services strives to encourage local, regional, state and national relationships and opportunities to protect, promote and improve the health of our community.

Our Vision

A Safe, Healthy, and Thriving Lewis County.

Contact Information

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www.lewiscountywa.gov/departments/public-health/

Welcome and Thank You

Why Public Health?

Health and well-being are the foundation of a thriving community. Lewis County Public Health & Social Services works with partners to **support the conditions people need to live healthy, stable lives**, including clean air and water, healthy food, access to care, safe neighborhoods, and connections to supportive services.

Across the department, this work includes preventing disease, protecting the environment, supporting families, responding to community needs, and helping residents connect with resources. This **2025 Impact Report** highlights how Lewis County Public Health & Social Services served, supported, and partnered with the community throughout the year through public health programs, social services, prevention, education, direct services, and community partnerships.



Data reflect Lewis County Public Health & Social Services internal program reporting and are accurate as of June 2026.
Report compiled and designed by Marylynne Kostick. For questions, contact communityservicesdivision@lewiscountywa.gov.

Administration

Administration provides essential support across Lewis County Public Health & Social Services, helping programs operate effectively and serve the community. This includes **fiscal support, reporting, customer service, contract and grant coordination**, and other administrative functions that keep department services running.



Vital Records

Vital Records provides **certified birth and death certificates** for eligible individuals, helping residents access important documents needed for identification, benefits, estate matters, school enrollment, and other personal or legal needs. This service supports families and community members during both routine life events and times of loss.

2025 Certificates Issued

3,487 Birth Certificates

3,699 Death Certificates

Fiscal and Contract Support



Fiscal and contract support helps Lewis County Public Health & Social Services programs operate effectively by coordinating funding, agreements, reporting, compliance, and administrative processes. This work supports accountability and the partnerships needed to deliver services across the department.

In 2025, fiscal staff helped oversee **36 amendments, 37 outgoing contracts**, and **6 incoming grants**. Staff also conducted bi-annual monitoring reviews for **seven grant subrecipients** and participated in audits or reviews conducted by state funders, the county Internal Auditor's Office, and the State Auditor's Office as part of the countywide annual audit.

All audits and monitoring activities were completed with **no findings, financial recommendations, or required corrective actions**.



Community Health

Community Health promotes healthy living, prevents disease and injury, and helps Lewis County residents connect with services that support health and well-being. The team provides education, referrals, outreach, and direct services to individuals, families, and populations that may experience greater barriers to care.

Community Health programs also work closely with residents, healthcare providers, schools, community organizations, and local leaders to identify needs and develop strategies that address public health issues in Lewis County. This work includes maternal and child health, nutrition and food access, immunizations, community health assessment and planning, and other prevention-focused efforts.

Resident and partner input is an important part of this work. Through surveys, listening sessions, community conversations, and ongoing partnerships, Community Health gathers information that helps guide programs, policies, and priorities to better reflect local needs.

For feedback or engagement opportunities, contact:
communityservicesdivision@lewiscountywa.gov



Immunization Oversight

The **Vaccines for Children (VFC)** program helps ensure children can receive recommended vaccines regardless of insurance status or a family’s ability to pay administration costs.

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services supports this work through **Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP)**, which helps local vaccine providers strengthen immunization practices, improve vaccine access, and support timely vaccination for children in our community.

Families looking for immunization providers or vaccine information can visit the Lewis County Public Health & Social Services immunization webpage.

Learn more:
<https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/public-health/immunization-information/>

2025 Immunization Oversight & Compliance Visits

20 IQIP Visits

44 VFC Visits



Community Health

Communicable Diseases and Notifiable Conditions

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services works to protect the community by **responding to notifiable diseases and conditions** reported among Lewis County residents. When a report is received, staff review the information and, when needed, contact the individual for an interview. These conversations help assess possible spread, identify exposures, provide education, and connect people with case management or support when appropriate.



The program also works with healthcare providers, schools, long-term care facilities, community organizations, and state partners to **prevent and respond to outbreaks**. During an outbreak, staff help coordinate guidance, resources, education, and support to reduce further spread and protect those at higher risk.

Reported cases are generally classified as confirmed or probable based on established case definitions. Lewis County Public Health & Social Services investigates most, but not all, notifiable diseases and conditions; some are investigated by the state.

2025 Sexually Transmitted Infections

197 Chlamydia **45** Gonorrhea
23 Herpes Simplex **2** Syphilis

In 2025, Lewis County Public Health & Social Services responded to avian influenza activity and rabies-positive bats, highlighting the importance of disease surveillance, timely reporting, public education, and response coordination.

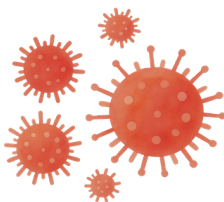
2025 Diseases and Conditions

131 Total confirmed or probable cases investigated (not including STIs or COVID-19).

Of the total,
34 Zoonotic, Vector-borne, Cross-Cutting Diseases

72 Foodborne (Enteric)

25 Hepatitis



Learn more:
For information about communicable disease reporting, prevention, and resources, visit:
<https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/public-health/communicable-disease/>

For information about rabies, bats, and animal bites, including what to do after a possible exposure, visit:
<https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/public-health/rabies-bats-and-animal-bites/>

Community Health

Data, Assessments, & Reports

Community health assessment work helps Lewis County Public Health & Social Services better understand the **health, needs, strengths, and priorities of the community**. Through assessments, surveys, public data, and partner input, the team gathers and shares information that supports informed decision-making for programs, services, policies, and community investments.



This work helps residents, service providers, local leaders, and community partners identify needs, prioritize resources, and develop strategies to improve health and well-being across Lewis County. In 2025, this included continued work on the Community Health Assessment, which provides a foundation for planning and future community health improvement efforts.

From Assessment to Action

In **2025**, Lewis County Public Health & Social Services began moving the **Community Health Assessment** from a five-year cycle to a three-year cycle to support more timely data, stronger partnerships, and better community planning. The 2025 process included input from **over 1,000 residents and stakeholders**.

Building on those findings, the **Community Health Improvement Plan** process will begin in **summer 2026**, bringing partners together to identify shared priorities and act on what residents, providers, and community partners shared.



For more information and available reports, visit:

<https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/public-health/assessment/>

Community Health

Nurse-Family Partnership

Through partnership with Thurston County Public Health & Social Services, Lewis County families are able to access Nurse-Family Partnership services.

This **evidence-based home visiting program** supports eligible first-time parents during pregnancy and early childhood by promoting healthy pregnancies, child development, parenting confidence, and connection to resources.

2025 Lewis County NFP
78 Families Served
1,021 Family Visits



Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC supports healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes, and healthy growth and development for infants and children up to age five. Through **nutrition education, health screenings, breastfeeding support, and referrals**, WIC helps families access practical tools and resources during important stages of pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood.

In Lewis County, WIC services are provided at the Public Health Building in Chehalis. As of October 2025, services are focused on Lewis County residents, helping align program capacity with local community needs while continuing to support eligible families of all sizes and types.

For more information or to apply, families can call [360-740-1255](tel:360-740-1255) or [1-800-562-6130](tel:1-800-562-6130) ext. 1255.

2025 WIC Statistics

	3,013 Women, infants & children participants during FFY25	\$1,739,064 WIC food dollars redeemed
	2,239 Infants & children participants	\$6,353 WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program dollars redeemed
	774 Pregnant & postpartum participants	\$483,0328 WIC Cash Value Benefits for fruits and vegetables redeemed



Community Health

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education (SNAP-Ed)

SNAP-Ed helped Lewis County residents build knowledge and skills to support healthy eating, active living, and long-term well-being. Through **evidence-based nutrition education**, **obesity prevention strategies**, and **community-based projects**, the program worked to make healthy choices more accessible where people live, learn, work, and gather.

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services partnered with schools, community organizations, food access programs, and other local partners to promote consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable foods. These efforts supported broader community health goals by helping reduce barriers to nutrition, strengthening partnerships, and connecting residents with practical tools for healthier living.

2025 SNAP-Ed Statistics

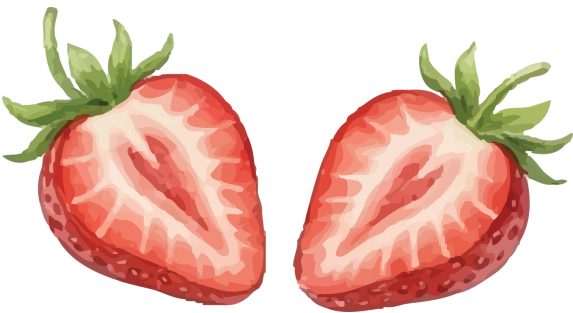
Access to Healthy Food

- Breastfeeding Coalition
- Food Skills
- School Gardens

Farm to Community

- Farmers Markets
- Food Systems Improvements

13 Active Partnerships, Collaborations, and Coalitions in Lewis County



The **SNAP-Ed program ended on November 30, 2025**, but its impact continues through the relationships, resources, and community improvements developed during the program.

Emergency Food Response and Hunger Relief



In 2025, Lewis County Public Health & Social Services supported emergency food response and hunger relief through a Washington State Department of Agriculture grant. Working with local food relief agencies and more than **22 local farms**, nearly **\$50,000 was spent on local foods for local people**.

This effort served more than **2,300 households** and **distributed 5,575 pounds** and supported **more than 22 local farms** through the purchase of local foods for local people.

Environmental Health

Environmental Health programs help protect the places where Lewis County residents live, work, learn, eat, drink, and recreate. Through permitting, inspections, monitoring, laboratory services, education, technical assistance, and enforcement, staff work to prevent illness, reduce environmental health risks, and protect natural resources.

This work includes drinking water oversight, water quality testing, onsite septic system permitting and inspections, food safety inspections, environmental code enforcement, solid waste investigations, and technical assistance for property owners, businesses, contractors, developers, and community partners. Together, these programs support safe drinking water, effective wastewater treatment, safe food practices, proper waste disposal, groundwater protection, and healthier environments for residents, businesses, and visitors throughout Lewis County.



Drinking Water Program

The Drinking Water Program helps protect public health by supporting **access to safe and reliable drinking water** throughout Lewis County. The program oversees Group B public water systems, reviews water system plans and reports, conducts inspections, evaluates water supply requirements for development projects, and helps ensure compliance with state drinking water regulations.

In 2025, Lewis County Public Health & Social Services also worked under a Washington State Department of Health Alternative Drinking Water Program grant focused on an area of Centralia where elevated nitrate levels had been identified in groundwater. Households with private wells above the drinking water standard for nitrate were eligible to receive reverse osmosis filtration systems at no cost. This work helps **reduce nitrate exposure** and protect residents who may be more vulnerable to elevated nitrate levels, including infants, young children, and pregnant individuals.

2025 Drinking Water Program Statistics

- 21** Water Supply Inspections Completed
- 42** Well Site Inspections
- 27** Two-Party Well Applications
- 15** Applications for Reduction in Sanitary Control Area
- 9** Reverse Osmosis Filtration Systems Installed



Environmental Health

Water Laboratory

The Lewis County Water Laboratory provides local testing services that support safe drinking water for public water systems and private well owners. The laboratory **tests for coliform bacteria and nitrate**, two common indicators used to evaluate drinking water quality and identify potential contamination concerns.

Local testing helps residents, builders, and water system operators obtain timely results needed for permitting, occupancy requirements, routine monitoring, and water quality investigations.

2005 Water Lab Statistics

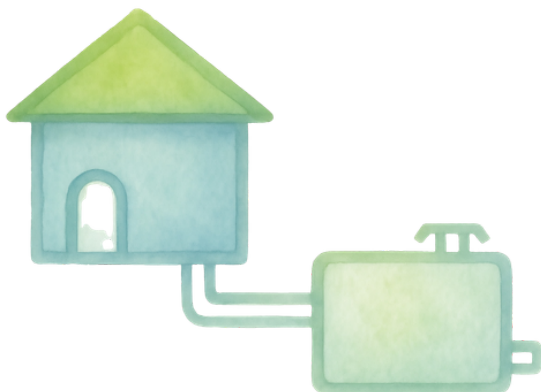
2,423 Water Samples Tested
1,948 Coliform Samples Tested
475 Nitrate Samples Tested



Onsite Septic System Program

The Onsite Septic Program helps **ensure wastewater is safely treated and disposed of** through properly designed, installed, and maintained septic systems. Staff evaluate site conditions, conduct soil and site reviews, issue permits, inspect installations, and review land development proposals that rely on onsite wastewater treatment systems.

The program also supports homeowners, property owners, contractors, designers, and certified professionals through education, technical assistance, inspections, and certification activities. Properly functioning septic systems help protect groundwater, surface water, private wells, and public health throughout Lewis County.



2025 Septic Program Statistics

92 Septic Professional Certifications Processed
411 Septic Applications
21 Soil Evaluations

Environmental Health

Food Safety Program

The Food Safety Program works with restaurants, food vendors, temporary food establishments, schools, and community organizations to **reduce the risk of foodborne illness**. Through education, permitting, inspections, complaint response, and technical assistance, Environmental Health staff help food operators understand and meet food safety requirements designed to protect customers and employees.

In 2025, Environmental Health also began transitioning **food safety applications, permitting, and inspection processes to an online system** to improve accessibility and customer service for businesses, event organizers, and staff.

2025 Food Safety Program Statistics

272 Permanent Food Establishments Inspected

144 Temporary Food Establishments Inspected

57 Responses to Foodborne Illness-Related Complaints

6 Notices of Violation Issued to Unpermitted Food Vendors



Environmental Code Enforcement Program

The Environmental Code Enforcement Program helps protect public health and the environment by responding to **environmental health complaints** and working with property owners, residents, and partner agencies to resolve concerns. Staff address issues such as failing or unpermitted septic systems, illegal solid waste disposal, junk and hulk vehicles, unapproved drinking water connections, and other environmental health code violations.

Whenever possible, staff work toward voluntary compliance through education, technical assistance, and corrective action. Enforcement is used when needed to reduce environmental risks, protect water quality, and support healthier neighborhoods. Portions of this work are supported through the Washington State Department of Ecology Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance grant.



2025 Food Safety Program Statistics

56 New Environmental Health Cases

387 Hulk Vehicle Affidavits Issued

38 Environmental Health Cases Resolved

Lewis County Animal Shelter

The Lewis County Animal Shelter provides **care and shelter for stray, homeless, and unwanted animals** while working to **connect adoptable pets with permanent, loving homes**.

Through adoption services, lost and found pet support, and community education, the Shelter promotes responsible pet ownership and animal welfare across Lewis County.



2025 Animal Shelter Intake & Outcomes

<u>Cats</u>	
<u>Intake</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
215 Surrender	306 Adopted
110 Stray	17 Euthanized/Unassisted Death In-Custody
<u>Dogs</u>	
<u>Intake</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
124 Surrender	192 Adopted
106 Stray	14 Euthanized/Unassisted Death In-Custody

Adopted animals are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, and microchipped before going to their new homes. Each adoption also includes basic supplies such as a collar, identification tag, leash, or carrier to help support a successful transition for both the pet and the adopting family.

The Shelter continues to serve the public Tuesday through Saturday and remains focused on helping animals find safe, lasting homes while supporting residents with lost or found pets.

Visit us: 560 Centralia-Alpha Road, Chehalis, WA 98532
Lost or found pets: [360-740-1290](tel:3607401290)
Learn more: <https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/public-health/animal-shelter/>



How You Can Help

Adopt, donate, volunteer, or help reunite lost pets with their families. Community support helps the Shelter care for animals while they wait for permanent homes.

Social Services

Social Services works to strengthen the health, stability, and well-being of individuals and families across Lewis County by connecting residents to **essential resources** and **support services**. Through funding coordination, partnerships, and direct program support, the division helps address **housing instability** and **homelessness**, supports **veterans** and their families, and expands opportunities for individuals with **developmental disabilities**.

This work includes coordination and support for behavioral health, substance use disorder treatment and prevention, developmental disabilities employment and recreation programs, housing programs, veterans assistance, and other services that help residents access critical resources and build stability.

Developmental Disabilities

The Lewis County Developmental Disabilities Program coordinates local and state funding to support services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Services include supported employment, community inclusion, child development, recreation, resource navigation, and other supports that help individuals build skills, participate in their communities, and connect with resources.

Services are contracted through community agencies and focus on high-quality, person-centered supports that promote independence, self-determination, inclusion, and meaningful participation in community life. Lewis County works with service providers, individuals with developmental disabilities, families, advocates, and community partners to assess local needs, identify service gaps, and strengthen the local support system.

In 2025, Developmental Disabilities services provided consistent support across Lewis County. On average, **54 individuals per month** received Supported Employment services, **13 individuals per month** received Community Inclusion services, and **157 children and families** received Child Development Services. Providers delivered **4,745 hours** of Supported Employment services and **1,423 hours** of Community Inclusion services.

The program also hosted its second annual **Transition Resource Fair** at Centralia College. The event connected high school students, families, school districts, and service providers with information and resources to support the transition from school to adult life. Approximately **150 people attended**, with participation from **nine school districts** and more than **20 disability service agencies**. Attendees also took part in a panel presentation and interactive activities focused on student learning and post-school opportunities.



Social Services

Homeless Housing Services

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services works with community partners to **prevent homelessness, support emergency shelter and housing services, and connect individuals and families to stable housing resources**. Through local providers and the Coordinated Entry system, residents experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing housing can access shelter, housing programs, rental assistance, and supportive services.

This work is guided by the Lewis County 5-Year Housing and Homelessness Strategic Plan, which focuses on building a fair and responsive housing system, preventing homelessness whenever possible, and prioritizing support for individuals and families facing the greatest barriers to housing stability. Housing services in Lewis County include homelessness prevention assistance, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and coordinated access to community resources.



2025 Housing Impact

- 1,007** Coordinated Entry Enrollments - Connecting residents to housing resources and support services
- 97** HEN Clients Assisted with Housing and Essential Needs - rental assistance to help maintain housing stability
- 132** Permanent Housing Placements - for individuals and families exiting homelessness
- 600** Emergency Shelter Guests - Served through the Salvation Army Night-by-Night Shelter

Harm Reduction

Harm reduction efforts help prevent overdose and support safer homes and communities. In 2025, Lewis County Public Health & Social Services distributed **naloxone** and **medication lock boxes** at community events and through the WIC clinic, helping residents access tools to reduce risk and respond in an emergency.



2025 Distribution

- 115** Medicine Lock Boxes Distributed
- 482** Naloxone Doses Distributed

Social Services

Veterans Assistance Program



The Lewis County Veterans Assistance Program supports eligible veterans and their families during times of urgent need by providing **emergent financial assistance** for basic living expenses such as housing, utilities, transportation, food, fuel, and funeral costs.

These services help veterans address unexpected hardships, maintain stability, and access critical resources when they need them most.

In 2025, **321 veterans received assistance** through the Lewis County Veteran Benefits Specialist. This support helped connect veterans to benefits, resources, and programs available through local, state, and federal partners. The Veterans Assistance Program also provided over **\$65,000 in direct financial assistance** to help veterans and their families meet urgent basic needs and reduce barriers to housing, transportation, food access, and other supports.



Lewis County Public Health & Social Services also hosted two Veteran Resource Fairs in 2025, one in Randle and one in Chehalis. These events created opportunities for veterans and their family members to speak directly with local agencies and service providers offering support related to healthcare, housing, behavioral health, employment, benefits assistance, and other community resources.

Through direct assistance, benefits navigation, resource fairs, and community partnerships, Lewis County remains committed to honoring and supporting veterans and their families. This work helps ensure veterans can access practical support, strengthen stability, and connect with services that support their health, well-being, and quality of life.

For more information, visit:

<https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/public-health/veterans-services/>





Lewis County Public Health & Social Services

For more information on our services, or questions about this report, please contact Lewis County Public Health and Social Services at:

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