



AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center Joliet

Community Health Needs Assessment  
Implementation Strategy

2021-2023

## Executive Summary

AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center Joliet (AHSJMCJ) and members of the Will County Mobilizing through Action, Planning and Partnership (MAPP) Collaborative, a collaborative of the Will County Health Department, local hospitals and community partners, worked together over 16 months to build a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for Will County. Using the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) model for the CHNA, Will County MAPP Collaborative engaged a diverse group of community residents and stakeholders and gathered robust data from various perspectives about health status and health behaviors.

Together with our community stakeholders, we have identified the following prioritized health needs in our community:

**Behavioral Health and Substance Use**, including prevention, treatment coordination, linkages, policy and education.

**Access to Health Care**, enforcing coordination and linkage of services to ensure access to quality health services.

**Access to Food & Nutrition**, creating healthy food access and linkages through mapping, education and empowerment.

**Stabilization of the Built Environment**, including health services linkages, environmental evaluations for housing.

To be successful, AHSJMCJ will continue to partner with Will County MAPP Collaborative to adopt shared and complimentary strategies and leverage resources to improve efficiencies and increase effectiveness for overall improvement. Data sharing across the local public health system was instrumental in developing the CHNA and will continue to be an important tool for establishing, measuring, and monitoring outcome objectives.

AHSJMCJ has developed an Implementation Strategy for the next three years that describes the programs we are undertaking to address these prioritized health needs in our community.

### Prioritized Health Needs

The following prioritized health needs will be addressed in the 2021-2023 (fiscal year) implementation strategy:

- **Behavioral Health and Substance Use**
- **Access to Health Care**
- **Access to Food & Nutrition**
- **Stabilization of the Built Environment**



This implementation strategy was approved by the Presence Health Suburban Network Board on October 29, 2020. The collective monitoring, reporting progress and revising will ensure the plan remains relevant and effective.

## Our Hospital and Community

### AMITA Health

AMITA Health is an award-winning health system committed to delivering compassionate care to nearly 6.6 million residents in Chicago and its surrounding suburbs.

As a faith-based health system in the respective Catholic and Adventist traditions, AMITA Health is committed to delivering inclusive and compassionate care, communicating clearly with patients and their families, respecting the faith traditions of all people, and honoring the dignity of everyone we serve. When people come to AMITA Health, they can expect to receive the very best care — and to be treated like family.

In keeping with the faith-based traditions of its legacy health systems, AMITA Health treats the whole person, including the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs of the people it serves. The system continually works to identify and to address community health needs with a special focus on serving the needs of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized. AMITA Health annually provides more than \$253 million in community benefit including \$63.2 million in financial assistance.

### AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center Joliet

AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center Joliet (AHSJMCJ) has been meeting the health needs of Joliet and the Will County area for over 130 years. Founded by the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, the Medical Center continues to carry out its mission. Located in the heart of the southern suburbs, 480-bed Saint Joseph Medical Center provides many advanced health care services including serving as the only provider of neurosurgical services in the Will-Grundy region. The Saint Joseph Heart Center is an entire floor solely dedicated to the treatment of the heart and centered on the open-heart surgery program. In addition, the Medical Center serves the community's wide-range of health care needs including Cancer Care, Level II Emergency/Trauma Center, Family Birthing Suites, Level II Special Care Nursery, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Rehabilitation Services, Behavioral Health Services and Sleep Disorder Center. AHSJMCJ has a medical staff of more than 500 physicians representing over 50 medical specialties and employs over 2,400 professional, technical and support personnel, making it one of the largest employers in Will County.

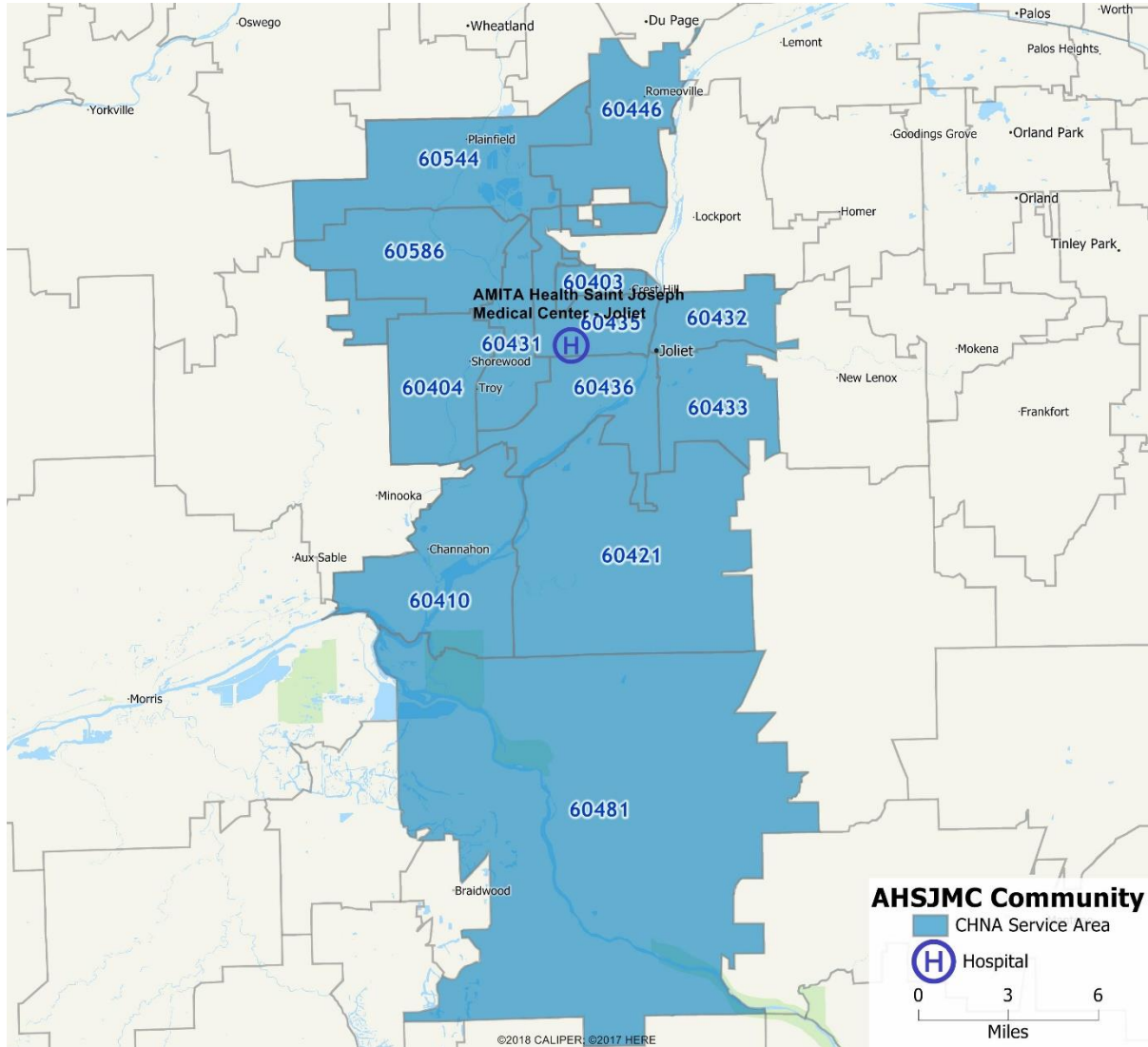
### Will County MAPP Collaborative

In 2018 and 2019, AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center Joliet participated in the collaborative efforts organized by Will County MAPP Collaborative to complete the assessments needed for the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The results of the assessment findings can be found at [willcountymapp.org](http://willcountymapp.org). The full CHNA report can be found at [amitahealth.org/about-us/community-benefit/](http://amitahealth.org/about-us/community-benefit/).

### AHSJMCJ Community

The AHSJMCJ community consists primarily of Joliet and the surrounding area. We define the AHSJMCJ primary service area as the collection of ZIP codes where approximately 75% of hospital patients reside,

and we focus our community health improvement on this service area. The largest primary service area resides in Will County.



## Prioritized Health Need: Behavioral Health & Substance Use

**Priority Overview:** Behavioral health continues to be a primary concern in Will County. Addressing behavioral health requires attention to substance use disorders as well as mental health. The recent CHNA also emphasized the need for prevention, treatment coordination, linkages, policy and education. The mental health provider ratio for Will County remains higher than state and national ratios. Drug abuse, heavy alcohol consumption and vaping are noted issues with adults and youth in Will County.

**Goal #1:** Increase persons trained in the community on Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) to increase identification of those in a crisis and reduce stigma associated with mental health issues.

**Strategy: Mental Health First Aid**

In response to a demonstrated system and state-wide need of addressing barriers to accessing and utilizing mental health services, AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center Joliet and its community partners will continue to implement an evidence-based program, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and improve the coordination of mental health care. MHFA trains community residents and first responders to recognize, respond, and seek assistance for signs of mental illness and substance abuse.

**Anticipated Impact:** By June 2023, AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center Joliet and its community partners will have trained an additional 200 persons in Mental Health First Aid.

**Next Steps:**

- Identify target audiences for trainings including virtual and hybrid offerings with the AHSJMCI primary service area such as faith communities, first responders, law enforcement and youth providers.
- Plan annual calendar of trainings to be offered at AHSJMCI through the local MHFA training consortium.
- Promote availability of training with target audiences.
- Collect standardized feedback on trainings.

**Goal #2:** Increase access to substance use disorder treatment among low-income community.

**Strategy: Warm Hand-off Program with Family Guidance Centers**

In partnership with Family Guidance Center, a non-profit behavioral health organization, continue the Warm Handoff Program for those AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center Joliet patients with an identified substance use disorder. Family Guidance Center provides a full-time Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor

(CADC) on site at AHSJMCJ to identify patients suffering with SUD that might be looking for treatment options. Family Guidance specializes in finding appropriate inpatient or intensive outpatient treatment for those individuals who are uninsured or underinsured. Through the initiation of this program in 2019, over 600 persons have been screened and nearly 58 persons have attended treatment.

**Anticipated Impact:** By June 2023, 150 patients screened through this partnership will have attended treatment (inpatient or outpatient) with Family Guidance Center or another SUD provider.

**Next Steps:**

- Continue partnership in the care coordination of AHSJMCJ patients in need of SUD that are underinsured or uninsured with Family Guidance Centers.
- Link CADC to AMITA staff and physicians to ensure provision of patient referrals
- Review collective data to ensure metrics are established and on target
- Explore options for AMITA Health CADC associate to be added at AHSJMCJ.

## Prioritized Health Need: Access to Health Care

**Priority Overview:** Healthy People 2020 states that access to comprehensive healthcare services is important for achieving health equity and improving quality of life for everyone. Disparities in access to care and community resources were identified as underlying root causes of many of the health inequities experienced by residents in Will County. Assisting patients and community members to programs and services that can improve their social determinants of health are needed.

**Goal #1:** Increase the number of persons with primary medical home.

**Strategy: Partnership with Will-Grundy Medical Clinic and Aunt Martha’s Health & Wellness (FQHC)**

In order to increase and secure access to primary health care for those uninsured and underinsured, AMITA has partnered with Aunt Martha’s to ensure patients are assigned a medical home for post discharge care. In collaboration, Aunt Martha’s provided on-site coordinators and phone liaisons to AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center, to round in the emergency department as well as on inpatient units to coordinate primary care visits for patients and sign patients up for Medicaid services or insurance on the federal exchanges. Additionally, AMITA Health provides clinic space within the Medical Center campus for Aunt Martha’s at a rental fee of only \$1 per year to ensure ease of access and the provision of quality health care for the low-income community. This location has over 9,500 visits in FY19 including over 4,600 unique patient visits.

AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center Joliet will continue to support and provide in-kind surgical and ancillary care for patients registered with the Will-Grundy Medical Clinic. The Clinic annually serves over 800 persons, who are the most economically vulnerable in our community and are not eligible for government assistance.

**Anticipated Impact:** By June 2023, over 50% of AHSJMCJ patients scheduled for post-discharge appointments with Aunt Martha’s Health & Wellness will keep their appointments.

**Next Steps:**

- Continue partnership in the care coordination of AHSJMCJ patients in need of a primary medical home with Aunt Martha’s Health & Wellness
- Collaborate with Aunt Martha’s Health & Wellness to ensure program is set for success and reach the intended target communities
- Link Aunt Martha’s Health & Wellness to AMITA associates and physicians to ensure provision of patient referrals to the program
- Review collective data to ensure metrics are established and on target



## Prioritized Health Need: Access to Food & Nutrition

**Priority Overview:** Access to healthy and affordable food is a social determinant of health. There are geographic food deserts in parts of Will County that are primarily in low income areas. Obesity continues to be an issue for adults as well as high rates of hospitalization for diabetes among the Hispanic and Latino ethnicities.

**Goal #1:** Increase the availability of healthy foods within the low-income community.

**Strategy: Rx Mobile Food Pantries & Micro Pantry**

In collaboration with Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB), continue the provisioning of the Rx Mobile Food Pantries and other food interventions in high need areas within the AHSJMCJ community. Work with community partner organizations to help promote the availability of and locations of the pantries. Continue to refer patients from the outpatient dietician and diabetes center to track health outcomes related to obtaining healthy foods. On average, each pantry truck serves 220 individuals with free healthy food options that they would normally would not obtain on their limited incomes.

Additionally, continue to support and stock the Micro Pantry on the AHSJMCJ campus, which provides 24/7 access to emergency food. A stocked pantry provides an average of 90 meals per day to those in need.

**Anticipated Impact:** Through June 2023, a monthly average of 220 persons will be provided with free healthy food options through the Rx Mobile Food Pantry and other food interventions conducted by AHSJMCJ.

**Next Steps:**

- Continue partnership and coordination of pantries with NIFB and other community partners
- Promote the availability of pantries within internal and external audiences
- Continue provision of food insecurity tool and cohort measurements
- Continuously explore ways to expand program offerings or reach more persons in need
- Track outcomes related to the deployment of pantries

## Prioritized Health Need: Stabilizing the Built Environment

**Priority Overview:** Those living in poverty are at greater risk of food insecurity, homelessness, infectious diseases, environmental hazards and poor academic performance. The recent assessment indicated a need for affordable housing across a variety of incomes as well as spread geographically around the county to help end homelessness. While the median household income of Will County is higher than Illinois, there are geographic disparities that exist. The high impoverished areas also contain high rates of unemployment, lack of health insurance and educational attainment.

**Goal:** Increase collaboration with the Will County Continuum of Care and other community agencies to enhance the connection of health and homelessness.

**Strategy: Health & Housing Collaboration**

Using established models of health and housing collaboration, work with the local Continuum of Care, the lead agency within a geographical area that coordinates homeless prevention and services, and other key community agencies to develop a multiagency collaborative. Support the strategic planning of the local Continuum of Care to ensure homeless persons health factors and interactions within the local public health system are prioritized.

**Anticipated Impact:** By June 2023, in partnership with the Continuum of Care, establish a Health & Housing Collaborative to increase care coordination of the homeless population in Will County.

**Next Steps:**

- Support the local continuum of care in their strategic planning efforts
- Review other models of similar collaboration such as FUSE
- Determine collaborative structure, members and cadence for Will County including AHSJMCJ leaders and physicians
- Develop goals for the collaborative

## Publication

AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center Joliet will share this document with internal stakeholders including associates, volunteers and physicians. This Implementation Strategy is available at [amitahealth.org/about-us/community-benefit](http://amitahealth.org/about-us/community-benefit) and is also broadly distributed within our community to stakeholders including community leaders, government officials, and service organizations.

We welcome feedback on the Community Health Needs Assessment and this Implementation Strategy. Kindly send any feedback you have to the following address:

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