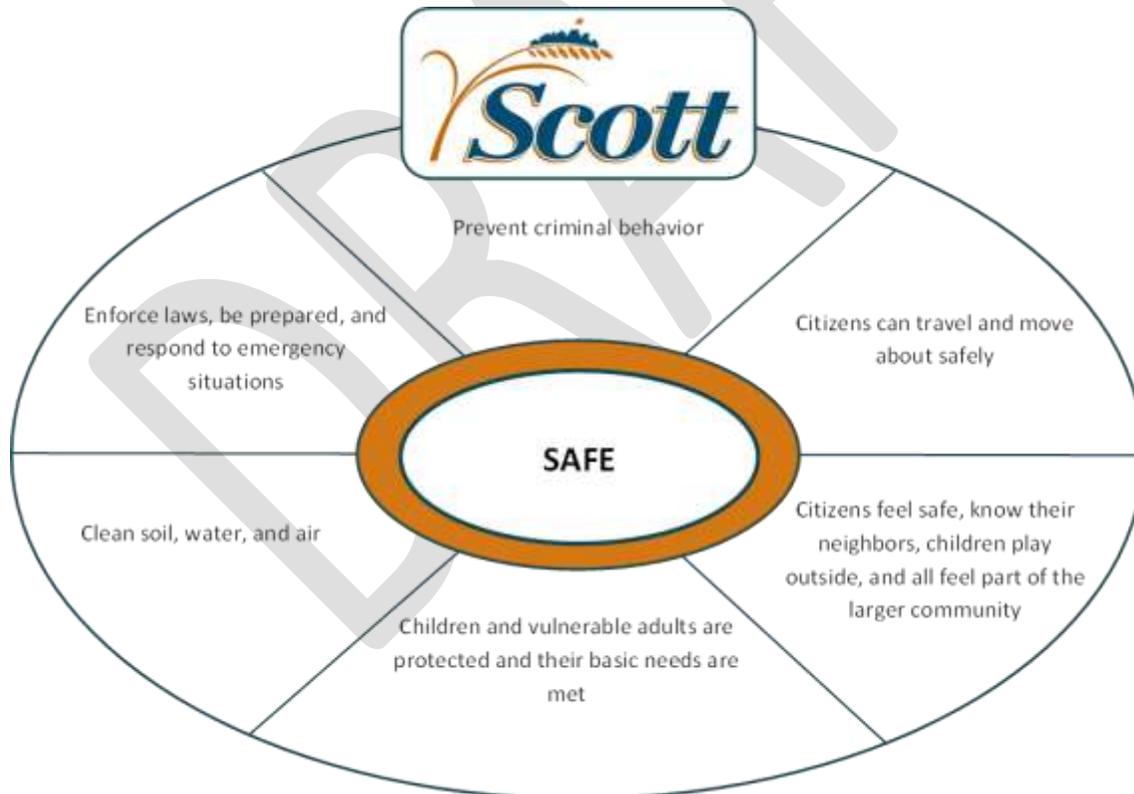
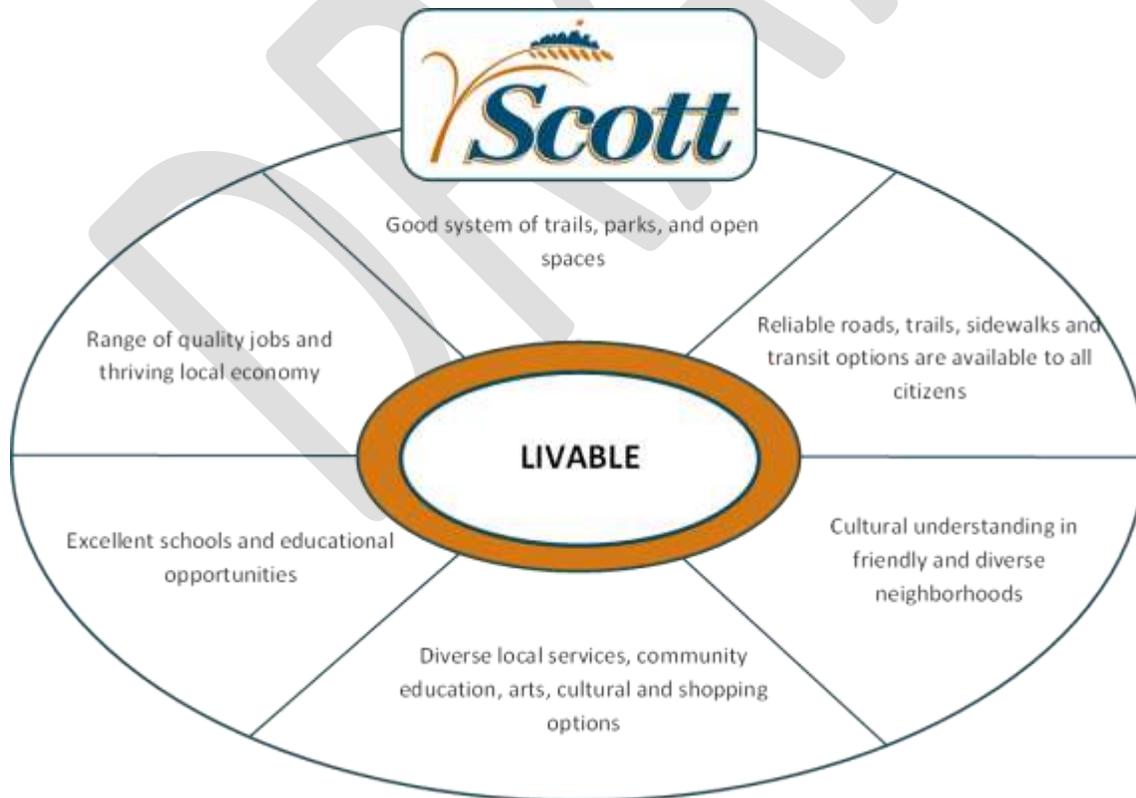
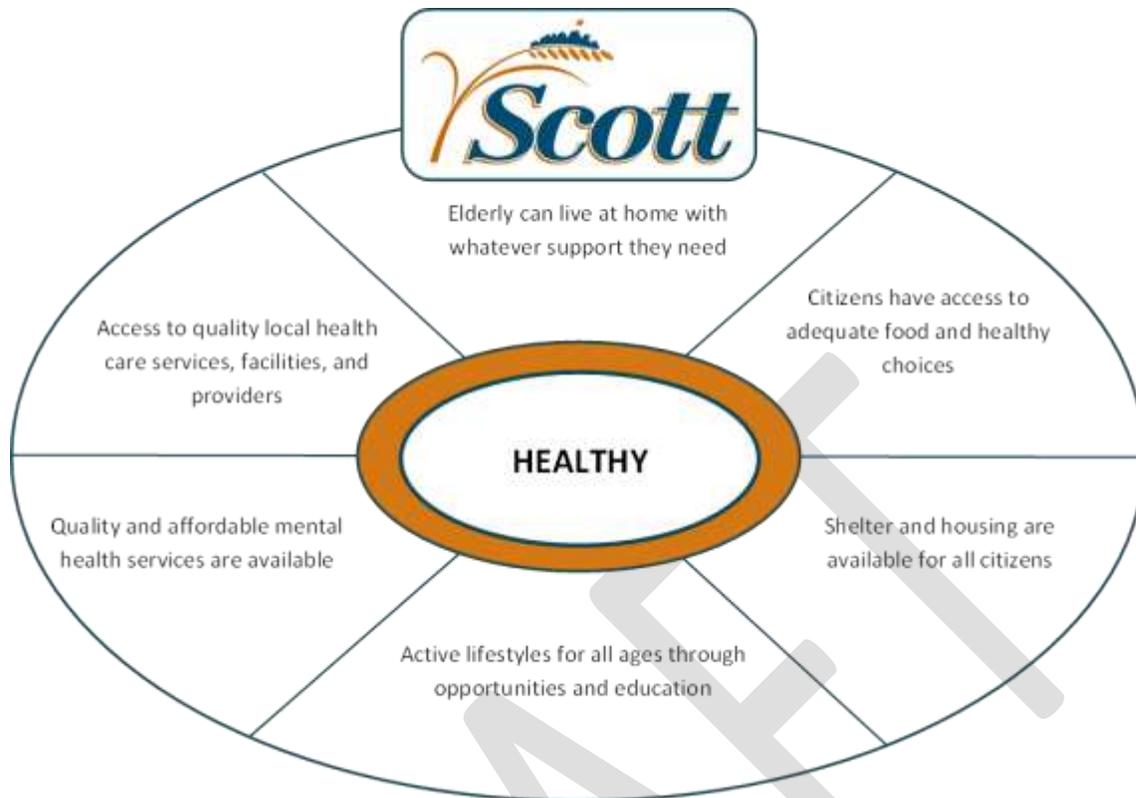


## CHAPTER XII - SAFE, HEALTHY & LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

This chapter's focus is on three critical building blocks to creating safe, healthy and livable communities –**public health**, **public safety**, and **education** (libraries, schools). It is necessary to periodically take stock of these building blocks in order to assure that the needs of the community are and will continue to be met as population and demographics change over time. This chapter builds from the community background data presented in Chapter III.

In 2011 Scott County re-evaluated its service delivery method and overarching goal statement and established a new goal for the organization (Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities) - taking an outward focus to ensure that the county is supporting what its citizens truly want from its County Government. To gain insight into what citizens expect when it comes to safe, healthy and livable, the County hosted special forums and tested ideas in its citizen survey. The product of this engagement is a series of statements that fit into broad categories of *Safe*, *Healthy*, and *Livable*, (see statements below).





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## **PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN**

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*“Citizens have access to adequate food and healthy choices.”*

*“Active lifestyles for all ages through opportunities and education.”*

- Scott County Results Map -  
Healthy



The impact of environmental factors on health, diseases and chronic diseases affect an individual’s life. Similarly, the health and vitality of a community depends on that of its people. The goal of community level efforts is to make healthy living easier where people live, learn, work, and play. How the surrounding environment is built contributes to many of the problems and solutions to improving our health. Supporting people who are affected most by death, disability, and suffering from chronic disease help reach health equity.

Modern urban planning was created in part to promote the health and wellbeing of city dwellers in the late 19th century. Urban planning and health specialists combined forces to identify these factors and stop the spread of diseases like cholera and typhoid. Today, long-range planning looks intentionally at how land use, transportation, housing, recreation, natural resource and infrastructure (or systems) planning impacts public welfare (or people). Professionals working in public health are increasingly playing a key role in community design and comprehensive planning by providing important metrics linking the impacts of long range planning decisions to public health. The goal of community level efforts is to make healthy living easier where people live, learn, work, worship, and play. This plan inventories the major public health providers in Scott County, and promotes goals and policies to advance public health through long-range system planning – primarily in the areas of healthy eating and active living.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES**

This Plan starts with an overview of some key public health agencies and providers in Scott County assisting residents meet their basic needs.

#### **A. Scott County Health and Human Services**

Scott County’s Health and Human Services Department is responsible for community initiatives that will improve outcomes for consumers by bringing County services, school district, private sector providers, and juvenile corrections into an integrated support network for families. Social services include Child Protection, Adult and Children’s Mental Health, Minor Parent, Foster Care, Adoption, Child Care Licensing, Long Term Care, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disabilities. Scott County also has its own Mental Health Center and Day Training and Habilitation program, New Options, for adults with developmental disabilities.

## **B. Scott County Public Health**

Scott County Public Health provides services to promote healthier living for county residents. Public Health staff includes licensed registered nurses, community health workers, and public health specialists who provide identify health needs and resources within the community to protect and promote the health of all residents in Scott County. Main programs include Disease Prevention and Control, Family Health, and Health Promotion. Scott County Public Health works in partnership with communities, schools, work sites and health care organizations to help make the healthy choice, the easy choice for all residents.

As one of the recipients of the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grant, Scott County Public Health collaborates with the Minnesota Department of Health and local community partners to provide resources for individuals and groups to improve their health. Public Health works on a variety of strategies in settings across the county to implement policy, systems, and environmental changes. These include:

- Healthy Eating and Active Living in the Community
- Healthy Eating and Active Living in Schools
- Advanced Community and Clinical Linkages
- Smoke-free Communities
- Work Site Wellness

Scott County Public Health has convened the Scott County Health Matters Community Leadership Team (CLT) made up of stakeholders from community organizations representing Scott County residents. The CLT guides the development, implementation, and evaluation of health promotion activities in Scott County. The CLT's mission is to reduce obesity and tobacco use and exposure through policy, systems and environmental change in Scott County.

## **C. Scott County Workforce Development Center**

Economic assistance is provided for citizens who are elderly and disabled as well as those who have a work requirement. The Workforce Center provides services through both the County and State to help people obtain skills to find and keep jobs, along with providing assistance until citizens become self-sufficient. Child support services, including locating non-custodial parents, establishing parentage, establishing and enforcing child support orders and collecting current and past-due support are also available.

## **D. CAP Agency**

The CAP Agency is a private non-profit organization providing services to residents of Scott, Carver and Dakota Counties. The CAP Agency serves approximately 25,000 children, families and senior citizens each year in its tri-county service area and has a \$12 million operating budget. The agency is part of a national community action association focused on reducing poverty through an integrated service approach that addresses strengths and barriers and creates a plan for increased self-reliance.

## **E. Hospitals, Clinics, Health Service Providers**

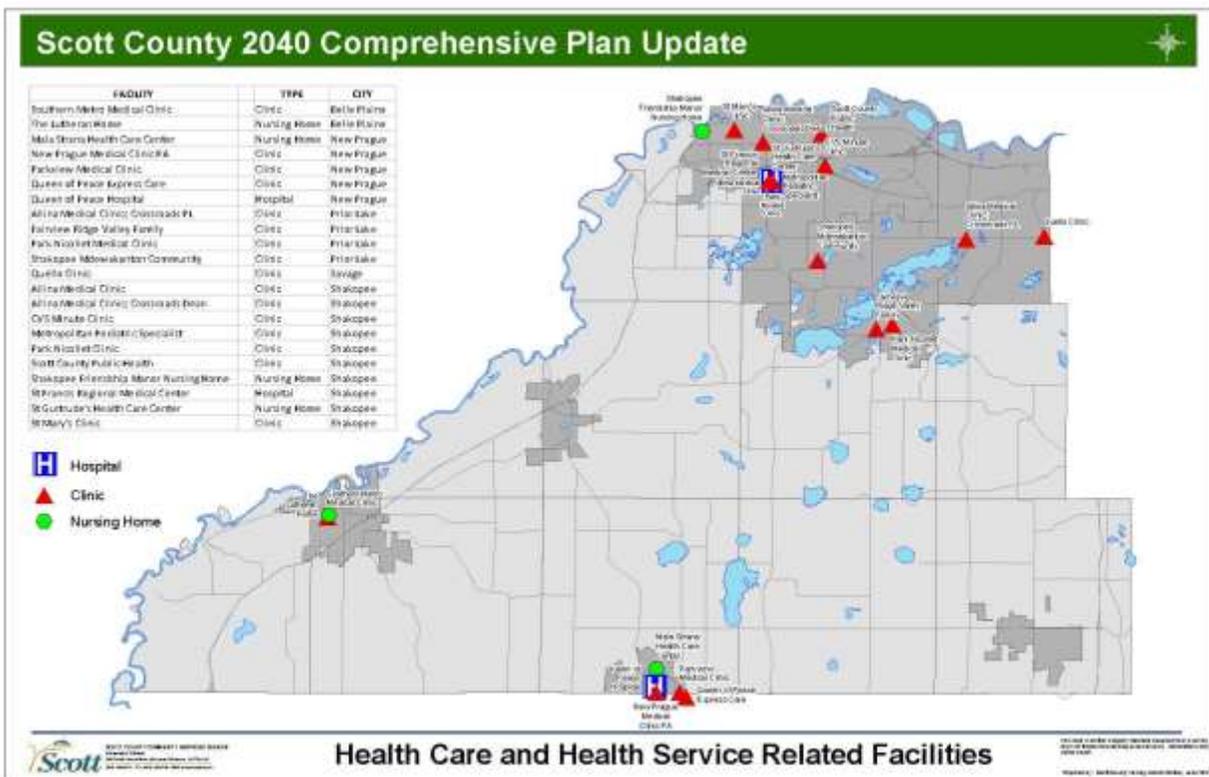
Scott County is home to two major hospitals. St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Shakopee and Queen of Peace Hospital in New Prague provide healthcare and emergency services for county residents and the surrounding region. Map XII-1 shows a number of clinics and health service locations that also serve residents.

St. Francis Regional Medical Center is jointly owned by Allina Health, Park Nicollet Health Services and Essentia Health Critical Access Group. This unique structure enables us to combine the caring and compassion of a community hospital with the modern medical technology, specialties, and services found in the metro area. With over 430 physicians and 85 private hospital rooms, the hospital served nearly 120,000 outpatients in 2015.

Queen of Peace Hospital (301 Second Street NE, New Prague) is a 25-bed facility offering a strong family practice physician network and a comprehensive array of specialty services for residents of southern Scott County. First opened in 1952 as Community Memorial Hospital, Queen of Peace Hospital has maintained the caring values of a small-town hospital. They also provide a clinic in Belle Plaine.

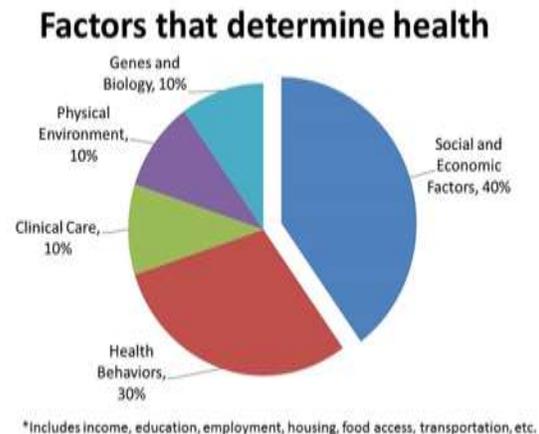
The Scott County Health Care Systems Collaborative was formed in 2012 with the vision to create a healthier community by connecting identified community needs with community resources. Their mission is to collaborate as health care leaders to maintain and improve the health of the residents of Scott County. Members have included public and private health care agencies, health plans, schools, and other community partners.

**Map XII-1  
Health Care Facilities Location Map**



## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The impact of environmental factors on health, diseases and chronic diseases affect an individual's life. Social determinants of health include income, education, employment, housing, transportation, stress levels, access to healthy food, safe places to be physically active, exposure to environmental hazards and availability of early learning opportunities. Attention to these offers the potential for closing some of the gaps associated with health disparities. These conditions interact to increase or decrease risk for major diseases such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some forms of cancer. Approximately 60% of premature deaths can be attributed to factors that include our environment (e.g., the air we breathe), our ability to be physically active (e.g., whether a neighborhood has safe sidewalks), our access to grocery stores and health care services (e.g., whether goods and services are near or transit is available) and our socioeconomic status. A community's comprehensive plan can be a powerful tool in shaping many social determinants of health.



Policy, place, and community matter. Many barriers can make it hard to live a healthy life. We can achieve health equity when we remove barriers or find ways to overcome them so people have a chance to reach his or her full potential. Research has shown that access to good schools, healthcare, food and the ability to be active are all essential to good health. Populations at highest risk for chronic disease include older adults; people with low incomes, less education, poor diet, and limited access to healthy food; people of color; those who are physically inactive; and those who smoke or are exposed to secondhand smoke.

People of color in Minnesota historically, have had lower incomes and education levels leading to fewer opportunities to achieve their optimal health and well-being. Additionally, these conditions have an economic impact resulting in millions of dollars in health care expenses, lost wages and productivity. Policies, systems and environmental changes can address health disparities like this, and improve the health and well-being of all. Community engagement efforts provide people an opportunity to identify their needs, contribute to solutions and influence their environment. Including community members from groups most impacted by disparities in the decision-making process can contribute to better health and well-being.

### A. Healthy Eating

Scott County has a direct influence on food policy and planning by: guiding and zoning land for agricultural production, as well as smaller-scale food production, processing and distribution in the townships; partnering with local and regional transit providers to offer affordable, safe and reliable transportation options to food sources, and collaborating with Scott County Public Health, cities, townships, school districts, and businesses on food policy advocacy and planning.

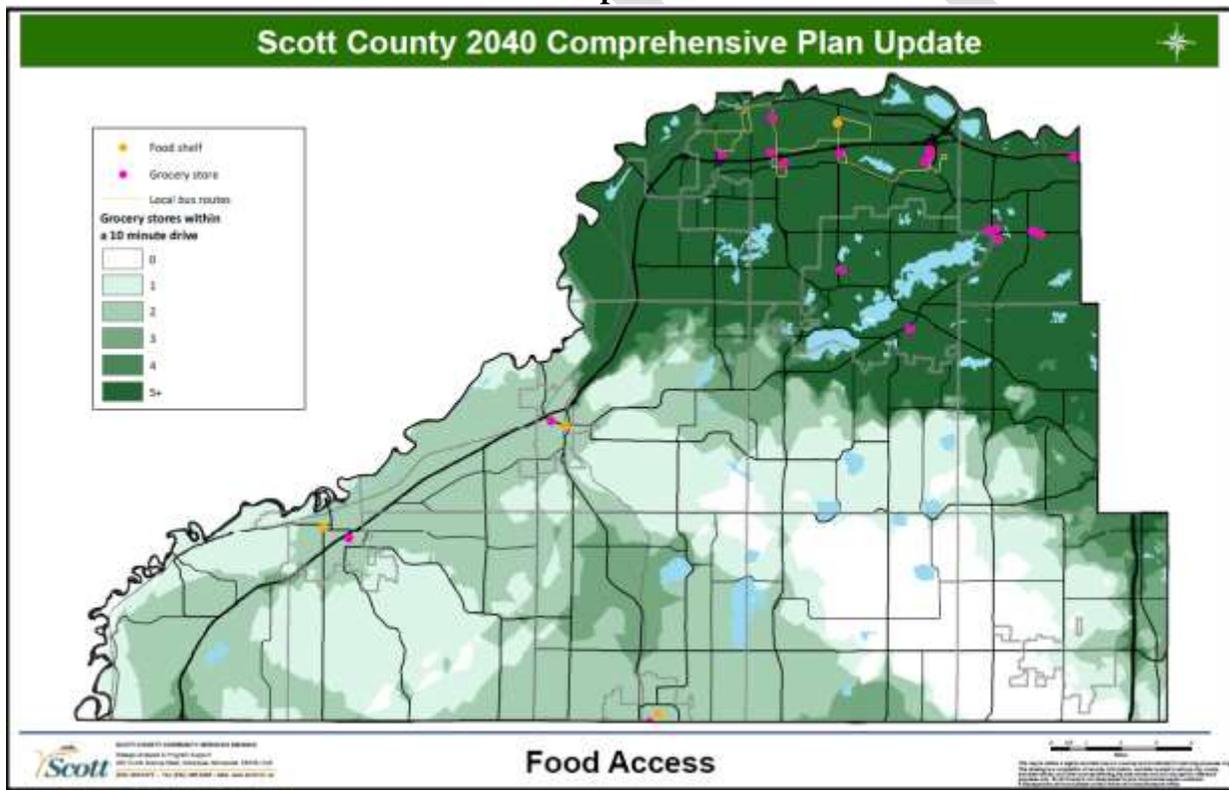
Community design, the built environment, planning, transportation, and public health all influence the accessibility of healthy food options in our communities. Every community member, governmental departments, businesses and others may have different answers to the question: "What is a healthy food?" These definitions may be passed along through government

definitions, cultural traditions, healthcare providers, or popular culture. It is important to have a food supply that can meet diverse needs, definitions, and interests of all partners.

In Minnesota, 1 out of 10 people don't have enough food. According to Feeding America, 8.2% of Scott County households reported being food-insecure (Defined as "unable at times during the year, to provide adequate food for one of more household members because the household lacked money or other resources for food") in 2010. For children, this percentage increased to 12.6% in 2010. A growing body of research indicates that children in food insecure households are at greater risk for adverse physical and mental health outcomes.

For the first time in 2016, the Scott County Resident Survey asked citizens about food insecurity and its importance; 89% of county residents indicated "access to adequate and healthy food choices is essential or very important to advancing a healthy community". However, on average, county residents rated Scott County 59/100 for "availability of fresh fruits and vegetables." This shows a discrepancy in what residents frequently value and what is available to them within the county for healthy food options (see Chapter II for more results on this topic).

Map XII-2



Map XII-2 shows how many Scott County grocery stores (or grocery stores just outside the county border) can be reached by vehicle in 10 minutes, from any location in the county. Most county residents (97% of the population) live within a 10-minute drive to at least one grocery store (the mapping analysis includes full service grocery stores and markets. Studies show that proximity to a grocery store and healthy retail options influences health. While food options at certain gas stations have expanded, they were not included because emphasis is placed on access to a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. Seasonal farmers markets were not included in

this mapping analysis). There is a small pocket in the southeastern part of the county (western Elko New Market, southwestern New Market Township, and northeastern Cedar Lake Township) that live outside a 10-minute drive – representing about 3% of the population. The road network analysis uses public roads and their speed limits to create the drive time calculations. Using 2010 Census blocks data, about 20% of County residents currently live within a half mile of a grocery store. Residents in the northern half of the county have plenty of options (5+) to purchase healthy food.

This food access mapping was done for each city and included additional information such as local bus routes, sidewalks and trails, and neighborhoods where many households are without a vehicle. In Shakopee, there are a number of census block groups in and around the downtown area with a high rate of households without vehicles – 13%. A few small ethnic grocery stores are reachable by foot or bike from this area, and a local bus route stop at 4th Ave. services nearby Cub Foods and Target. This location holds the largest concentration of households without vehicles in the County.

Statewide, it is reported that 5.6% of low income residents live more than one mile to a supermarket or grocery store. Nearly 1.4% of households who live more than one mile do not have access to a car. Within these neighborhoods, available grocery stores and supermarkets may also have variations in affordability and diversity of food items available.

Scott County Public Health began assessing the food retail environment of convenience stores starting in lower income and rural neighborhoods in Scott County. Many times convenience stores can be the only food outlet for several miles offering convenient and affordable ready-to-eat foods. Staff worked in partnership with the Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) students through Shakopee High School to assess the product, price, promotion, and placement of healthy and unhealthy products. The objective is to increase access to fruits and vegetables and reduce access to products high in sodium, added sugar and saturated fat. This effort is layered with the tobacco free living point of sale strategy, also looking at retail environment and the availability and advertisement of a variety of tobacco products.

The complex journey of the food system includes a range of steps taken to bring food to a population, including the inputs, actions, and outputs of growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, marketing, distributing, and disposing of food and its packaging. The nation's current food system has been described as one that simultaneously provides an overabundance of less healthy, more processed foods alongside inequitable access to healthier and affordable foods.

A healthy food system can support human health and nutrition in a number of ways. These include guiding what types of food are produced and available, how food is processed, reducing food waste in ways that improve food security, and reducing environmental health effects. To help navigate this complex system, we engage residents, businesses, and other governmental agencies within our communities to provide healthy, culturally appropriate, and affordable food options. To see where our younger population is at today with healthy eating practices, see Chapter II for results from recent student surveys related to fruit and vegetable consumption.

## **B. Active Living**

Active Living integrates physical activity into daily routines such as walking or bicycling for recreational, occupational, or purposeful (transportation) reasons. A community that supports

Active Living is one that provides safe, desirable, and convenient opportunities for physical activity. Active Living policies and practices in community design, land use, site planning, increased awareness, and facility access are proven effective to increase levels of physical activity.

Physical activity benefits the health of people in all age groups regardless of their health status. Physical activity helps to reduce body fat, improve cardiovascular, metabolic, and bone health, as well as improve mental health. Among adults specifically, physical activity lowers risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, diabetes, colon cancer, breast cancer and depression.

Lack of physical activity, combined with other lifestyle behaviors, is the second leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and is a large economic burden. Physical activity is integral for good health. In Scott County, only 1 out of 4 residents engage in sufficient moderate physical activity during a typical week (150-299 minutes). A growing body of research indicates that inactive adults have a higher risk for early death, heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, depression, and some cancers. Community design, the built environment, awareness and education, parks and trails, planning, transportation, and public health all influence opportunities for and access to physical activity in our communities and each of these services are touched or substantially provided by the members of our group.

Certain populations are less likely to reach recommended physical activity levels. The prevalence of inactivity in Minnesotans is greatest in rural areas, among people of color, older adults, persons with disabilities, women, those with lower education attainment, and those in lower income groups. These populations are at greater risk for other health conditions and experience greater health disparities. Nearly half of Minnesota adults do not meet physical activity recommendations. According to the 2014 Minnesota SHAPE Survey, when asked about the availability, connection, and maintenance of sidewalks, trails, and walking paths, 22.9% of Scott County residents reported that there were no sidewalks in their neighborhood.

Goals, policies and recommendations to promote active living are found in Chapter VII: Parks & Trails

### **C. Social Cohesion and Mental Health**

A review of Community Health Needs Assessments completed by local hospitals, health plans and local public health found that mental health was the highest health care need or gap, and a common priority for all partners. Mental health care was high in demand for youth, teens and seniors. Findings from a number of recent national studies indicate that adults with a serious and persistent mental illness are dying, on the average, 25 years earlier than the general population. The leading causes of these premature deaths are heart and lung disease, diabetes and cancer.

People who reside in urban areas are more likely to develop depression, anxiety, and schizophrenia than those living in rural areas. No matter where you live, at least one in four people will have a mental illness in their lifetime, and nearly everyone suffers from mental health-related issues such as low mood, loneliness, stress, and anxiety at some time or another. Mental health is not an individual issue – it affects the whole community. Mental illness can increase community costs of health care and puts people at higher risk for becoming disadvantaged in education and employment, and their opportunities for economic and social opportunities may decline. In these ways, mental health problems affect a community's ability to remain thriving, resilient, and sustainable.

Through collaboration, Scott County is committed to addressing these issues through design. Active design is not simply a physical health effort as regular exercise can be an effective way to address some forms of mild depression (as well as reducing anxiety and some of the symptoms of dementia, ADHD, and even schizophrenia). Positive social interaction increases self-esteem and feelings of belonging, and it mitigates loneliness and anxiety. Public spaces can install features like benches and games to facilitate social interaction and provide settings for community activities.

The Scott County Health Care Systems Collaborative developed a resource grid of essential information regarding all mental health providers and their services in Scott County. This guide was distributed twice by public health and the collaborative members to all medical providers, schools, social service agencies and other community partners as well as posted on the Scott County website: <https://www.scottcountymn.gov/345/Public-Health-Clinics-and-Services>.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS AND POLICIES**

As stated earlier in this chapter, Scott County has a direct influence on public health policy and planning. The following are goals and policies to guide this influence over the next 20 years.

### **Goal #XII-1 Create safe, healthy, and livable communities in Scott County.**

- a. Understand and address the diverse needs of the growing population.
- b. Assist multicultural inclusion, acceptance, and adaptation of new residents to Scott County and reduce disparities in access, service, and outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities.
- c. Design and implement an effective and comprehensive continuum of health, social service, public safety, courts, and correctional services.
- d. Promote the growth of non-profit and for-profit health, human services, and correctional service sectors within Scott County, and increase providers who serve a full continuum of community needs.
- e. Maintain and improve healthcare access for people who cannot provide or care for themselves.
- f. Follow the goals and policies for land use, growth management, parks and trails, natural and water resources, and transportation as advanced in this 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update.
- g. Promote connected public open spaces and walkable/rollable communities to provide opportunities for people to maintain active lifestyles near their homes.
- h. Utilize available grants and external funding opportunities to help provide assistance in the promotion of active lifestyles.
- i. Create environments that promote active living through physical activity and community design
- j. Increase the capacity of the County to respond to public health nuisances.

*Reason: A comprehensive and effective continuum of services is responsive to the needs (and risks) of the population in general and people in particular. It is based on the body of research of what works to achieve the best outcomes and is provided by all service sectors within a coordinated and integrated service delivery system. It ensures equal access, due process and equitable outcomes, and delivers the right service at the right time to the right people. The continuum of service within Scott County meets current mandates and provides the most essential services but needs to mature and develop along these lines.*

**Goal #XII-2 Strengthen public partnerships and an active and engaged population to promote public health.**

- a. Facilitate collaboration and networked governance of all people-serving sectors (public, for-profit, non-profit, faith, and community/volunteer) across all boundaries to meet 2040 Plan Update recommendations.
- b. Charter a relationship with the State based on partnership models and shared governance of local services for mutual development of policies that meet the needs of communities.
- c. Advance prevention and early intervention strategies that promote health, wellness, and healthy life choices.
- d. Pursue creative staffing and technology solutions in support of consistent levels of outstanding customer service to all the residents of Scott County.
- e. Authentically engage citizens in the decision making process for their health and wellbeing.
- f. Provide opportunities for all citizens to identify their needs, contribute to solutions and influence their environments.
- g. Explore opportunities through the University of Minnesota's Resilient Communities Program or similar student-led research programs to address items such as creating a food forest or edible landscape.

*Reason: Scott County needs an active and engaged citizenry, a vital partnership with all people-serving agencies, and an equal partnership with the State in order to meet its vision. In addition, local government has to develop competencies and capacities to act in a coordinated and comprehensive manner with all of its partners to address community needs which require the concerted efforts of everyone (e.g., emergency response, health promotion, community asset development, community education, volunteerism and charity).*

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## PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN

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*“Enforce laws, be prepared, and respond to emergency situations.”*

*“Citizens feel safe, know their neighbors, children play outside, and all fee part of the larger community”*

- Scott County Results Map - Safe



This section focuses on public safety services provided by local governments, namely sheriff, police, fire, EMS, 911 dispatch, addressing, emergency management, and hazard mitigation planning. Scott County recognizes the benefits of having diverse services within the County for the benefit of local and regional residents. The Plan is designed to promote Scott County’s goal to continue to be a safe community, reduce criminal activity, prevent personal injury and loss of life and property, and to ensure effective and timely responses throughout the County.

### CRIME RATES

Statewide, violent crime accounted for 9.8 percent of all offenses reported in 2015. There were 13,294 total violent crimes (murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults and human trafficking offenses) committed in Minnesota in 2015. Compared with the 12,357 total violent crimes reported for 2014, the 2015 figure represents an increase of 7.6 percent. Property crime in Minnesota in 2015 amounted to 90.2 percent of the crime index offenses for 2015. There were a total of 122,088 property crimes (burglaries, larcenies, motor vehicle thefts, and arsons) reported in 2015. Compared with the 124,632 offenses reported in 2014, the 2015 figure represents a decrease of 2 percent. For a longer view of crime rates in the County’s 11 townships, Figure XII-3 lists the number of serious (Part 1) crimes reported by the Sherriff’s Office in 2004 and 2015 for the unincorporated area.

**Figure XII-3**  
**Number of Reported Part 1 Crimes in Scott County’s Unincorporated Area, 2004 and 2015**

Type	Total Number Reported (2004)	Total Number Reported (2015)
Murders	0	0
Forcible Rapes	4	3
Robberies	0	1
Aggravated Assaults	8	7
Burglaries	38	28
Larceny/Theft	105	58
Motor Vehicle Theft	21	7
Arson	1	0
Human Trafficking	NA	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>104</b>

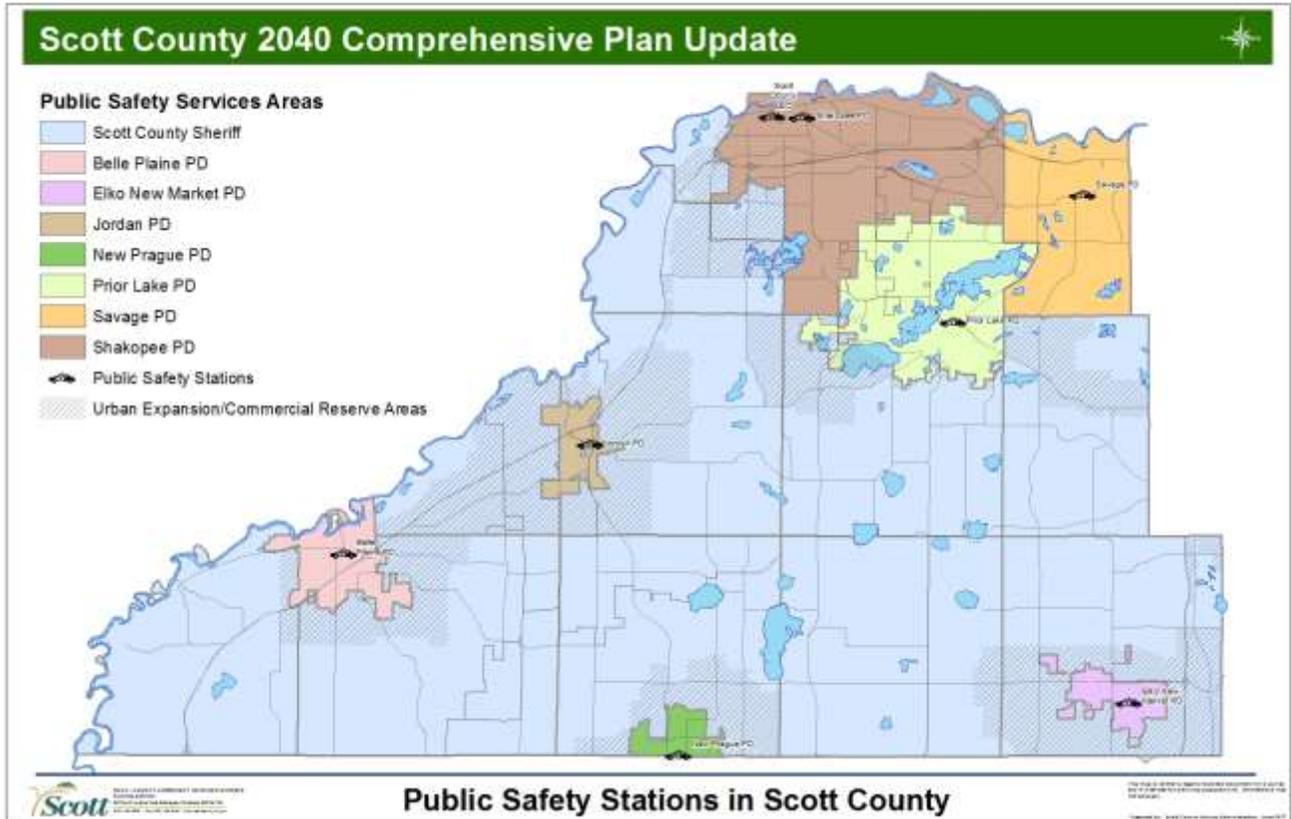


Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Minnesota Crime Information 2004, 2015

## PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE PROVIDERS

In cooperation with County, municipal, and private organizations, a number of police, fire, and ambulance departments service Scott County. These services do not necessarily follow city and township boundaries; many serve multiple cities or townships. Map XII-4 identifies the locations of public safety buildings operated by local police departments and the County Sheriff's Office

**Map XII-4  
Public Safety Service Areas**



### A. Sheriff's Office

The Scott County Sheriff, an elected position with a four-year term, is responsible for the operation of the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office is comprised of four separate divisions:

**Communications & Emergency Management:** Emergency Management includes emergency preparedness and assisting in the process of planning, organizing and coordinating emergency events within Scott County. This department maintains the Emergency Operations plan, floodplain management and various emergency response actions. Emergency Management is a federal- and state-mandated department which has been an active part of the emergency response network within Scott County. The Scott County Sheriff's Communications Division is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) or "911 Services" for all the residents of Scott County, as well as the visitors and commuters traveling throughout the County. The Communications Division is staffed 24/7 and serves as the vital link between citizens in crisis and the police, fire, EMS, and public works resources.

**Jail Operations:** The Jail supports the Sheriffs' Office Mission by performing the detention and confinement functions assigned to the Sheriff/Sheriffs' Office by state statute. The Jail's primary function is to assure public safety, the safe and secure confinement of individuals charged with a crime that requires detention, and the safety of staff that work in the facility. The Jail does this by providing for the care, custody, and control of all inmates detained within the facility. The Jail is the central processing center for all arrests that require detainment by the Sheriffs' Office, the seven local Police Departments, the Mdwakanton Sioux Community, the Minnesota State Patrol, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and any other State or Federal Law Enforcement authority operating within the borders of Scott County. Additionally



the Jail is the confinement center for all adult individuals sentenced for crimes that the sentence is less than a year and a day in a confinement facility. The Jail provides medical, dental, and psychological health assessments and services for all confined individuals. The Jail provides programming opportunities for all individuals sentenced to serve time within the facility.

**Support Services:** The Support and Services Division was established in 2013 after a reorganization which occurred throughout the Scott County Sheriff's Office. The Division is comprised of 4 main work groups. They are the Support Staff Unit, the Investigations Unit, the Court Security Unit, and the Civil Unit. Within Support Staff we have records, transcription, jail support, and civil process. Within Investigations there is general investigations, crime analysis, computer forensics, and narcotics. Our newly hired crime analyst also works within the Investigations Unit. Within Court Security there is point of entry screening, bailiff services, and night campus security. Also falling under Court Security is the Volunteer Reserve/Mounted Reserve Unit, along with Crime Prevention. Lastly, within the Civil Unit, there is the civil processing including foreclosures, papers services, warrants service, and inmate transportation.

**Operations:** The Operations Division comprises of the Patrol Unit and Recreation Safety Units. The Patrol Unit is a primary responder to our eleven townships and assists the seven cities on emergency and non-emergency calls for service. The Patrol Unit proactively enforces criminal, traffic, and ordinance offenses, with committed time spent patrolling neighborhood and business districts to prevent and detect crimes. Included in the Patrol Unit is the K9 Unit which assists with apprehension and tracking. The Recreational Safety Unit has similar responsibilities as that of the Patrol Unit, and is a primary responder to emergency and non-emergency calls for service on area lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water all season, along with response to snowmobile concerns during the snow season. Part of the Rec Safety Unit responsibilities is road weight restrictions enforcement in the spring and snowmobile safety instruction in the winter. Other areas of responsibility within the Patrol Unit is the oversight of all POST/OSHA mandated training for sworn staff, technology-equipment ordering/purchasing for our office, K9, Citizen Academy, TZD Coordination, Traffic Unit, Event Coordination/Planning and SWAT members associated with our Office.

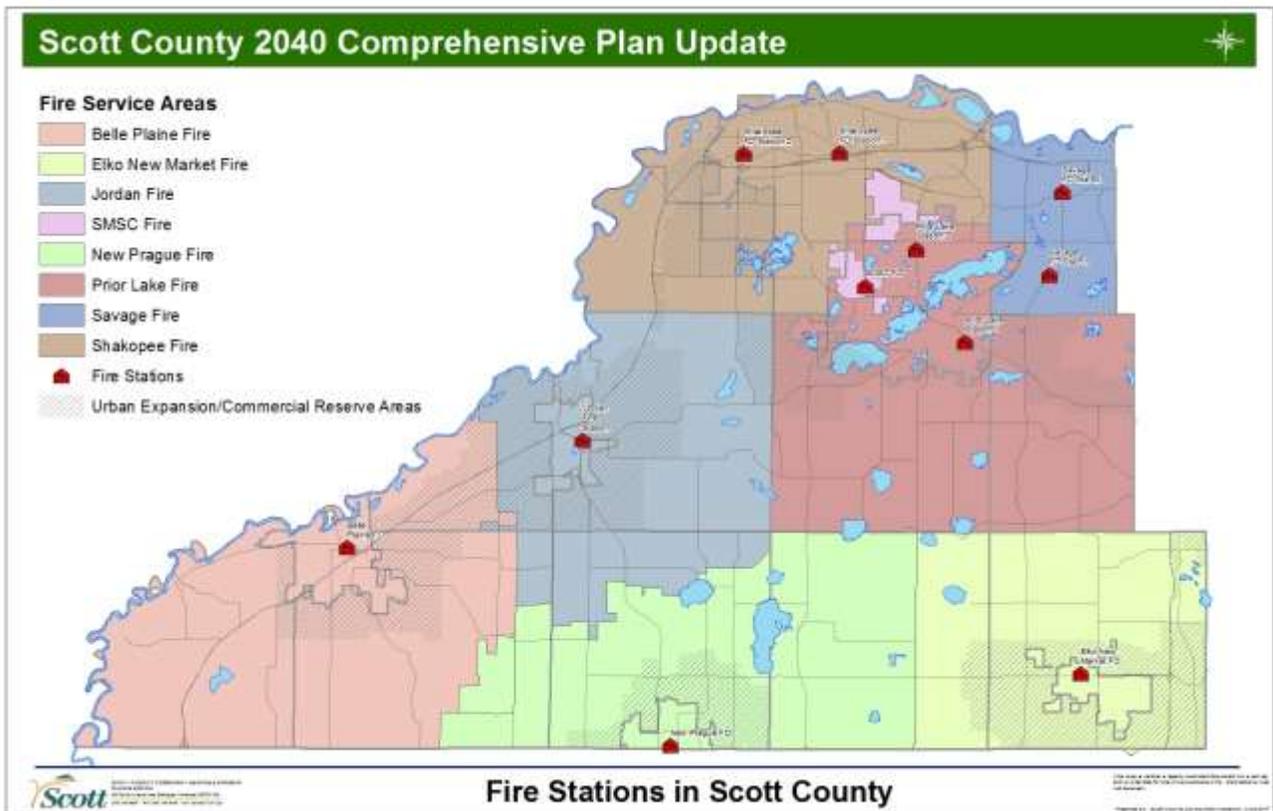
## B. Police Departments

Each of the seven cities maintains its own police department. These departments are responsible for providing police services within the city under the direction of a police chief. The police departments take on the additional roles, such as providing school resource officers and DARE/drug education for local schools within their service areas. All of the cities' police departments and the Sheriff's Office assist in responding to medical emergencies. Most squad cars are supplied with oxygen and defibrillation units. The cities and County have mutual aid agreements for police services and assist each other.

## C. Fire Departments

Scott County is served by eight fire departments. Each of the seven cities has a volunteer fire department. SMSC and the cities of Savage, Shakopee and Prior Lake have a full-time fire chief and the city of Shakopee has a full-time fire inspector and duty crew. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community has a fire department that is a mixture of full-time and part-time staff serving the Community. The townships contract with these fire departments for fire protection and response. Four fire departments contract with townships outside of Scott County. All fire departments are part of mutual aid agreements to provide assistance to each other during emergencies. Map XII-5 shows fire stations within Scott County.

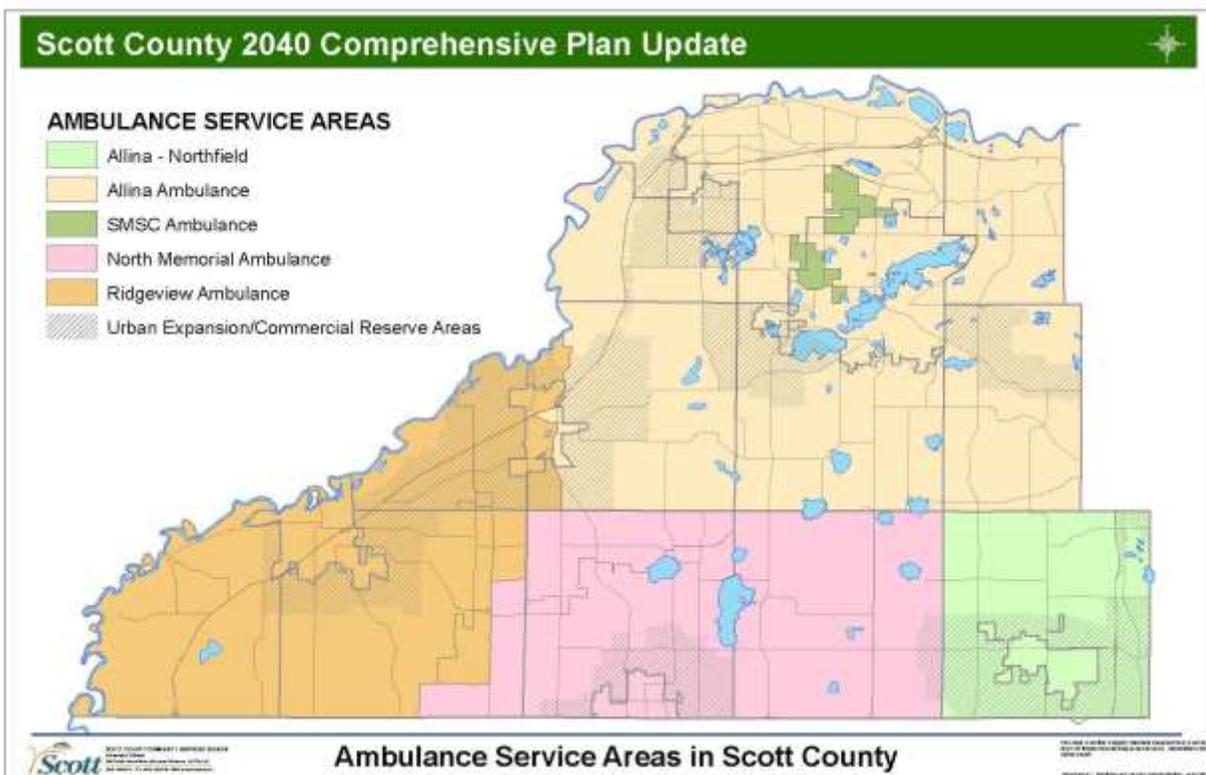
**Map XII-5  
Fire Service Areas**



## D. Emergency Medical Response

Scott County is served by five emergency medical and transport/ambulance responders, as shown on Map XII-6. Their primary service areas (PSAs) are controlled by a state regulatory board. The northern third of Scott County is assigned to Allina Transportation who responds with at least one paramedic (Advance Life Support/ALS) and an emergency medical technician (EMT). The SMSC Fire Department provides ALS for the tribal lands and a portion of Prior Lake. The southern portion of Scott County is covered by ALS through on-going collaboration with EMS providers. Southeastern Scott County is covered by ALS units from Northfield Hospital and with service managed by Allina. Out-of-County medical helicopters are used for transportation on a regular basis for trauma cases. There are helicopter pads that serve Scott County. All EMS agencies participate in mutual aid agreements.

**Map XII-6  
Ambulance Service Areas**



## E. Addressing

Scott County is the addressing authority for the 11 townships (each city is the addressing authority for their own jurisdiction). As an addressing authority, the County is responsible for maintaining addresses of properties in the 11 townships, maintaining the road inventory, providing information for mapping updates, processing information with the telephone companies, post office, emergency services and other government offices, and the continued public education of the Countywide 9-1-1 system. Without the information generated from all these sources, the County 9-1-1 dispatch system would not have the necessary data to operate efficiently and ensure the fastest response to the citizens and visitors of the county in times of

emergency. Accurate and timely address information directly contributes to the safety and well-being of the responders and the county's residents and visitors.

Scott County, by ordinance, maintains a uniform system of addressing and road naming throughout the 11 townships. The County also works with the seven cities to ensure all areas of the county have unique, valid addresses and road names. All addresses are assigned by standardized procedures set forth by the County to ensure a continuous and uniform addressing system. Each house, building, business, or other occupied structure as well as any other structure that requires utility service are assigned a separate number. No building permits or utility services shall be granted until the owner has procured the official number for the premises.

The primary method for addressing used by the County and all seven cities is the MetroGIS Address Point Editor Application. This on-line application allows addressing directly into the map and shared database. This is the same mapping and database system used by the County's 9-1-1 dispatch system, allowing synchronization throughout all divisions. For properties in the 11 townships, 911 residential address markers are required at the driveway of each habitable structure.

## **F. Emergency Management/Hazard Mitigation**

The Scott County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division is charged with coordinating the emergency preparedness and homeland security efforts for the county. In addition to writing emergency response plans and conducting public education, County staff provide assistance to local jurisdictions and county agencies before, during and after disasters strike. Staff also works closely with local, state, and federal officials, and cooperatively with neighboring jurisdictions, to enhance homeland security and better prepare for and respond to incidents ranging from tornadoes to terrorism.

Emergency Management includes emergency preparedness and assisting in the process of planning, organizing and coordinating emergency events within Scott County. This department maintains the Emergency Operations plan, 911 addressing, floodplain management and various emergency response actions.

Homeland Security involves working with all aspects of public safety - from the federal level to individual citizens - to ensure the most comprehensive and coordinated approach to the protection of public safety. The division works with multiple agencies and jurisdictions to coordinate information, training, and equipment needed for protecting the county and the nation from acts of terrorism.

In 2016, Scott County and the University of Minnesota Duluth Geospatial Analysis Center (GAC) prepared the 2016 *Scott County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan*. This Plan evaluates and ranks the major natural and man-made hazards affecting Scott County as determined by frequency of event, economic impact, deaths, and injuries. Mitigation recommendations are based on input from state and local agencies, public input, and national best practices. GAC performed the hazard risk assessment for 100-year floods. In recognition of the importance of planning in mitigation activities, FEMA created a powerful geographic information system (GIS)-based disaster risk assessment tool. This tool enables communities of all sizes to predict estimated losses from floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other related phenomena and to measure the impact of various mitigation practices that might help reduce those losses. The Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) office has determined that this GIS

tool should play a critical role in Minnesota’s risk assessments, and therefore the 100-year flood hazard analysis is introduced in this plan.

This is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers Scott County, including the cities of Belle Plaine, Elko New Market, Jordan, Prior Lake, Savage, and Shakopee. The Scott County risks and mitigation activities identified in this plan also incorporate the concerns and needs of townships, school districts, and other entities participating in this plan. Members from each of these jurisdictions actively participated in the planning process by attending workgroup meetings, providing information, suggesting mitigation strategies and reviewing the plan document.

The All Hazard Committee was formed after the events of September 11, 2001 in order to bring various agencies and organizations throughout Scott County together to discuss and plan for all types of emergency and/or disaster incidents and events. The identified goals of the committee are that all stakeholders will understand the roles, responsibilities, limitations and capabilities of each and all response agencies, to reduce unnecessary duplication of service and identify missing service gaps. This Committee reviews the numerous plans of both Scott County Public Health and Scott County Emergency Management. It is also one of the requirements for some Public Health grants to have such a committee review their plans and approve them on an annual basis.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY GOALS AND POLICIES**

As stated earlier in this chapter, Scott County has a direct influence on public safety policy and planning. The following are goals and policies to guide public safety in Scott County over the next 20 years.

#### **Goal #XII-3 Develop strong public partnerships and an active and informed population to promote public safety.**

- a. Ensure police, fire and emergency services provide high levels of public safety that respond to growth and changing community needs.
- b. Equip residents, businesses, and community service providers through education and training to be active participants in public safety.
- c. Build the capacity for comprehensive Multi-Hazard preparedness planning, readiness, and response.
- d. Continue to enforce and periodically update the County’s uniform addressing ordinance.
- e. Increase the capacity of residents to assist in a public health emergency response through the use of a trained Medical Reserve Corps unit.

*Reason: Scott County needs an active and engaged citizenry, a vital partnership with all people-serving agencies, and an equal partnership with the State in order to meet its vision. In addition, local government has to develop competencies and capacities to act in a coordinated and comprehensive manner with all of its partners to address community needs which require the concerted efforts of everyone (e.g., emergency response, health promotion, community asset development, community education, volunteerism and charity).*

## EDUCATION PLAN

*“Excellent schools and educational opportunities.”*

- Scott County Results Map - Livable

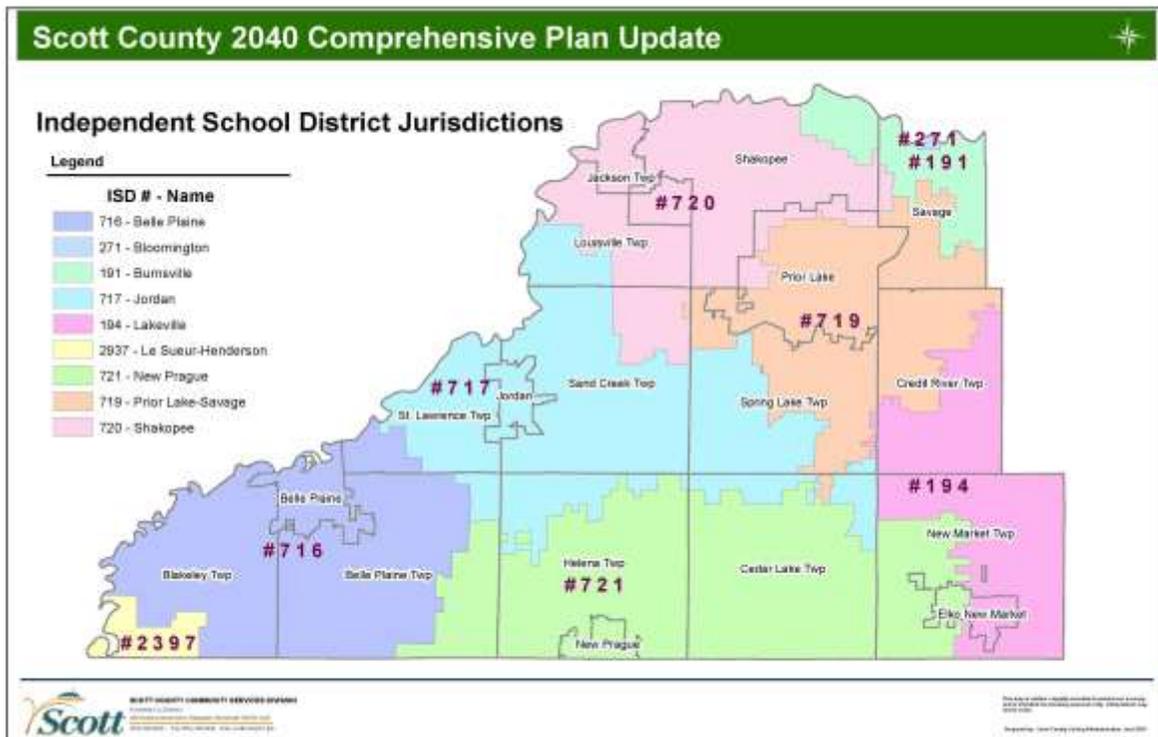
Scott County has influence on education policy and planning in a number of ways, including: providing direct health and social services to children and families, licensing in-home day care providers, operating libraries in each city, providing workforce development training, and partnering with local school districts through a variety of programs, such as SCALE-initiated efforts or through SHIP. There is a strong link between comprehensive planning and education. The pace, type and location of new housing has a direct impact on school district enrollment and future facility planning. The quality of local school districts has a direct impact on the demand of housing. This plan inventories the major educational providers in the County and outlines resources and strategies to support education well into the future.



## EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES AND PROVIDERS

Nine public school districts serve Scott County (see Map XII-7 for district boundaries).

**Map XII-7  
Public Independent School District (ISD) Map**



Although the Bloomington, Lakeville, and Le Sueur-Henderson districts serve portions of the county, they do not operate any schools within Scott County. The districts serving kids in the northern portion of the County have experienced considerable growth over the past ten years, contrary to trends in out-state Minnesota. Figure XII-8 shows historic, current and projected total enrollments for the seven main districts serving Scott County. Enrollment projections for 2024-2025 show a general stabilization of student population across all seven districts. This is consistent with the school-age cohort projections discussed in Chapter III.

<b>Figure XII-8 Public Schools District Enrollment Trends &amp; Forecast</b>			
<b>Independent School District, Number</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>		<b>Projected Enrollment 2024-2025</b>
	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	
Belle Plaine, 716	1,510	1,655	2,104
Burnsville, 191	10,399	9,247	9,700
Jordan, 717	1,546	1,811	1,680
Lakeville, 194	11,036	10,993	9,688
New Prague, 721	3,401	4,156	4,251
Prior Lake-Savage, 719	6,507	8,425	8,599
Shakopee, 720	5,824	8,304	8,502

Source: Maxfield Research, 2017

<b>Figure XII-9 Private Schools</b>		
<b>Location/School</b>	<b>Current Enrollment</b>	<b>Grade</b>
<b>Belle Plaine</b>		
Holy Family Academy	34	K-12
Our Lady of the Prairie	47	K-6
Trinity Lutheran	65	Pre-8
<b>Jordan</b>		
St. John the Baptist	109	Pre-6
<b>Elko New Market</b>		
Lonsdale/New Market/Veseli (LNMV) Area Catholic	N/A	Pre-8
<b>New Prague</b>		
St. Wenceslaus	257	K-8
<b>Prior Lake</b>		
Holy Cross Lutheran Preschool	N/A	Preschool
Prior Lake Christian	51	K-12
St. Michael	501	K-8
St. Paul's Lutheran	63	K-6
<b>Savage</b>		
St. John the Baptist	520	Pre-8
<b>Shakopee</b>		
Living Hope Lutheran School	130	K-4
Shakopee Area Catholic	721	Pre-8

Source: School websites; Private School Review, 2017

New high schools have recently been constructed or expanded in Jordan, Shakopee, Savage, and New Prague, and a number of new elementary schools throughout the districts have also been constructed to serve the growing youth population. Other schools not included in the inventory include the Carver-Scott Education Cooperative in Lydia, the Minnesota Valley Education Cooperative in Jordan, and Aspen Academy in Savage. Home-schooling is also an option that some families choose. In addition to public schools, a number of private schools are offered for residents. Figure XII-9 lists private schools located within Scott County and the grade levels served.

In addition to traditional kindergarten through high school education, Scott County schools provide early intervention services, conduct parent/child home visits, provide Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), and make referrals to other programs.

### **A. School – Community Partnerships**

Scott County Public Health works with all school districts throughout the county to advance education and ensure students are healthy. Schools are a critical setting to model healthy behaviors. They provide students with opportunities to learn about and practice these behaviors that can continue throughout their lifespan. In partnership with Public Health, schools focus on best practice approaches of implementing both healthy eating and active schools activities in a comprehensive manner.

Poor diet and physical inactivity among youth can lead to increased risk for certain chronic health conditions, including high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, obesity, and depression. School settings hold a realistic and evidence-based opportunity to increase healthy behaviors among youth.

#### **CAP Agency**

The CAP Agency is a private non-profit organization providing services to residents of Scott, Carver and Dakota Counties. The CAP Agency serves approximately 25,000 children, families and senior citizens each year in its tri-county service area and has a \$12 million operating budget. The agency is part of a national community action association focused on reducing poverty through an integrated service approach that addresses strengths and barriers and creates a plan for increased self-reliance. Education-related programs include Child Care Aware, Parent Aware, Circle of Parents, Early Head Start, and Head Start.

#### **Scott County Health and Human Services**

Scott County's Health and Human Services Department is responsible for community initiatives that will improve outcomes for consumers by bringing County services, school district, private sector providers, and juvenile corrections into an integrated support network for families. Programs that support education and early learning by fostering child development include Public Health Home Visiting, the Follow Along Program, and Child Care Licensing.

#### **Child Care Providers**

Comprehensive planning is also linked to early learning. The pace, type and location of new housing has an impact on enrollment in licensed child care environments. Home-based providers (licensed by the county) and center-based providers (licensed by the state) support appropriate child development.

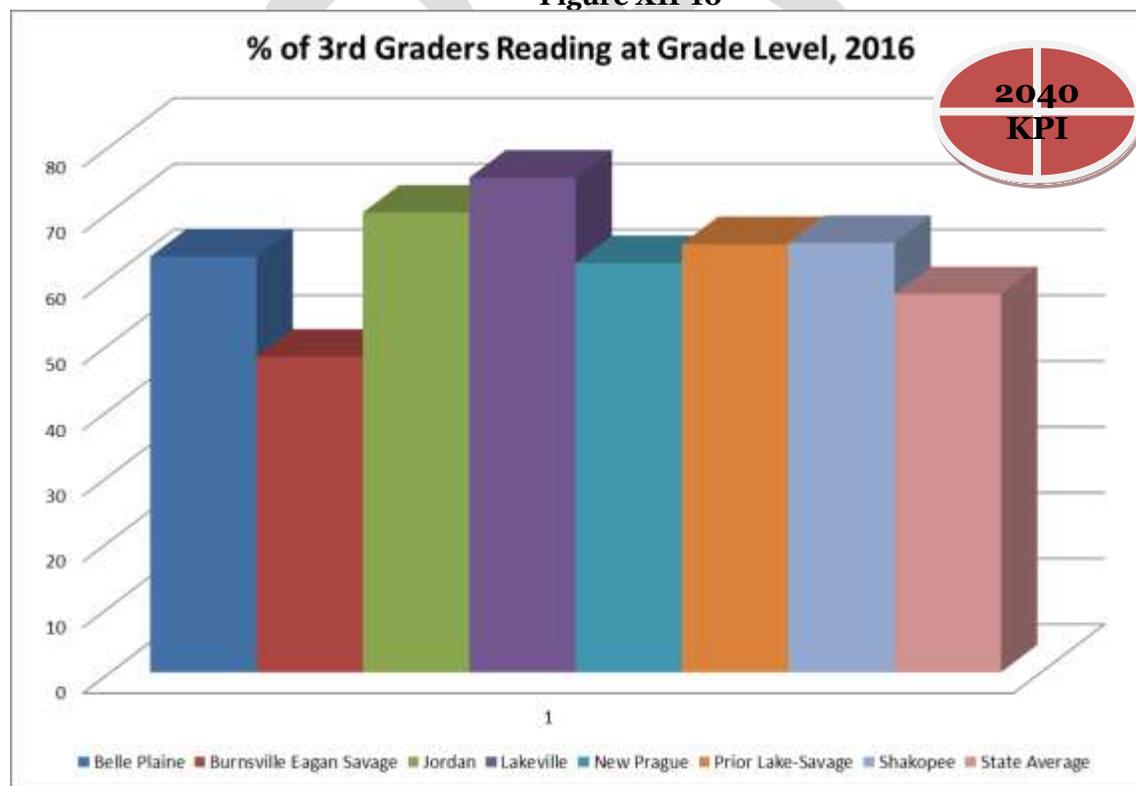
## B. SCALE 50 x 30 Educational Preparedness Work Group

In April 2016, SCALE established four work groups and a steering committee to accomplish a “50 by 30” initiative. The goal of the work groups is to advance a “Collective Impact Approach” to achieving 50% of the County’s labor force living and working in the County by 2030. The four workforce groups established to help accomplish this goal were Housing, Workforce Readiness, Transportation and Educational Preparedness. The Educational Preparedness Group’s Vision is to “Ensure children are developmentally on track and prepared for educational success.” The group has been working to answer the following questions:

- Is preparing children for a successful life a community issue? – Who is responsible?*
- What are the primary barriers to educational success?*
- What kinds of supports do families of young children need?*
- What programs or experiences are currently working well for young children (birth – age 8) and families in our communities?*
- What challenges do we face in meeting the needs of young children (birth – age 8)?*

In 2016, 62.6% of Scott County’s third graders were proficient readers. Reading proficiency by the end of third grade is often a predictor for future academic and life success. Through third grade most students are learning to read, but in fourth grade they begin ‘reading to learn’ -- to gain information and think critically in all other subject areas. Figure XII-10 shows the percent of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders reading at grade level for all public school districts serving the County, compared to the state average (57%). While Scott County’s children overall have out-performed state averages, many of the local districts have seen a decline in third grade reading scores in recent years. In order to improve third-grade reading proficiency, the Educational Preparedness group is working to identify children’s developmental needs earlier in life.

**Figure XII-10**



Source: MN Dept. of Ed--Minnesota Report Card

### C. Public Library Facilities

Scott County operates public libraries in each of the seven cities and a law library in the Scott County Justice Center. A unique relationship has been established as part of the library system where each city provides and maintains buildings for the libraries. In return, the County finances and administers equipment, circulation materials, and staff services. The townships have no building or operation financing responsibilities.

Scott County Library is a customer-focused system that inspires and enhances learning at every stage of life with a focus on four outcomes:

- Children learn to read and are supported in and out of school
- Residents have convenient access to a relevant collection of physical and digital resources
- Residents have convenient access to the information they need and to opportunities for lifelong learning
- Residents have convenient and reliable access to the Internet, computers, and public spaces.

Resident expectations for library service continue to evolve. Demand for print materials has held steady as demand for digital materials has increased sharply. In recent years the library has focused on early learning by offering early literacy classes, parenting training, and learning resources for child care providers. Additionally, new buildings were constructed in Jordan and Elko New Market in 2012 and 2013, respectively. The County’s individual library branches are listed in Figure IX-37.

<b>Library</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Building Square Footage</b>
Belle Plaine	125 W Main St.	5,280 ft <sup>2</sup>
Jordan	275 Creek Lane South	8,000 ft <sup>2</sup>
Elko New Market	110 J. Roberts Way.	4,400 ft <sup>2</sup>
New Prague	400 E Main St.	8,000 ft <sup>2</sup>
Prior Lake	16210 Eagle Creek Ave. SE	14,000 ft <sup>2</sup>
Savage	13090 Alabama Ave. S	17,750 ft <sup>2</sup>
Shakopee	235 S Lewis St.	26,000 ft <sup>2</sup>
Law Library	Scott County Justice Center (200 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave W, Shakopee)	1,550 ft <sup>2</sup>

### EDUCATION GOALS AND POLICIES

As stated earlier in this chapter, Scott County has a role in education policy and planning by: providing direct health and social services to children and families, licensing in-home day care providers, operating libraries in each city, providing workforce development training, and partnering with local school districts through a variety of programs, such as SCALE-initiated efforts or through SHIP. The following are goals and policies to guide education policy and planning in Scott County over the next 20 years.

**Goal #XII-4 Create a community in which each and every member has the ability to meet their early educational needs and the opportunity to enhance their quality of life.**

- a. Build public awareness and engage the community in an informed and collective response by assessing and planning for early educational needs.
- b. Develop and launch an early learning outreach program targeting children and their caregivers.
- c. Maintain strong relationships with city governments to provide library service appropriate for their populations.
- d. Plan and provide essential resources for education, health, human services, public safety, and justice to meet mandates and prioritize community needs.
- e. Anticipate and expedite the development of infrastructure for basic human needs such as public transit, affordable housing, legal assistance, accessible and affordable health care, meals, child care, and senior care.
- f. Continue to update capital facility plans and capital improvement programs consistent with the County's mission, vision, values, and comprehensive plans.
- g. Employ technology to expand public access to library spaces, services, and resources.
- h. Develop higher education learning and life-long learning opportunities.
- i. Explore opportunities through the University of Minnesota's Resilient Communities Program or similar student-led research programs to address items such as researching technical and operational requirements for operating a "24/7" open library, and identifying data gaps and methodologies to track progress in early learning in Scott County schools.

*Reason: Local government often plays a facilitative role to help the community help itself, and a leadership role to assess community needs and plan to effectively address these needs and priorities. Local government also acts as a direct service provider or indirectly ensures services through other agencies. In any case, local government requires the necessary infrastructure such as staff, facilities, equipment, technology, tools, organizational structures, and administrative support to serve these roles.*