

## ATTACHMENT F: STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRIORITIES

The North Dakota State Health Improvement Plan can be viewed online at [www.hhs.nd.gov/SHIP](http://www.hhs.nd.gov/SHIP).

After reviewing the available data and feedback from key informants and focus groups, four common themes emerged as public health priorities and have been adopted as Priority areas for the 2024-2029 SHIP. These Priorities broadly encompass the work of public health in our state and provide a framework for aligning internal and external efforts. These Priorities are:

### **PRIORITY 1: STRENGTHENING WORKFORCE**

Priority Definition: Enhance the capacity of the healthcare workforce through recruitment, retention, and education (training and development) initiatives. Address gaps and opportunities within the workforce landscape.

### **PRIORITY 2: EXPANDING ACCESS AND CONNECTION**

Priority Definition: Improve access to healthcare services and connections to well-being resources. Expand primary care, specialized services, and preventive screenings, facilitating holistic support.

### **PRIORITY 3: CULTIVATING WELLNESS**

Priority Definition: Promote holistic wellness by addressing social determinants/drivers of health, including childhood opportunities, reducing adverse experiences, improving occupational safety, reducing tobacco usage, and addressing the health needs of tribal populations and older adults.

### **PRIORITY 4: BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

Priority Definition: Build capacity and enhance readiness for infectious disease response; strengthen overall community resilience while being responsive to rural communities' challenges; and assess and improve emergency preparedness, response, and capacity-building initiatives.