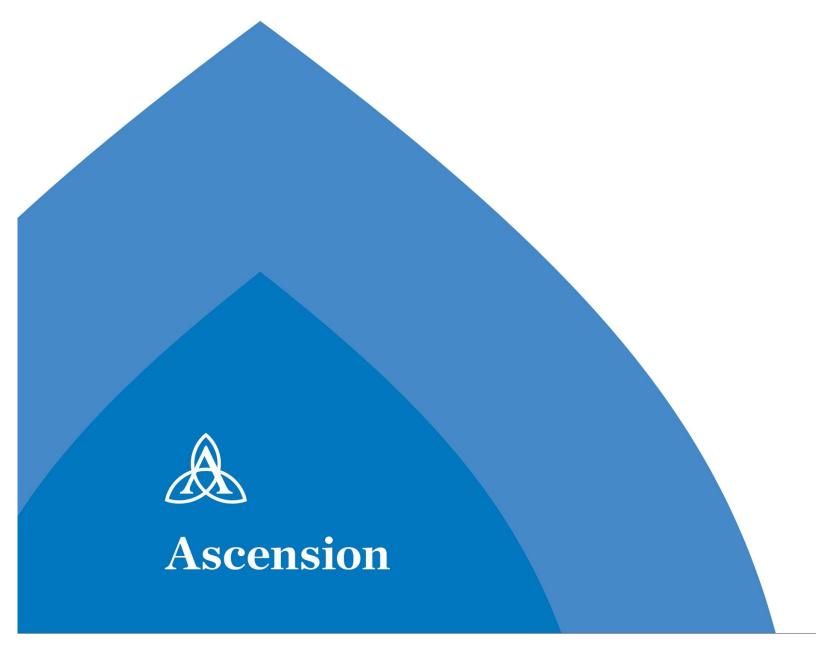# Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair

Implementation Strategy for the 2022 CHNA
St. Clair County, Alabama

Ascension

The purpose of this implementation strategy is to describe how the hospital plans to address prioritized health needs from its current Community Health Needs Assessment. The significant health needs that the hospital does not intend to address are identified and a rationale is provided. Special attention has been given to the needs of individuals and communities who are more vulnerable, unmet health needs or gaps in services, and input gathered from the community.

Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair
7063 Veterans Parkway
Pell City, Alabama 35125
[Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair Website](#)
205-338-3301
Tax ID# 63-1146531

The 2022 Implementation Strategy was approved by the Ascension St. Vincent's Board of Directors on October 25, 2022 (2021 tax year), and applies to the following three-year cycle: July, 2022 to June, 2025. This report, as well as the previous report, can be found at our public website.

We value the community's voice and welcome feedback on this report. Please visit our public website (https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna) to submit your comments.

Table of Contents

Introduction

As one of the leading non-profit and Catholic health systems in the United States, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable.

Ascension St. Vincent's, Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair

Ascension St. Vincent's, a part of Ascension, includes a regional network of healthcare services and facilities, together dedicated to improving the health and well-being of those we serve, with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Ascension St. Vincent's operates five hospital campuses, a Health & Wellness Facility, outpatient surgery and diagnostic centers, primary care network, home health and hospice, home medical equipment services, behavioral health, wellness services; corporate health services and specialized care. The system employs approximately 4,700 associates and has more than 1,100 physicians serving on medical staff(s).

Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair, formerly known as St. Clair Regional Hospital, opened a new 40-bed general acute care hospital in 2011. Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair has an expanded Emergency Department, all medical/surgical units, inpatient and outpatient surgical services, and the latest in diagnostic technology. St. Vincent's St. Clair offers specialty services including GI, respiratory care, orthopedic services, neurological services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, sportsmedicine, pain management, advanced wound care and a sleep disorders center. Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair is also the recent recipient of the 5-Star CMS Award for Quality.

For more information about Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair, visit Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair Website.

Overview of the Implementation Strategy

Purpose

This implementation strategy (IS) is the hospital's response to the health needs prioritized from its current Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). It describes the actions the hospital will take to address prioritized needs, allocate resources, and mobilize hospital programs and community partners to work together. This approach aligns with Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair's commitment to offer programs designed to address the health needs of a community, with special attention to persons who are underserved and vulnerable.

IRS 501(r)(3) and Form 990, Schedule H Compliance

The CHNA and IS satisfy certain requirements of tax reporting, pursuant to provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, more commonly known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As part of the ACA, all not-for-profit hospitals are required to conduct a CHNA and adopt an implementation strategy every three years. Requirements for 501(c)(3) Hospitals Under the Affordable Care Act are described in Code Section 501(r)(3), and include making the CHNA report (current and previous) widely available to the public. In accordance with this requirement, electronic reports of both the CHNA and the current implementation strategy can be found at https://healthcare.ascension.org/CHNA and paper versions can be requested at Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair's Administrative Office.

Process to Prioritize Needs

Included in Code Section 501(r)(3) is the requirement that hospitals must provide a description of the process and criteria used to determine the most significant health needs of the community identified through the CHNA, along with a description of the process and criteria used to determine the prioritized needs to be addressed by the hospital. Accordingly, Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair used a phased prioritization approach to identify the needs with St. Clair County and surrounding area(s). The first step was to determine the broader set of identified needs. Through the CHNA assessment, identified needs were then narrowed to a set of significant needs which were determined most crucial for community stakeholders to address.

Following the completion of the CHNA assessment, significant needs were further narrowed down to a set of prioritized needs that the hospital will address within the implementation strategy. To arrive at the prioritized needs, Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair analyzed secondary data and gathered community input through online surveys, key informant interviews and community partner focus groups to identify the needs in St. Clair County, Alabama and surrounding area(s). In collaboration with community partners, Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair used a phased prioritization approach to determine the most crucial needs for community stakeholders to address. The significant needs are as follows:

- Access to Healthcare
- Mental Health
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Heart Disease

The process used to determine the health needs on which the UAB-Ascension St. Vincent's Alliance (and individual Alliance facilities including Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair) would focus, included a prioritization meeting of the 2022 Alliance Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Leadership Team. The data was presented to the leadership team and recommendations based on the top identified needs from the community were brought forward for consideration. The prioritized needs were determined through a majority vote after discussion of the options. The CHNA Leadership Team

considered the following criteria in choosing the top three prioritized health needs: scope of the problem (people impacted/severity); health disparities (income/race and ethnicity); feasibility of facilities in addressing the need (capacity); community members and strategic partner feedback (health department, strategic partners) and alignment (with Ascension and the Alliance strategies). Based on the process described above, the following top three prioritized needs were identified for St. Clair County (and surrounding areas):

- Access to HealthCare
  - Selected because access to affordable, quality and convenient health care is essential to physical, social and mental health. Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair, in conjunction with the Alliance, is committed to empower our communities served through education, services and navigation assistance to address health and wellness.
- Mental Health
  - Selected because mental health challenges are associated with numerous physical health complications such as increased rates of smoking, physical inactivity, obesity and substance abuse. Ascension St. Vincent's Clair, in conjunction with the Alliance, is committed to providing mental health services in our community and partnering with community organizations to address this health priority.
- Chronic Disease Prevention/Management (Cancer, Diabetes and Heart Disease)
  - Selected because chronic disease prevention/management will decrease preventable deaths and increase the quality of life of the population served.

Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair understands the importance of all the health needs of the community and is committed to playing an active role in improving the health of the people in the communities it serves. For the purposes of this implementation strategy, Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair has chosen to focus its efforts on the priorities listed above.

Needs That Will Not Be Addressed

Based on the prioritization criteria, all top needs, identified by the community, will be addressed as part of this implementation strategy.

While the remaining needs are not the focus of this implementation strategy, Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair may consider investing resources in these areas as appropriate, depending on opportunities to leverage organizational assets in partnership with local communities and organizations. Also, this report does not encompass a complete inventory of everything Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair does to support health within the community.

To find a list of resources for each need not being addressed, please refer to the Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair 2022 CHNA: https://healthcare.ascension.org/CHNA.

Acute Community Concern Acknowledgement

A CHNA and Implementation Strategies (IS) offer a construct for identifying and addressing needs within the community(s) it serves. However, unforeseen events or situations, which may be severe and sudden, may affect a community. At Ascension, this is referred to as an acute community concern. This could describe anything from a health crisis (e.g., COVID-19), water poisoning, environmental events (e.g., hurricane, flood) or other event that suddenly impacts a community. In which case, if adjustments to an IS are necessary, the hospital will develop documentation, in the form of a SBAR (Situation-Background-Assessment-Response) evaluation summary, to notify key internal and external stakeholders of those possible adjustments.

Written Comments

This IS has been made available to the public and is open for public comment. Questions or comments about this implementation strategy can be submitted via the website: https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna.

Approval and Adoption by Ascension St. Vincent's Board of Directors

To ensure the Ascension St. Vincent's, Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair's efforts meet the needs of the community and have a lasting and meaningful impact, the 2022 implementation strategy was presented and adopted by the Ascension St. Vincent's Board of Directors on October 25, 2022. Although an authorized body of the hospital must adopt the IS to be compliant with the provisions in the Affordable Care Act, adoption of the IS also demonstrates that the board is aware of the IS, endorses the priorities identified, and supports the action plans that have been developed to address prioritized needs.

Ascension

Action Plans

The IS below is based on prioritized needs from the hospital's most recent CHNA. These strategies and action plans represent where the hospital will focus its community efforts over the next three years. While these remain a priority, the hospital will continue to offer additional programs and services to meet the needs of the community, with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable.

STRATEGY #1	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair	
Prioritized Health Need #1 Access to Care	
Strategy Increase opportunities for access to primary care providers and routine physical exams.	
Strategy Source **Ascension St. Vincent's**	
Objective By June 30, 2025, Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair will promote connection to primary care provider services through education and health screening programs.	
Target Population ● Target Population: Adults 18 years of age and older. ● Medically Underserved Population: underinsured and uninsured	
Collaborators ● Other Ascension hospital: Ascension St. Vincent's East, Ascension St. Vincent's Birmingham, Ascension St. Vincent's Chilton, Ascension St. Vincent's St. Blount ● Ascension Medical Group ● The Alliance; which includes UAB Medicine, UAB Medical West ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborators: Local Municipalities, Local businesses, Local Community Centers, Jefferson County Department of Public Health, Cooper Green, Local FQHC(s), Jefferson County Healthcare Roundtable, St. Clair County Healthcare Authority, St. Clair Community Health Clinic ● Consultants: "N/A"	
Resources Ascension St. Vincent's is committed to providing both financial and in-kind resources, including associate time, charitable contributions and associate volunteerism.	
ACTION STEPS	**ROLE/OWNER**
Provide education on the importance of primary care through community events, social media and speakers bureau opportunities.	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair The Alliance

Ensure all unattached individuals are connected to a primary care provider.	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair
Complete an assessment of primary and specialty care providers to increase service availability (orthopedics, women's services, general surgery, pulmonary).	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair Ascension Medical Group The Alliance
Connect the Underserved/Uninsured and medically underserved populations to primary care provider support through community partnerships.	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair The Alliance Greater Birmingham Project Access Ascension Medical Group Local FQHC(s) St. Clair Community Health Clinic

Measures
- Percent/Number of patients screened
- Conduct a minimum of two educational sessions per FY on the importance of primary care.
- FY23-FY25 Complete Primary Care Provider Assessment
- Data Source; Data Owner: Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair, The Alliance, Ascension Medical Group

ANTICIPATED IMPACT
The anticipated impact of these actions is to connect to and increase awareness of the importance of primary care services in adults, 18 years of age and older.

STRATEGY #2
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair
Prioritized Health Need #1 Access to Care
Strategy Increase community awareness of resources to improve navigation through the healthcare continuum.
Strategy Source **Ascension St. Vincent's**
Objective By June 30, 2025, Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair will educate the community through the use of lay navigators and local community partnerships.
Target Population • Target Population: Adults 18 years of age and older. • Medically Underserved Population: underinsured and uninsured

Collaborators
- Other Ascension hospitals: Ascension St. Vincent's East, Ascension St. Vincent's Birmingham, Ascension St. Vincent's Chilton, Ascension St. Vincent's Blount
- Ascension Medical Group
- The Alliance; which includes UAB Medicine, UAB Medical West
- Joint Venture: N/A
- Collaborators: Local Municipalities, Local businesses, Local Community Centers, Jefferson County Department of Public Health, Cooper Green, Local FQHC(s), Jefferson County Healthcare Roundtable
- Ascension St. Vincent's Medical Staff
- Consultants: "N/A"

Resources
Ascension St. Vincent's is committed to providing both financial and in-kind resources, including associate time, charitable contributions and associate volunteerism.

ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Utilize lay navigators to address preventative screenings, resource assistance and care plan support.	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair The Alliance
Evaluate the use of community health workers to support access and navigation of healthcare resources including education and access to medical homes.	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair Ascension Medical Group The Alliance Greater Birmingham Project Access St. Clair Community Health Clinic

Measures
Baseline: N/A
- Percent/Number of patients screened
- Process outcomes to respective targets
  - Evaluate and target two high risk populations for disease specific education and resource support.
  - In collaboration with Greater Birmingham Project Access, evaluate the impact of CHW on underserved populations such as the underinsured/uninsured and undocumented. Target:
- Data Source; Data Owner: Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair, The Alliance, Greater Birmingham Project Access

ANTICIPATED IMPACT
The anticipated impact of these actions is to connect to and increase awareness of the importance of primary care services in adults, 18 years of age and older.

STRATEGY #3

Hospital(s) Name(s)
Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair

Prioritized Health Need #2
Mental Health

Strategy
Increase community awareness and support by providing education and services to address mental health.

Strategy Source
Ascension St. Vincent's, MentalHealth.gov

Objective
By June 30, 2025, Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair will develop and implement a plan to provide community education, support and management of mental health.

Target Population
- Target Population: Adults 18 years of age and older.   - Medically Underserved Population: underinsured and uninsured

Collaborators
- Other Ascension hospitals: Ascension St. Vincent's East, Ascension St. Vincent's Birmingham, Ascension St. Vincent's Chilton, Ascension St. Vincent's Blount   - Ascension Medical Group   - The Alliance which includes UAB Medicine, UAB Medical West   - Joint Venture: N/A   - Collaborators: Local Municipalities, businesses and Community Centers, Alabama Department of Public Health, FQHC(s), Jefferson County Mental Health Roundtable, St. Clair Mental Health Task Force   - Consultants: "N/A"

Resources
Ascension St. Vincent's is committed to providing both financial and in-kind resources, including associate time, charitable contributions and associate volunteerism.

ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Provide mental health education and resources for the community.	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair The Alliance
Embed mental/behavioral health screenings for patients in the Emergency Department (SBIRT), to assist in mitigating social-related barriers.	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair
Evaluate opportunity to have associate(s) trained in Mental Health First Aid for community education.	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair

Measures
Track mental/behavioral health education and resources through online and in-person

offerings.
- Track mental/behavioral health screenings.
- Data Source; Data Owner: Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair

ANTICIPATED IMPACT
The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase awareness and education regarding resources available to address mental and behavioral health.

STRATEGY #4
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair
Prioritized Health Need #3 **Chronic Disease Prevention/Management**
Strategy Increase community awareness and education of chronic disease prevention (specifically cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes) and management through health screenings and healthy living.
Strategy Source **American Diabetes Association, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association**
Objective By June 30, 2025, Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair will increase awareness of chronic disease prevention and management through education and health screening programs.
Target Population ● Target Population: Adults with health factors/behaviors that put them at risk for chronic disease such as cardiac, cancer and diabetes. ● Medically Underserved Population: underinsured and uninsured <Identifies groups that are experiencing health disparities - e.g., under/uninsured>

Collaborators
● Other Ascension hospital: Ascension St. Vincent's East, Ascension St. Vincent's Birmingham, Ascension St. Vincent's Chilton, Ascension St. Vincent's Blount
● Ascension Medical Group
● The Alliance which includes UAB Medicine, UAB Medical West
● Joint Venture: N/A
● Collaborators:
    ○ Local Municipalities,
    ○ Local businesses,
    ○ Local Community Centers,
    ○ Churches,
    ○ Local FQHC(s),
    ○ Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation

● Consultants: "N/A"	

Resources
Ascension St. Vincent's is committed to providing both financial and in-kind resources, including associate time, charitable contributions and associate volunteerism.

ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Provide education on the importance of health screenings in the area(s) of cardiac, diabetes and cancer.	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair
Support organizations and programs working to reduce food insecurity, obesity and other related illnesses through community based funding and volunteerism.	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair Love Pantry
Provide Diabetes Prevention Programs and nutrition education through community events and social media education.	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair The Alliance

Measures
- Percent/number of patients screened
- Provide opportunities for community volunteerism to support food insecurity
- Data Source; Data Owner: Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair, The Alliance

ANTICIPATED IMPACT
The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase awareness, education and importance of early identification and intervention in the prevention and management of chronic diseases, specifically cancer, diabetes and heart disease.

Evaluation

Ascension St. Vincent's St. Clair will develop a comprehensive measurement and evaluation process for the implementation strategy. The Ministry will monitor and evaluate the action plans outlined in this plan for the purpose of reporting and documenting the impact these action plans have on the community. Ascension St. Vincent's uses a tracking system to capture community benefit activities and implementation. To ensure accountability, data will be aggregated into an annual Community Benefit report that will be made available to the community.