

Schoharie Community Hub

Nicole Blanchard, DrPH, MPH
Director of Public Health

Megan Haugh
Public Health Program Specialist



Schoharie County Department of Health

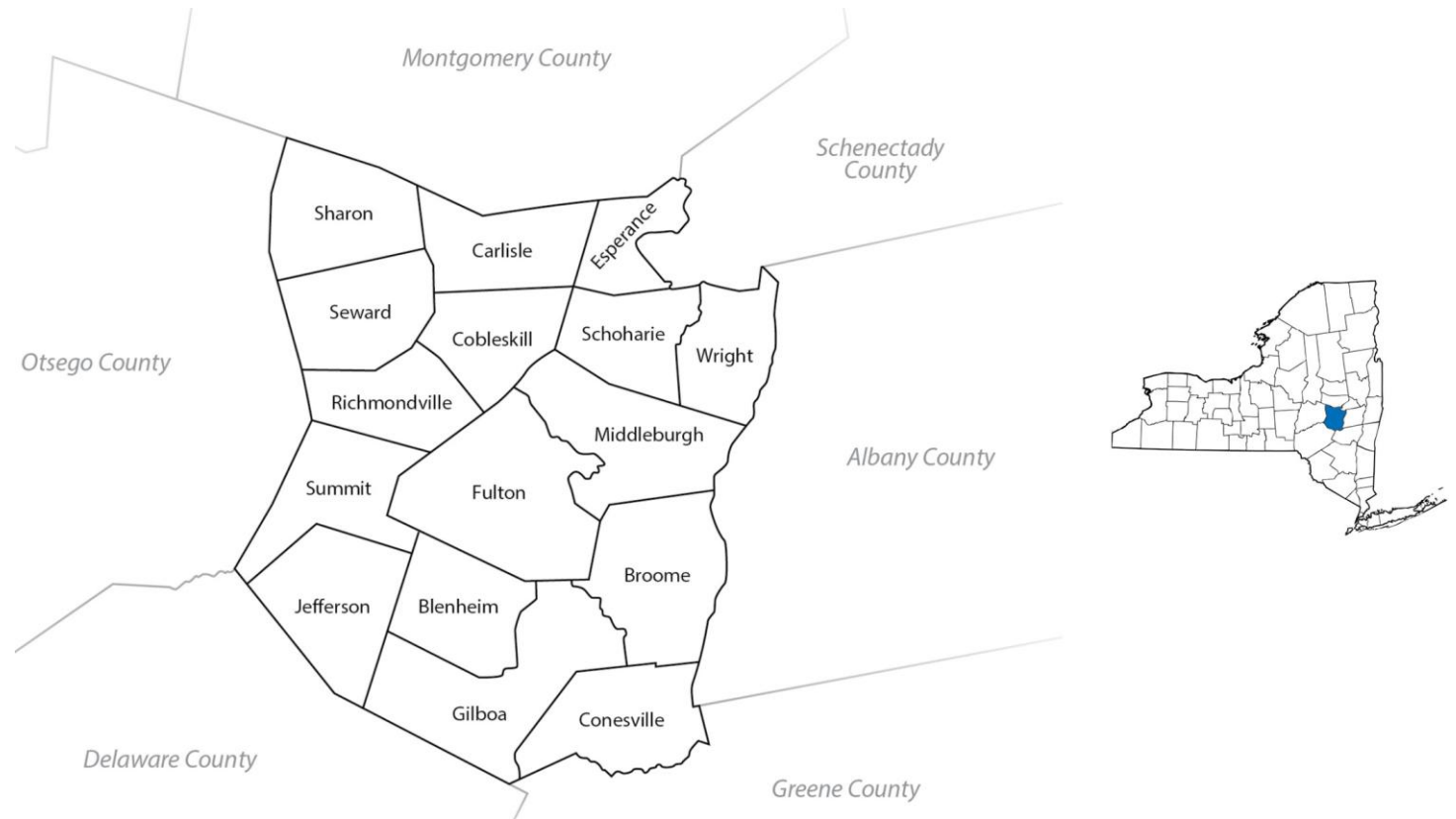
Vision: Strengthening Schoharie County to become a healthy, safe, and equitable place to grow, live, work, and play.

Mission: Serve as the community hub to promote health equity, prevent disease, provide health education, and protect against health threats.



Schoharie County, NY

- Population: 29, 714 people
- Primarily White, non-Hispanic
- Special populations: Amish
- Rural
- Main Industry: Agriculture & Tourism
- Bassett Cobleskill Regional Hospital



SDoH Impacting Schoharie County



Lack of Primary Care physicians
Lack of Dental providers
Lack of Mental Health providers
Low health literacy
Poor Health Status



Cost burdened housing
Food insecurity
Low income



Low rate of college diploma

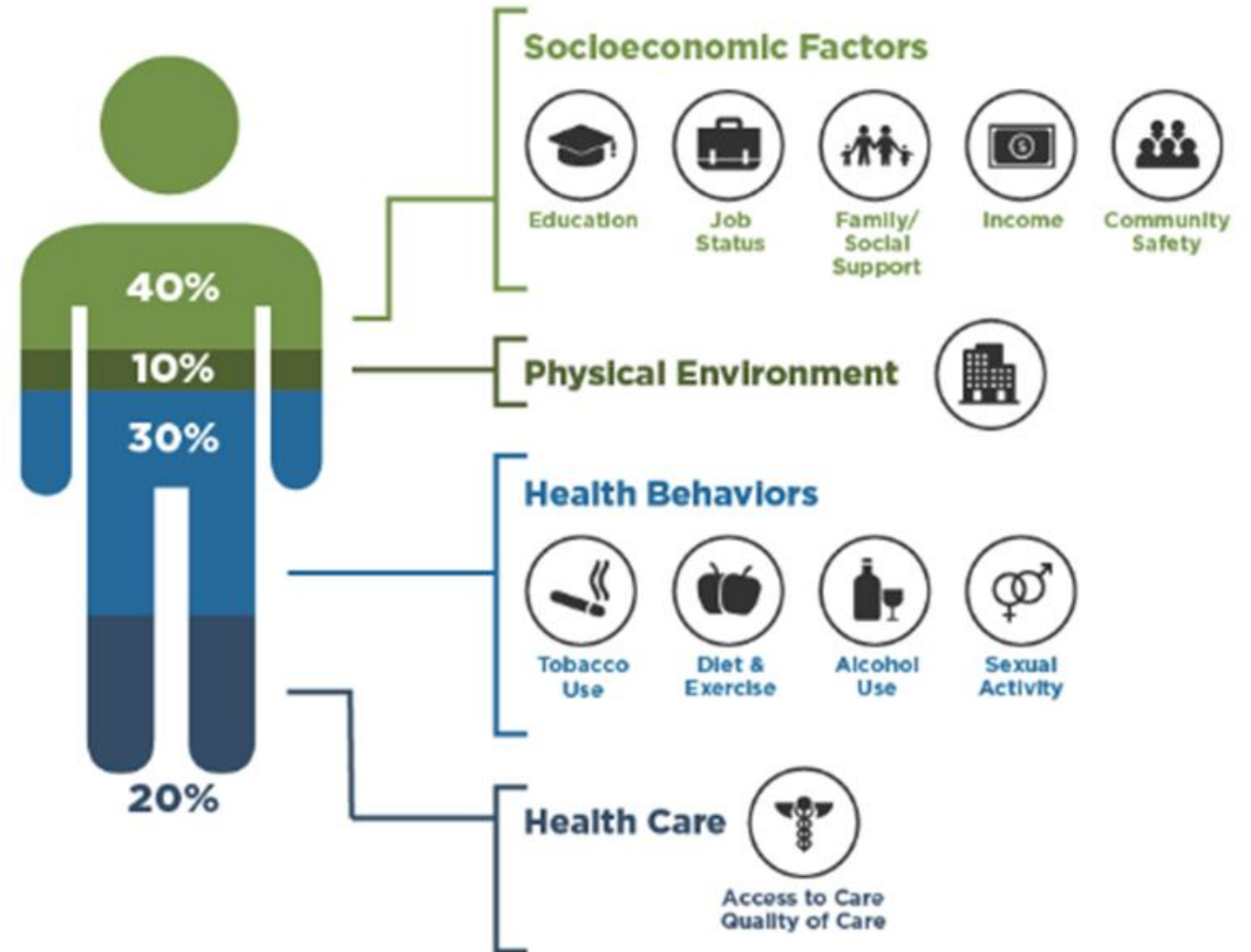


Limited public transportation
Low personal vehicle access
Presence of substandard housing
Cost burdened housing
Low access to healthy food
Low internet connectivity
Low access to mobile networks



Low population density
Social Isolation
Aging in place population

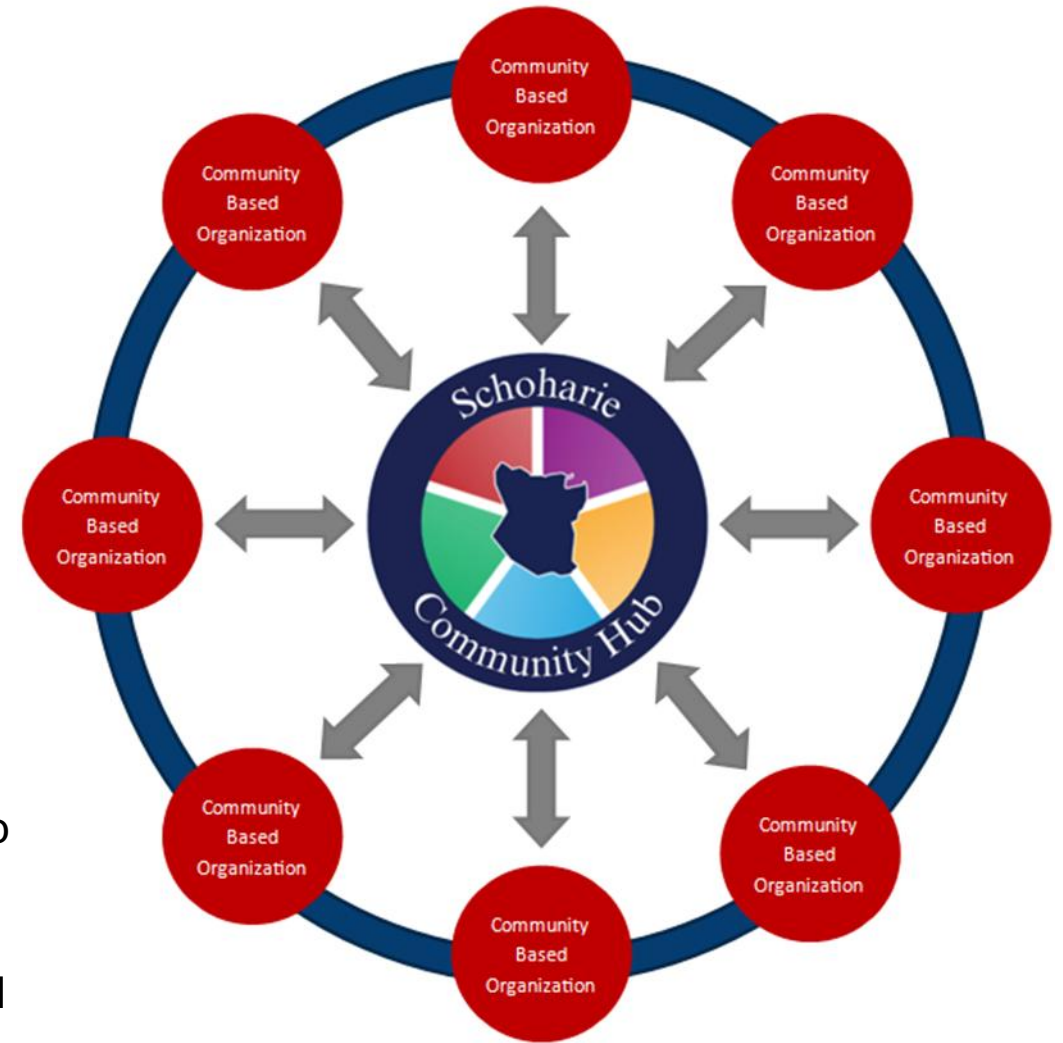
How important is SDOH?

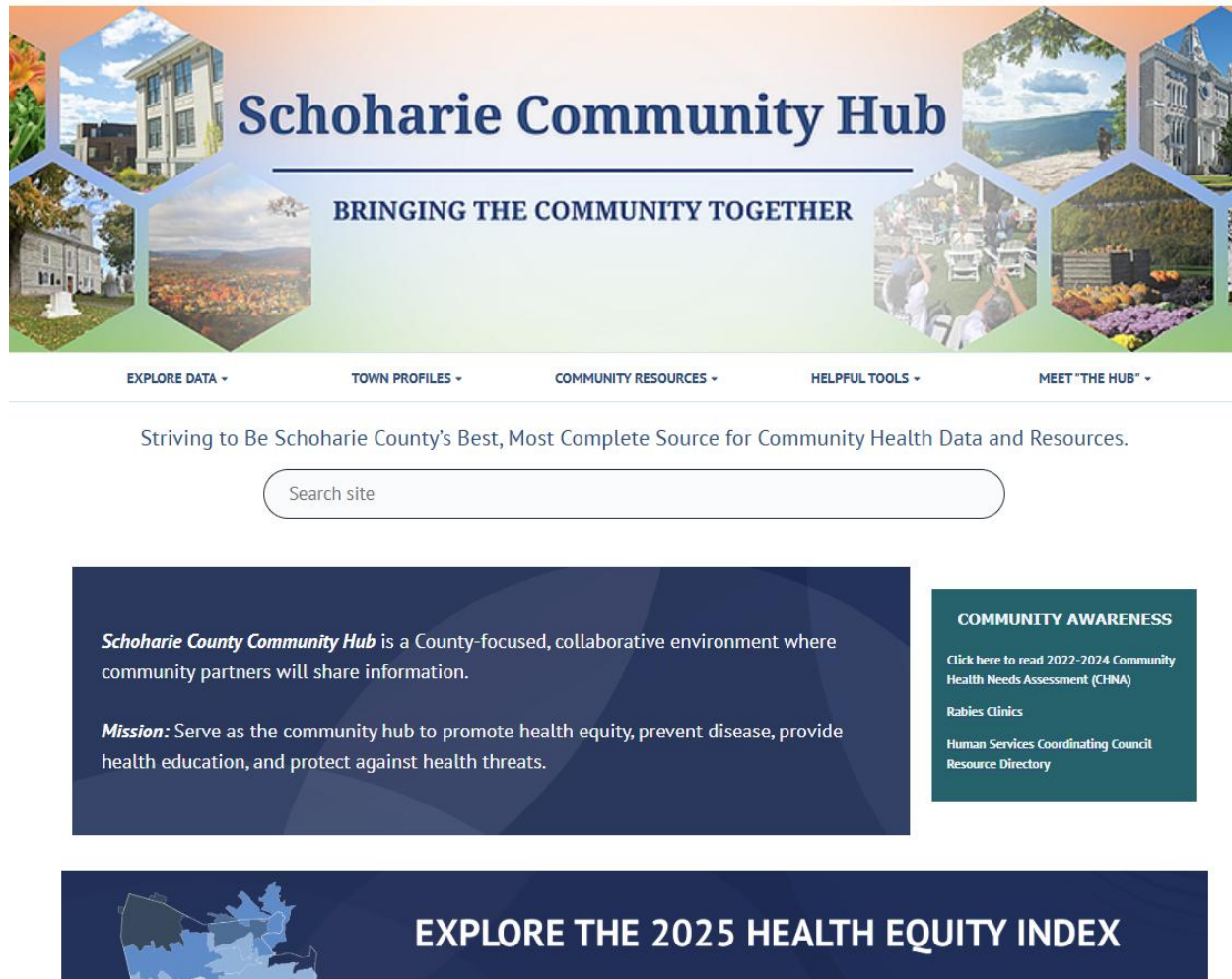


Source: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement. Going Beyond Clinical Walls: Solving Complex Problems (Oct 2014)

Schoharie Community Hub

- Conduent site
- Community-based collaboration of ALL sectors
- Employs the wheel and spoke model
- Each entity shares knowledge, resources, and planning to solve the health equity infrastructure
- Uses Evidence-based models and data to create targeted interventions
- Ensured Schoharie County benefited from the 1115 Waiver





Conduent

- Public facing data site with local SDOH data
- Customizable
- GIS tools
- Used for communication
- PHIG Funding
- <https://www.schohariecommunityhub.org/>

Health Equity Index

Location: Schoharie

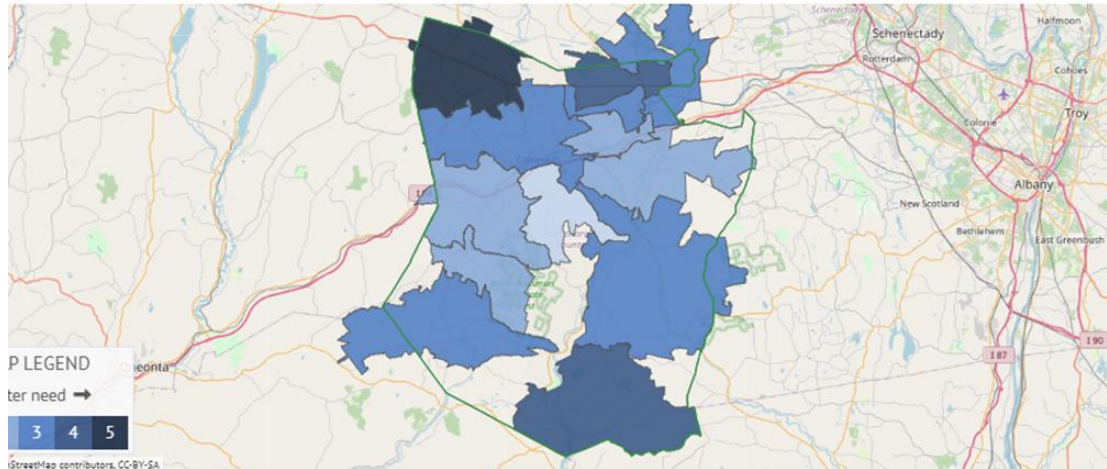
Show by: Zip Code

Period: 2025 (most recent)

The **Health Equity Index** (formerly SocioNeeds Index), created by Conduent Healthy Communities Institute, is a measure of socioeconomic need that is correlated with poor health outcomes. The index is part of Conduent's SocioNeeds Index® Suite, which provides analytics around social determinants of health to advance equitable outcomes for a range of topics.

Counties, and county equivalents in the United States are given an **index value** from 0 (low need) to 100 (high need). To help you find the areas of need in your community, the selected locations are **ranked** from 1 (low need) to 5 (high need) based on their index value relative to similar locations in the region.

[Learn more about the Health Equity Index](#)



Community / Digital Access

Digital Divide Index

VALUE

21.8

DDI Score
(2022)

COMPARED TO:



NY Counties



U.S. Counties



National Median
(50.0)



Prior Value
(24.8)

Digital Divide Index by DDI Components



Community / Transportation

Households without a Vehicle

VALUE

6.6%

(2019-2023)

COMPARED TO:



NY Value
(29.0%)



US Value
(8.3%)



Trend

Household by Age of Householder



Mean Travel Time to Work

30.3

Minutes
(2019-2023)



NY Counties



U.S. Counties



NY Value
(32.8)



US Value
(26.6)



Trend

Mean Travel Time to Work by Gender





Schoharie Community Hub (SCH)

- Quarterly in-person meetings
- Monthly, remote action groups
- Annual SCH Fair
- Constant communication
 - Email and Facebook



SCH- Youth Group

- Community, teen volunteers
- Volunteer in various events
- Serve on other CBO boards
- Growing community leaders
- Monthly meetings

Schoharie Community Hub (SCH)



Quarterly Meeting Table Discussion, Oct. 2024



Community Hub Fair, July 2025

Health Dept. Hosts Successful Hub Fair

By Matthew Avitabile

SCHOHARIE — The Schoharie County Department of Health held a successful Community Hub Fair over the weekend to bring together various community groups and local families. The Saturday morning and afternoon event was held in Veterans Park in Cobleskill. Health Department head Dr. Nicole Blanchard said that the event went very well, including 22 different organizations offering various services.

"We had the whole nine yards," Blanchard said. There was food provided by Piggy Pop and Jed's Down and Dirty Burgers. Blanchard said that the Department hopes to make this into an annual project. The Hub project has continued to grow, including a number of community-based organizations from all avenues of local life to "make Schoharie County a better place to live."

This includes organizations that do not offer direct health services and can share ideas to help with issues related to infrastructure and public health.

There are quarterly in-person meetings for local organizations to share ideas, as well as five separate subgroups that meet monthly. These are subgroups intended to create "tangible" efforts within the community.

Blanchard said that many families arrived and "asked really good questions" and received significant feedback, including what the Department planned to do next.

She further said that the effort highlighted how the group could serve the public and "not just work with the public."

Blanchard said that after reviewing the weekend event, the group may make it more family and community-oriented. The event allowed for significant learning, and also informed efforts to expand sponsorships and events for kids.

Health Department Employee Megan Haugh said that she worked alongside Blanchard to create the foundation for the community Hub, including fostering contact with the community organizations. She has been involved in the project since last October.

Blanchard said that Haugh has been "instrumental" in many ways and did not "give herself enough credit." She credits Haugh and the Health Department team in creating the success of the event. There are now 60 organizations working within the Hub and several projects underway.

Health Department employee Liz Kosier said that the effort has brought together many different organizations, who are able to work together.

"As a whole, we can conquer more problems than we ever had," she said. This includes teamwork and "working in ways I didn't think they could," she said.

Kosier added that she was heartened to see the different groups working together in Cobleskill over the weekend.

Blanchard credited Tanya Sorenson for her help organizing the event.

The health department director has been enthusiastic about the efforts, and credited the effort of the different organizations involved in the community Hub.

She also cited the second annual Project Rescue Summer Camp, which included valuable work, which took place last month at the Schoharie Fire House and helping to clean up Lily Fest the day before Lily Fest.

Dr. Blanchard said there will be a year in review upcoming, including honoring volunteers, the Hub Fair, and a booth at the Schoharie County Sunshine Fair.

Liz Kosier, NYS Public Health Fellow Tanya Sorenson, and Dr. Blanchard at the Hub Fair Saturday

Cobleskill Briefs
Any events you'd like featured? Let us know!
cobleskillherald@gmail.com
Schoharie County Health Department

SCH – Youth Group

New volunteer youth group helps the county

SCHOHARIE / COUNTY
– The Schoharie Community Hub Youth Group (SCHYG) held its first meeting on August 20 at the Schoharie County Department of Health office in Schoharie.

This youth group is an extension of the Schoharie Community Hub, a collaborative group of community-based organizations working together to solve infrastructure problems in Schoharie County. The youth group, organized by the Schoharie County Department of Health in partnership with numerous organizations through the Schoharie Community Hub, will provide volunteer services throughout their communities.

SCHYG efforts will include planning community events, participating in various projects, developing publications, creating outreach materials, supporting Schoharie Community Hub work, and overall doing what they can to make Schoharie County an even greater place to live. Alongside helping others, the group will learn and share new skills, receive



Contributed photo

Rory Steadham, left, assists Schoharie County Department of Health Deputy Director Jenna Warner at the Middleburgh rabies clinic.

mentoring, and foster a sense of ownership in their community.

The teens are looking forward to their first volunteer project at the Health Department, which includes participating in the upcoming Rabies vaccination clinics, learning about local nonprofit organizations, and attending community events. We are taking applications for students in 7th through 12th grades to join and volunteer.

Our very first member,

Rory Steadham, volunteered to help at our Rabies Clinic in Middleburgh on August 21 and will be our first volunteer in the Health Department next week. Rory said, "It was exciting and interesting to be a part of a rabies clinic, and it helped me see what happens from an inside point of view."

For more information or to apply to be a part of the SCHYG, reach out to Elizabeth Kosier at (518) 295-8733 or ElizabethKosier@schohariecounty-ny.gov.

Youth Group Attends Rabies Clinic,
August 2025

Questions?

Nicole Blanchard, DrPH, MPH

nicole.blanchard@co.Schoharie.ny.us

Megan Haugh

megan.haugh@schohariecounty-ny.gov

