

•Ascension Saint Alexius•

Implementation Strategy for the TY2021 CHNA Cook County, Illinois



Ascension

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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.

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The TY21 Implementation Strategy was approved by the Alexian Brothers Board of Directors on October 19, 2022 (2021 tax year), and applies to the following three-year cycle: July 2022 to June 2025 (FY 2023 - FY 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.

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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 Saint Alexius

As a Ministry of the Catholic Church, Ascension Saint Alexius is a non-profit hospital that provides medical care to the Village of Hoffman Estates and the surrounding communities. Ascension Saint Alexius is part of Ascension Illinois which operates 15 hospital campuses, and more than 230 sites of care. The organization includes more than 600 providers as part of Ascension Medical Group, as well as 17,000 associates.

Serving Illinois since 1979, Ascension Saint Alexius is continuing the long and valued tradition of addressing the health of the people in our community, following in the footsteps of legacy Alexian Brothers, a Roman Catholic order.

Ascension St. Alexius is a state-of-the-art facility that offers the latest in surgical services and is a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with 318 licensed beds. Ascension St. Alexius is recognized as a Blue Distinction Center in bariatric surgery, maternity services, spinal surgery and joint replacement. It has received a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and is recognized as a Baby-Friendly birth facility by Baby-Friendly USA, Inc. Ascension Saint Alexius is also a Level II Trauma Center and has a Commission on Cancer Three-year Accreditation.

For more information about Ascension Saint Alexius visit healthcare.ascension.org.

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 Saint Alexius' 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 Saint Alexius Administration 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 Saint Alexius used a phased prioritization approach to identify the needs with the hospital community. 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 Saint Alexius used the following process and criteria: review of additional primary and secondary data collected during the CHNA assessments for the hospital's primary service area, followed by the use of the five criteria below to prioritize the significant needs:

	<p>Scope of Problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How severe or prevalent is this issue in the community? • How many are impacted?
	<p>Disparities & Equity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there health disparities that exist? • Can we address those in an impactful way?
	<p>Feasibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is our capacity to make progress (staffing resources, financial resources, other support, etc.)? • Are there known interventions that exist?
	<p>Momentum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there community readiness and/or political will to address this issue?
	<p>Alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we have community partners that we can align with on this issue? • Do we need to build new relationships?

Preliminary community need prioritizations recommendations were presented to a group of internal and external stakeholders for their review at meetings held in June 2022-August 2022. Recommendations were discussed and voted upon to determine the prioritized needs for the hospital community.

Needs That Will Be Addressed

Following the completion of the current CHNA, Ascension Saint Alexius has selected the prioritized needs outlined below for its TT2021 Implementation Strategy. Ascension has defined “prioritized needs” as the significant needs which have been prioritized by the hospital to address through the three-year CHNA cycle:

- **Social and Structural Determinants of Health -**
 - **Food Access and Food Security (SDoH- Food Security):** This need was selected because access to healthy food was identified within the top six most important needed improvements on the community survey. This need was voted the top need in this category in the prioritization process. The top five most common searches in the Community Resource Directory included food pantries, food assistance, and food delivery.
 - **Transportation (SDoH- Housing & Transit):** This need was selected because lack of transportation creates additional barriers to access health care especially for the elderly, low-income, and disabled persons. The top three most common searches in the Community Resource Directory included transportation for healthcare and transportation in general.
 - **Housing (SDoH - Housing & Transit):** This need was selected because social and economic factors are important drivers of health outcomes. Affordable housing and access to affordable housing were identified within the top six most important needed improvements on the community survey. Homelessness and housing instability was the number four most important health need identified on the community survey.
- **Access to Care and Community Resources -**
 - **Resources, Referrals, Coordination, and Connection to Community -Based Services (Access to Care):** This need was selected because in the CHNAs focus groups, access to needed healthcare and community resources are named as critical components to achieving the best health outcomes. This need was voted the number two need in this category in the Ascension Saint Alexius prioritization process.
 - **Timely Linkage to Quality Care, including Behavioral Health and Social Services (Access to Care):** This need was selected because Health insurance is the primary way that individuals access the healthcare system in the United States with 56% of Cook County residents receiving coverage through employer-based plans. Eleven percent of the population under age 65 are without health insurance in Cook County compared to 9% in Illinois. Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents to the community survey reported a loss of employment because of the pandemic, 6% reported a loss or reduction in insurance coverage, and 7% reported a lack of access to basic medical care. This need was voted the number one need in this category in the Ascension Saint Alexius prioritization process.
 - **Workforce Development and Support for Healthcare, Behavioral Health, and Human Services (SDoH - Education):** This need was selected as education is an important determinant of health because poverty, unemployment, and underemployment are highest among those with lower levels of educational attainment. Higher levels of poverty are primarily concentrated in the far Northwest, West, and South sides of the city and county. Additionally, workforce needs and challenges, specifically for healthcare, were listed as high priority in the CHNA stakeholder listening sessions.

- **Prevention and Treatment of Priority Health Conditions: Maternal and Child Health, Mental Health, Chronic Conditions -**
 - **Maternal and Child Health (*Maternal, Infant, Child Health*):** This need was selected because maternal mortality rates in the United States have been increasing even though the global trend has been the opposite. In addition, vast maternal health inequities exist between racial and ethnic groups. Racial and ethnic disparities exist for preterm births, postpartum depression, violence, obesity and preventable complications. Nine percent (9%) of babies born in Cook County have a low birth rate compared to 8% for Illinois. There are 20 teen births per 1,000 female population ages 15-19 in Cook County compared to 18 for Illinois.
 - **Mental Health (*Mental & Behavioral Health*):** This need was selected because 39% of community survey respondents identified mental health as one of the most important health needs in their communities. Forty percent of community survey respondents identified access to mental health services as being needed to support improvements in community health. The self-reported adult depression rates in Cook County are higher (17.3%) than national averages (10%). Similarly, youth depression has been on the rise. This need was voted in the top two of this category for the Ascension Saint Alexius prioritization process.
 - **Chronic Conditions (*Chronic Disease - Cancer, Heart Disease, Obesity, Diabetes*):** This need was selected because Community input respondents identified a number of chronic health conditions as important health needs in their communities including cancers (19%), heart disease and stroke (14%), diabetes (12%), obesity (10%), and lung disease (2%).

Ascension Saint Alexius 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 Saint Alexius has chosen to focus its efforts on the priorities listed above.

Needs That Will Not Be Addressed

Based on the prioritization criteria, the health needs identified through the CHNA that Saint Alexius does not plan to address at this time include:

- **COVID-19-**This need will not be addressed in the Implementation Strategy, but we will continue to support through advocacy, community partnerships and public health collaboration as needed.
- **Injury including Violence-related Injury-**This need will not be addressed in the Implementation Strategy, but we will continue to support through advocacy, community partnerships and continued associate education.
- **Substance Use Disorders:** This need will not be addressed, but Ascension Alexian Brothers

Behavioral Health Hospital, located on the same medical campus, will address the needs. In addition, Ascension Saint Alexius will continue to support SUD issues via advocacy and community partnerships as requested.

While these needs are not the focus of this implementation strategy, Ascension Saint Alexius will continue to 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 Saint Alexius does to support health within the community.

To find a list of resources for each need not being addressed, please refer to the Saint Alexius TY2021 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

To ensure the Ascension Saint Alexius efforts meet the needs of the community and have a lasting and meaningful impact, the TY21 implementation strategy was presented and adopted by the Alexian Brothers Board of Directors on October 19, 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.

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: Food Access Assistance	
Hospital Name	Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)
Prioritized Health Need	Social and Structural Determinants of Health (<i>SDoH: Food Security</i>)
Strategy	Increase food access assistance for food insecure individuals for ASA community residents.
Strategy Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Produce Mobile ● Micro Pantry ● Local Food Pantry Support and Partnerships
Objective	By June 30, 2025, increase community support for local food pantries, increase food access partnerships and increase the number of individuals provided with food access assistance.
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: ASA community residents, including ASA associates and patients. ● Medically Underserved Population: Individuals experiencing food insecurity in the community.
Collaborators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Mercy, Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph Joliet, Ascension Resurrection ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborator: Greater Chicago Food Depository, Ascension Illinois Food Access and Nutrition Workgroup ● Consultants: Touchpoint ● Other Non-Profit Hospitals: N/A
Resources	Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, funding/cash donations, materials to build and/or maintain MicroPantry, education collateral, marketing resources, and others ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborators: Greater Chicago Food Depository, Faith-Based Institutions, staff/volunteer time donated ● Consultants: N/A ● Other non-profit hospital: N/A

ACTION STEPS: Produce Mobile	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius
Establish Produce Mobile Community Calendar	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health and Greater Chicago Food Depository
Participate in Ascension Illinois Food Access and Nutrition Workgroup	Ascension Illinois
Identify internal resources for supporting healthy food donations, healthy food distribution and healthy food access program delivery	Ascension Saint Alexius
Provide funding support for local community food access programs and initiatives	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Support Review Committee, Ascension Illinois Community Benefit
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup and Community Health
ACTION STEPS: MicroPantry	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health & TouchPoint
Participate in Ascension Illinois Food Access and Nutrition Workgroup	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health and Greater Chicago Food Depository
Identify internal resources for supporting healthy food donations, healthy food distribution and food access program delivery	Ascension Saint Alexius
Identify food-drive event dates	Ascension Saint Alexius
Identify potential community partners to support maintenance of MicroPantry	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Provide funding support for local community food access programs and initiatives	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Support Review Committee, Ascension Illinois Community Benefit
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup and Community Health
ACTION STEPS: Local Food Pantry Support and Partnerships	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Participate in Ascension Illinois Food Access and Nutrition Workgroup	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health and Greater Chicago Food Depository
Identify local food pantries in need of financial support	Ascension Illinois Community Health Director

Identify internal resources to support food pantry initiatives (i.e. food drives, nutrition education and training)	Ascension Illinois Community Health Director
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup and Community Health
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FY22 data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase total number of individuals served by food access programs from baseline ○ Increase total number of meals provided from baseline ○ Increase total pounds of food provided from baseline ○ Increase cash donations provided to food access organizations from baseline ● Data Source; Data Owner: Feeding America, Greater Chicago Food Depository 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthy food and reduced food insecurity.	

STRATEGY #2: Transportation Assistance
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)
Prioritized Health Need Social and Structural Determinants of Health (<i>SDoH- Housing & Transit</i>)
Strategy Provide transportation services for patients and community residents.
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lyft Concierge Services ● Uber Concierge Services
Objective By June 30, 2025, increase the percentage of individuals that have been screened and connected to transportation assistance services.
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: ASA patients and community residents. ● Medically Underserved Population: Individuals experiencing transportation barriers in the ASA community especially low-income individuals.
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Mercy, Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph Joliet, Ascension Resurrection ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborator: Lyft, Uber, Case Management-program collaborators, Partners for our Communities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consultants: N/A ● Other Non-Profit Hospitals: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ascension Saint Alexius: staff time donated for program maintenance ● Ascension Saint Alexius: cash donations to community organizations in need of transportation assistance services ● Lyft Concierge Services: Program Coordinator ● Partners for Our Communities: Program Coordinator 	
ACTION STEPS: Lyft Concierge Services	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Case Management, Therapies
Identify patients (i.e., uninsured, underinsured, VA, Medicaid, Medicare, etc.) in need of transportation assistance	Ascension Saint Alexius Case Management, Therapies
Establish eligibility criteria for patients in need of transportation assistance	Ascension Saint Alexius Case Management, Therapies
Pay Lyft Concierge Services (LCS) monthly/annual service fees	Ascension Saint Alexius
Provide funding support for local community based organizations (CBO) in need of transportation assistance	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Support Review Committee
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup and Community Health
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase total of persons screened with transportation needs from baseline ○ Increase total Number of rides provided from baseline ● Data Source; Data Owner: Lyft Concierge Services or other transportation service 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthcare services by eliminating transportation barriers.	

STRATEGY #3: Housing Assistance
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)
Prioritized Health Need Social and Structural Determinants of Health (<i>SDoH- Housing & Transit</i>)
Strategy Provide support to transitional housing community based organization.
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local Housing Assistance Support and Partnerships

Objective By June 30, 2025, increase support for individuals in need of housing assistance in the AAB community.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: ASA patients and community residents. ● Medically Underserved Population: Single mothers experiencing housing assistance needs in the ASA community. 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Alexian Brothers ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborator: Fellowship Housing ● Consultants: N/A ● Other Non-Profit Hospitals: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ascension Saint Alexius: staff time donated for program maintenance ● Ascension Saint Alexius: cash donations to community organizations in need of housing assistance services ● Fellowship Housing: Program Coordinator 	
ACTION STEPS: Local Housing Assistance Support and Partnerships	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Identify community partner that provides housing assistance services	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Explore opportunities for housing assistance partnerships with external partners	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Provide funding support for local community based organizations (CBO) in need of housing assistance	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Support Review Committee
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup and Community Health
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the number of Individuals that receive Transitional Housing Assistance from baseline. ● Data Source; Data Owner: Fellowship Housing Program Coordinator 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to safe, affordable housing to improve overall health.	

STRATEGY #4: Access to Community Resources	
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)	
Prioritized Health Need Access to Care and Community Resources (<i>Access to Care</i>)	
Strategy Increase access to community resources and community-based services for ASA community.	
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascension Neighborhood Resources Directory/FindHelp Local Community Based Organization (CBO) Support and Partnerships 	
Objective By June 30, 2025, the number of searches in the directory will increase. By June 30, 2025, establish and support three community partnerships that will enable them to provide healthcare and other needed services to low-income community residents.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Population: ASA community residents and patients. Medically Underserved Population: ASA community residents who are underinsured/uninsured. 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Holy Family, Ascension Mercy, Ascension Resurrection, Ascension, Ascension Saint Francis, Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago, Ascension Saint Joseph-Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph-Joliet, Ascension Saint Mary-Kankakee, Ascension Saints Mary and Elizabeth-Chicago, Ascension Alexian Brothers Joint Venture: N/A Collaborators: Community Based Organizations, FQHC, Faith Based Institutions, Food Pantries Consultants: FindHelp Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Ascension hospital(s): Strategy Sources and Funding Joint Venture: N/A Collaborators: Community Based Organization, Faith Based Institutions, Food Pantries, FQHC Consultants: Neighborhood Resources, Findhelp.org-directory source Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS: Community Resource Directory	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Promote awareness of the Neighborhood Resource Directory via flyers, social media, e-newsletters	Ascension Illinois: Population Health , Community Benefit, Community Health
Provide Neighborhood Resource Directory training for internal and external partners.	Ascension Illinois: Population Health , Community Benefit, Community Health

Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes.	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup
ACTION STEPS: Local Community Based Organization Support and Partnerships	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Identify external partners that may have a need for support and resources	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Explore and identify what resources are needed	Ascension Saint Alexius
Provide support and assistance for needed resources	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes.	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 Baseline Data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the number of searches within the directory from baseline. ○ Increase the number of persons trained on directory from baseline. ○ Increase community support of CBOs from baseline. ● Data Source/Data Owner: Neighborhood Resource Directory/FindHelp.org; CBISA 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to community resources, services and referrals for individuals in need.	

STRATEGY #5: Public Health Insurance Coverage Enrollment Services (PHICES)
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)
Prioritized Health Need Access to Care and Community Resources (<i>Access to Care</i>)
Strategy Provide Public Health Insurance Coverage Enrollment Services
Strategy Source Advocatia or similar enrollment partner
Objective By June 30, 2025, there will be an increase of enrollment services from FY22 baseline.
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: Adults, children, immigrants, ● Medically Underserved Population: Uninsured and underinsured individuals
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Holy Family, Ascension Mercy, Ascension Resurrection, Ascension, Ascension Saint Francis, Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago, Ascension Saint Joseph-

<p>Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph-Joliet, Ascension Saint Mary-Kankakee, Ascension Saints Mary and Elizabeth-Chicago, Ascension Alexian Brothers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborators: Ascension Medical Group (AMG), Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Institutions, Food Pantries, Libraries, Immigrant Welcoming Centers ● Consultants: Advocatia or other enrollment partners ● Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
<p>Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, funding/cash donations to community organizations, education collateral, marketing resources, and others ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborators: Ascension Medical Group, Community Based Organization, Faith Based Institutions, Food Pantries ● Consultants: Advocatia-program consultant ● Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS: Public Health Insurance Coverage Enrollment Services (PHICES)	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius
Promote awareness of PHICES via flyers, social media, Ascension and Community partner newsletters	Ascension Saint Alexius and Community Health
Identify external partners that need PHICES information	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit and Community Health
Identify and establish opportunities for PHICES in the community	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit and Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup
<p>Output(s) and/or Outcome(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 Data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase persons enrolled in health care coverage from baseline ○ Increase persons educated on enrollment coverage from baseline ● Data Source; Data Owner: Advocatia 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
<p>The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to healthcare services for individuals who are underinsured or uninsured.</p>	

STRATEGY #6: Workforce Development
<p>Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)</p>
<p>Prioritized Health Need</p>

Access to Care and Community Resources (<i>SDoH - Education</i>)	
Strategy Provide opportunities for students to engage with health care professionals.	
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Student Practicums/Internships/Clinical Rotations 	
Objective By June 30, 2025, increase the number of students who participate in workforce development programs through ASA.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Population: ASA community residents, teens and college students. 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Saint Joseph-Elgin, Ascension Alexian Brothers Joint Venture: N/A Collaborators: Harper College, Chamberlain College, other area colleges and universities Consultants: N/A Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Ascension hospital(s): N/A Joint Venture: N/A Collaborators: Local area colleges and universities: Program Coordinators Consultants: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Nursing
Identify community partners for workforce development opportunities	Ascension Saint Alexius and Community Health
Mentor students interested in healthcare careers	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit Community Health, Nursing, Radiology Therapies, Nutrition Services, EMS
Support student clinical rotations and internships for those who are entering healthcare careers	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit Community Health, Nursing, Radiology Therapies, Nutrition Services, EMS
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline: FY22 Data Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of students participating in workforce development programs or partnerships Data Source; Data Owner: CBISA, Nursing, Radiology, EMS, Dietary 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	

The anticipated impact of these actions is increased workforce opportunities for youth in the hospital community.

STRATEGY #7: Maternal and Child Health Resources and Services

Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)	
Prioritized Health Need Priority Health Conditions: Maternal and Child Health (<i>Maternal, Infant, Child Health</i>)	
Strategy Implement strategies to address maternal health disparities and promote birth equity (BE).	
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) Screening ● PREM (Patient Related Experience Measure) Tool 	
Objective By June 30, 2025, there will be increased birth equity (BE) initiatives that support improved health outcomes for mothers and babies.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: Pregnant women ASA community ● Medically Underserved Population: Un- &/or under-insured pregnant women; women of color 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Alexian Brothers ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborators: IL Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Ascension Illinois Medical Group; Obstetrical Healthcare Providers, FQHCs, Ascension Women’s Health Service Line ● Consultants: N/A ● Other non-profit hospital - N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital(s): Strategy Sources and Funding ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborators: IL Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Ascension Illinois Medical Group; Community-Based Organization Obstetrical Healthcare Providers, FQHCs, Ascension Women’s Health Service Line ● Consultants: Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Illinois Department of Public Health, Perinatal Advisory Committee ● Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Mother Baby Unit
Participate in the Ascension Illinois Women’s Health committee and Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative	Ascension Illinois Women’s Health committee

Participate in the Ascension Saint Alexius prenatal workgroup	Ascension Saint Alexius Prenatal Workgroup
Identify internal resources for supporting birth equity initiatives	Ascension Saint Alexius Prenatal Workgroup
Identify community partners and healthcare providers to engage in birth equity initiatives	Ascension Saint Alexius Prenatal Workgroup
Train internal staff on the workflow and service coordination process of SDoH screening and PREM tool	Ascension Saint Alexius Prenatal Workgroup
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Prenatal Workgroup
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 data; TBD based on preliminary PREM results ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase birth equity (BE) education opportunities from baseline. ○ Decrease disparity by race and/or ethnicity in maternal health outcomes from baseline. ● Data Source; Data Owner: Ascension Illinois, IL Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Ascension Alexian Brothers Mother Baby Unit 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is improved health outcomes for mothers and babies.	

STRATEGY #8: Access to Mental Health Resources and Services
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)
Prioritized Health Need Prevention and Treatment of Priority Health Conditions: Mental Health (<i>Mental & Behavioral Health</i>)
Strategy Provide Emergency Department (ED) Annex Clinical Support Initiative
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emergency Department (ED) Annex
Objective By June 30, 2025, increase access to mental health assessments, services, education and resources through the ED Annex Clinical Support initiative.
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: Ascension Saint Alexius community residents ● Medically Underserved Population: Un- &/or under-insured individuals
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborator: Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital, ● Consultants: N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Non-Profit Hospitals: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital • Joint Venture: N/A • Collaborators: Ascension Saint Alexius • Consultants: N/A • Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS: Emergency Department (ED) Annex	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this Strategy	Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital & Ascension Saint Alexius
Establish timeline for implementation of ED Annex services	Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital & Ascension Saint Alexius
Identify internal resources for supporting ED Annex	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Design implementation workflows that allow for more access, safety and privacy	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Orient and train internal team members on services and workflow	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: FY22 Data • Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase number of patients served by ED Annex Clinical Support initiative from baseline • Data Source; Data Owner: Emergency Department; BHS Service Line 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to mental health services and resources for individuals that present to the ED experiencing mental health symptoms or crisis.	

STRATEGY #8: Chronic Condition Screening, Education and Awareness
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)
Prioritized Health Need Prevention and Treatment of Priority Health Conditions: Chronic Conditions (<i>Chronic Disease - Cancer, Heart Disease, Obesity, Diabetes</i>)
Strategy Provide access to health screenings and health education for ASA community residents.

Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Wellness Programs Local Community Based Organization (CBO) Support and Partnerships 	
Objective By June 30, 2025, there will be increased access to health screenings and education for community residents.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Population: Ascension Saint Alexius community residents Medically Underserved Population: Un- &/or under-insured, high risk populations 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Saint Joseph, Ascension Mercy Joint Venture: N/A Collaborator: Park Districts, Community-based organizations, Faith-based Institutions, Schools, Food Pantries, Townships Consultants: N/A Other Non-Profit Hospitals: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin Joint Venture: N/A Collaborators: Community-based organizations, Faith-based Institutions, Schools, Food Pantries - program collaborators Consultants: N/A Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS:	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this Strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius
Promote awareness of health education and screenings via flyers, social media, e-newsletters, meeting with community partners	Ascension Saint Alexius
Identify internal resources for supporting community wellness programming	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Identify external partners serving low-income and/or at risk persons that need community health screening and health education services	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Establish community calendar of health screening and health education events for virtual and/or hybrid offerings including dates, times, and locations	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Promote availability of health screenings and health education events within target audiences	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health, Marketing/ Communications
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup

Output(s) and/or Outcome(s)

- **Baseline:** FY22 Data
- **Target:**
 - Increase number of community health education occurrences from baseline
 - Increase number of community screening opportunities from baseline
- **Data Source; Data Owner:** CBISA, Community Health

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to health screening services and increased knowledge of chronic condition risk factors among high risk populations.

Evaluation

Ascension Saint Alexius 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 Saint Alexius 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.