

Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital

**Implementation Strategy for the 2024 CHNA
Cook County, Illinois**



Ascension

The purpose of this Implementation Strategy (IS) is to describe how the hospital plans to address prioritized health needs from its current Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The significant health needs 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 at increased risk for poor health outcomes or experiencing social factors that place them at risk.

Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
1650 Moon Lake Blvd, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
healthcare.ascension.org
800-432-5005
36-4251848

The authorized governing body approved the tax year 2024 Implementation Strategy on September 24, 2025 (2024 tax year) and applies to the following three-year cycle: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028. This report, as well as the previous report, can be found on 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 impoverished and vulnerable persons.

About Ascension

Ascension is one of the nation's leading non-profit and Catholic health systems, with a Mission of delivering compassionate, personalized care to all with special attention to those most vulnerable. In FY2024, Ascension provided \$2.1 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Across 16 states and the District of Columbia, Ascension's network encompasses approximately 106,000 associates, 26,000 aligned providers, 105 wholly owned or consolidated hospitals, and 34 senior living facilities. Additionally, through strategic partnerships, Ascension holds an ownership interest in 26 other hospitals.

Ascension's Mission provides a strong framework and guidance for the work done to meet the needs of communities across the US. It is foundational to transform healthcare and express priorities when providing care and services, particularly to those most in need.

Mission: Rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Our Catholic health ministry is dedicated to spiritually-centered, holistic care which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities. We are advocates for a compassionate and just society through our actions and our words.

For more information about Ascension, visit <https://www.ascension.org/>.

Ascension Illinois

Serving Illinois since 1868, Ascension Illinois operates five hospitals and more than 80 sites of care in the Chicagoland area. The organization includes 300 providers as part of Ascension Medical Group and more than 5,000 associates serving the patients and communities across Chicagoland. Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care.

For more information about Ascension Illinois, visit www.ascension.org/illinois.

Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital

As a Ministry of the Catholic Church, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital is a non-profit speciality hospital that provides medical care to many surrounding communities. Serving Illinois since 1999, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital is continuing the long and



Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital

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 Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital is the 10th largest behavioral health hospital in the United States and has 141 licensed beds. It is nationally recognized for its breadth of programs and highly sub-specialized staff expertise. Offering a full continuum of care for individuals with mental health issues, substance abuse and other addictions, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital provides inpatient, residential, partial hospitalization, intensive outpatient and traditional outpatient services for children, adolescents, adults and older adults.

For more information about Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital, visit:

<https://healthcare.ascension.org/locations/illinois/ilchi/hoffman-estates-ascension-alexian-brothers-behavioral-health-hospital>

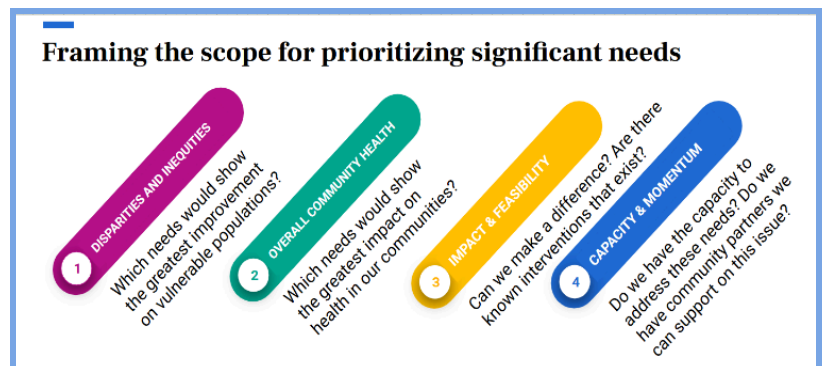
Overview of the Implementation Strategy

Needs Prioritization

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 Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital used a phased prioritization approach to identify the needs of the community. The first step was to determine the broader set of identified needs. The CHNA assessment narrowed identified needs to a group of significant needs determined most crucial for community stakeholders to address.

In the third phase, significant needs were further narrowed to a set of “prioritized needs.” Ascension defines **prioritized needs** as the significant needs that the hospital has prioritized to respond to through the three-year CHNA implementation strategy. In framing the scope for prioritizing significant needs, the following criteria were used as discussion:

- Disparities & Inequities: Which needs would show the greatest improvement on vulnerable populations?
- Overall Community Health: Which needs would show the greatest impact on health in our communities?
- Impact & Feasibility: Can we make a difference? Are there known interventions that exist?
- Capacity & Momentum: Do we have the capacity to address these needs? Do we have community partners we can support on this issue?



Needs That Will Be Addressed

Based on discussion and feedback, hospital senior leadership as well as the market community leaders selected the prioritized needs outlined below for its tax year 2024 CHNA implementation strategy:

- **Healthcare Access & Affordability (Access to Care - Clinical Care):** Individuals in the community face major barriers in obtaining necessary medical care including lack of affordable medical care (including dental and vision) and medications, difficulties navigating insurance, and long wait times for specialists. 61% of community survey respondents cited lack of access to care as a major issue that includes concerns for long wait times for specialist appointments, high costs, and difficulties navigating insurance benefits. Participants said high insurance costs limit access to medical services including necessary medications and dental services, while many are unclear about their eligibility for healthcare coverage. Community partners noted barriers

such as economic constraints, limited healthcare services, and cultural/language challenges for individuals in the community.

- **Mental Health & Youth Well-Being (*Mental Health - Quality of Life*):** Mental health concerns, including depression and anxiety, were frequently identified as top health priorities. The PSA has a lower mental health provider rate, particularly bilingual and culturally competent professionals, compared to county and national levels, creating significant barriers to care. Social media impact, stress, depression, bullying, vaping, and lack of school-based mental health support are pressing youth concerns. Mental health was a top concern (33.0%) in community surveys with 42% cited difficulty accessing mental health services & lack of school-based counseling; community partners also expressed that mental health challenges was one of the most pressing community issues, especially services for persons with limited English proficiency. 40.3% of respondents cited social media as a major concern for youth; 37.1% reported high stress levels among youth due to academic and financial pressures. Community partners highlighted teen birth rates exceeding county, state, and national averages, particularly in Streamwood.
- **Social Determinants of Health: Food Insecurity (*Income - SDoH*):** Food insecurity remains a pressing issue, particularly in Elgin, Palatine, and Hanover Park. Access to affordable and nutritious food is a barrier for many, impacting chronic disease rates. 33% of survey respondents cited food insecurity a top concern, particularly in areas with high poverty rates. Community partners noted food insecurity as the most pressing health issue. Partners expressed concern over affordability and access to fresh and nutritious foods for families managing chronic illnesses and relying on food assistance programs.

Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital understands the importance of all the community's health needs. It is committed to playing an active role in improving the health of the people in the communities it serves. For this implementation strategy, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital has focused its efforts on the above priorities.

Needs That Will Not Be Addressed

Based on the prioritization criteria, the following significant need(s) were not selected for prioritization & IS development for this CHNA cycle:

- **Chronic Disease:** As a specialty hospital for behavioral health services, the prioritization indicated not enough capacity or ability to make a direct impact in this area. The hospital's full-service acute sister site, Ascension Saint Alexius, has prioritized this need and will implement strategies for the community.
- **Social Determinants of Health: Housing Instability:** The prioritization of needs indicated there is not enough capacity or feasibility to make a difference in this area. The hospital's full-service acute sister site, Ascension Saint Alexius, has prioritized this need and will implement strategies for the community.

While these needs are not the focus of this Implementation Strategy, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital 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 only encompasses a partial inventory of everything Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital does to support health within the community.

To find a list of resources for each need not being addressed, please refer to the Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital's 2024 CHNA: <https://healthcare.ascension.org/CHNA>.

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 of the IS

To ensure the Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital's efforts meet the needs of the community and have a lasting and meaningful impact, the tax year 2024 Implementation Strategy was presented and adopted by Ascension Illinois Quality Board of Directors on September 24, 2025. Although an authorized body of the hospital must adopt the IS to be compliant with the provisions of 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.

STRATEGY #1: PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE & AFFORDABILITY	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital	
Prioritized Health Need #1 Healthcare Access & Affordability	
Objective By June 30, 2028, increased access to mental health assessments, services, education and resources through the Emergency Department (ED) Annex Clinical Support initiative.	
Strategy Emergency Department (ED) Annex	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Saint Alexius	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
Collaborators: TBD	Collaborators: TBD
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of in-kind staff support • Cost of in-kind resources & materials 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this Strategy	Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital & Ascension Saint Alexius
Identify internal resources for supporting ED Annex	Ascension Saint Alexius ED, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
Provide orientation on workflows that allow for more access, safety and privacy	Ascension Saint Alexius ED, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
Orient and train internal team members on services and workflow	Ascension Saint Alexius ED, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
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 #2: PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE & AFFORDABILITY	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital	
Prioritized Health Need #1 Healthcare Access & Affordability	
Objective By June 30, 2028, increase access to Mental Health & Behavioral Health services through Level of Care Screenings, Brief Intervention and Refer to Treatment (SBIRT Model).	
Strategy Level of Care Screenings	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Saint Joseph	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
Collaborators: TBD	Collaborators: TBD
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of in-kind staff support • Cost of in-kind resources & materials 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this Strategy	Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
Identify internal and external collaborators for level of care screenings	Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital, Ascension Illinois Community Health
Provide level of care screenings to patients and community members	Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to mental health services and resources for individuals.	

STRATEGY #3: PROVIDE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
Hospital(s) Name(s)

Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital

Prioritized Health Need #2

Mental Health

Objective

By June 30, 2028, there will be an increase in the number of individuals that receive mental health and behavioral health education and training.

Strategy
Education and Outreach
Collaborators
Resources

Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Saint Joseph

Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, education collateral, marketing resources, and others

Collaborators: Community based organizations, faith based organizations, educational institutions, local governmental agencies.

Collaborators: in-kind coordination & promotion of training & education sessions

Consultants: N/A

Consultants: N/A

Other non-profit hospital: N/A

Other non-profit hospital: N/A

Budget

- Cost of in-kind staff support
- Cost of in-kind resources & materials

ACTION STEPS
ROLE/OWNER

Appoint Associate Lead for this Strategy

Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital

Identify internal resources for supporting education and outreach

Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital

Increase awareness of mental health/behavioral health education and training programs, workshops and events available to the community

Ascension Illinois Community Health

Provide access to mental health/behavioral health education and training programs, workshops, events

Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health

Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes

Ascension Illinois Community Health

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to mental health education, training and services.

STRATEGY #4: PROVIDE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
Hospital(s) Name(s)

Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital

Prioritized Health Need #2

Mental Health

Objective

By June 30, 2025, expand the number of Ascension Illinois hospitals that provide warm hand-off services for substance use disorder (SUD) patients.

Strategy
Warm Hand Off Program
Collaborators
Resources

Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago

Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, education collateral, marketing resources, and others

Collaborators: Gateway Foundation

Collaborators: in-kind staffing, care coordination, data

Consultants: N/A

Consultants: N/A

Other non-profit hospital: N/A

Other non-profit hospital: N/A

Budget

- Cost of in-kind staff support
- Cost of in-kind resources & materials

ACTION STEPS
ROLE/OWNER

Appoint Associate Lead for this Strategy

Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital

Identify internal resources for supporting Warm Hand Off services

Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital

Provide access to substance use disorder (SUD) screenings

Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago, Ascension Alexian Brothers, Gateway Foundation

Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes

Ascension Illinois Community Health

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to substance use disorder services and community resources for individuals in need of such services.

STRATEGY #5: PROVIDE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital	
Prioritized Health Need #2 Mental Health	
Objective By June 30, 2028, increase access to mental health services and resources for pregnant and postpartum populations.	
Strategy Perinatal Intensive Outpatient Program (PIOP)	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Saint Alexius	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
Collaborators: community based organizations, other health care organizations/centers	Collaborators: promotion of services, care coordination
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of in-kind staff support • Cost of in-kind resources & materials 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this Strategy	Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
Identify internal resources for supporting Perinatal Intensive Outpatient Program	Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
Provide access to pregnancy and postpartum psychosocial assessments	Ascension Saint Alexius
Increase awareness of services in the community	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to mental health services and resources for pregnant and postpartum populations.	

STRATEGY #6: FOOD ACCESS ASSISTANCE	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital	
Prioritized Health Need #4 Social Determinants of Health: (SDoH: Food Security)	
Objective By June 30, 2028, increase food access with micropantry	
Strategy Micropantry	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital, Ascension Saint Joseph Hospital Chicago	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, community investment, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
Collaborators: Greater Chicago Food Depository, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Willow Creek Care Center, local food pantries, Faith Based Institutions	Collaborators: staff/volunteer time donated, resources/materials
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of in-kind staff support • Cost of in-kind resources & materials 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify food-drive event dates	Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
Identify potential community partners to support maintenance of MicroPantry	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthy food and reduced food insecurity.	

Evaluation

Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital will develop a comprehensive measurement and evaluation process for the implementation strategy. The Hospital 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 Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital uses a tracking system to capture community benefit activities and implementation. Data will be aggregated into an annual Community Benefit report made available to the community to ensure accountability.