

## **Wyoming 2-1-1, Working with Healthcare Providers to Seek Better Health Outcomes for Wyoming's Agriculture Industry**

It is widely acknowledged throughout the healthcare industry that there is a high correlation between individuals and families who have inadequate financial resources which undermine access to safe and affordable housing, education, public safety, and healthy foods, and individuals who experience adverse health outcomes, including stress, sleep disturbances, physical and mental health problems, cognitive decline, and even mortality. These factors, known as Social Determinants of Health, encompass a wide range of variables which impact upon the health and quality-of-life of everyone.

The utilization of Wyoming 2-1-1 by healthcare providers and facilities helps to address the Social Determinants of Health which affect Wyoming's population. Wyoming 2-1-1 is the natural link between healthcare providers and individuals with unmet needs. Further, it is a free and confidential service, is easy to use, and brings value to the healthcare industry by providing referrals to needed services. It is likely that increased utilization of Wyoming 2-1-1 by health care providers may result in a decrease in readmission rates and reliance on emergency services and contribute to an overall improvement of the health of the population.

Currently, there is great concern nationwide about the health and well-being of our friends and neighbors in the agriculture industry. Many farmers and ranchers find themselves impacted by circumstances in which they have little or no control. Their livelihoods are impacted on a daily basis by trade wars, natural disasters, low commodity prices, disease, labor shortages, and drought, just to name a few of their stressful challenges.

Dealing with difficult, uncontrollable challenges within the agriculture industries may result in individuals and families finding themselves in need of temporary financial assistance, food, health care, addiction prevention programs, support groups or other important and needed resources. The overwhelming demands of farming and ranching may diminish an individual's willingness to get routine or annual wellness exams, leading to worse health outcomes.

Wyoming 2-1-1 is pleased to be partnering with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture to provide information about resources and services that can assist farmers and ranchers across the state as they confront the demands which are unique to their respective industries.

The goal of Wyoming 2-1-1 is to improve the health and welfare of people in Wyoming by connecting them to appropriate services. By dialing 2-1-1 or visiting [www.wyoming211.org](http://www.wyoming211.org), people receive personalized information from an experienced specialist in locating a variety of community resources that address safety net services for immediate needs.

Wyoming 2-1-1 provides vital information on available services that can meet an individual or family's pressing needs, including programs and services that promote wellness and tools that

can assist in addressing temporary challenges, improve overall health outcomes, and provide prevention resources.

With the help of Wyoming's healthcare providers, Wyoming 2-1-1 can provide information, patience, compassion, resources, and guidance to help empower our friends and neighbors who feed the world to advocate for themselves and take steps toward greater fulfillment in their work and their lives.