

# Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago

**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 Saint Joseph Chicago  
2900 N Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60657  
healthcare.ascension.org  
773-665-3000  
36-2235165

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.**

## Table of Contents

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
About Ascension	4
Ascension Illinois	4
Ascension Saint Joseph	4
<b>Overview of the Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>6</b>
Needs Prioritization	6
Needs That Will Be Addressed	6
Needs That Will Not Be Addressed	7
Written Comments	8
Approval and Adoption of the IS	8
<b>Action Plans</b>	<b>9</b>
Evaluation	16

## 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](http://www.ascension.org/illinois).

## Ascension Saint Joseph

As a Ministry of the Catholic Church, Ascension Saint Joseph is a non-profit hospital that provides medical care to Chicago and the surrounding communities. Serving Illinois since 1869, Ascension Saint Joseph is continuing the long and valued tradition of addressing the health of the people in our community, following in the footsteps of the legacy of the Daughters of Charity. Saint Joseph was the



## **Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago**

first Catholic hospital in Chicago and is a full service health care facility licensed for 361 beds, located on Chicago's North side.

For more information about Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago,  
<https://healthcare.ascension.org/locations/illinois/ilchi/chicago-ascension-saint-joseph-chicago-at-2900-n-lake-shore-dr>

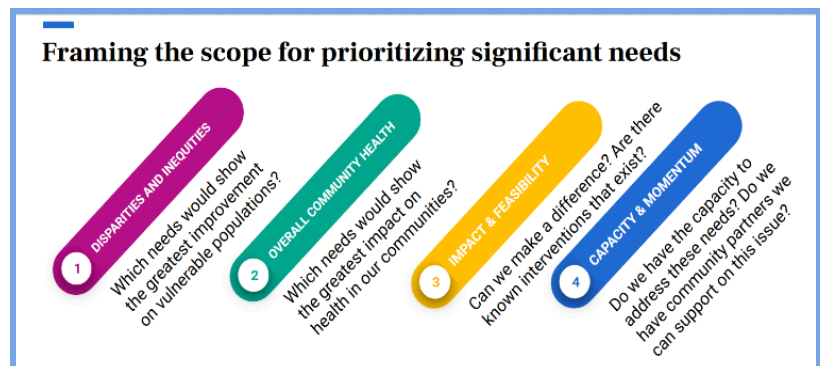
## Overview of the Implementation Strategy

### 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 Saint Joseph 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 then 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 in Health Care: 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:

- **Access to Healthcare & Affordability** (*Access to Care - Clinical Care*): A significant portion of the hospital community lacks adequate health insurance, which limits their ability to access primary and specialty care services. Many residents rely on emergency rooms for care due to affordability and provider shortages. 51.1% of total survey respondents identified access to healthcare as top needed support; Emergency department use is high (85.7%) due to lack of accessible care alternatives among respondents. Concerns about high prescription costs, lack of affordable care options, long wait times for specialists, and Medicare confusion among seniors were noted.

*Community partners named access to care and health insurance coverage as top health and social issues for the community with access and affordability as key drivers*

- **Mental Health & Substance Use Support** (Mental Health - Quality of Life & Substance Misuse - Health Behaviors) *Mental health concerns, including depression, anxiety, PTSD, and suicide as well as substance misuse were frequently reported as top health concern affecting the community. Limited access to mental health care, high levels of stress, and economic hardship were identified as barriers to overall well-being. Stigma and workforce shortages also limit access. 35.5% of survey respondents identified mental health as a top health issue & 45.7% of respondents reported a need for better access to mental health services. Community input emphasized a lack of affordable and culturally competent mental health providers, particularly for non-English speakers and marginalized populations. Limited mental health services cited as a key barrier, with hospitals needing to increase outreach and education on available resources to help with stigma reduction.*
- **Food Insecurity** (Income - SDoH) *Food insecurity remains a significant issue, affecting physical and mental health outcomes. Limited access to affordable, nutritious food contributes to chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease. 55% of respondents ranked hunger and food insecurity as a top concern. 44.6% of Hispanic/Latino respondents and 38.8% of Black/African American respondents prioritized access to healthy food as a key community need. Food insecurity (13.5%) in the PSA is above county and state averages with varying needs across the area. 31.6% of survey respondents said more nutrition and food insecurity programs are needed in the community especially those that increase access to fresh and healthy foods*
- **Housing Instability** (Housing - SDoH) *Housing instability and homelessness contribute to poor health outcomes, including increased rates of mental illness, substance use, and chronic disease. Many residents face housing insecurity due to rising housing costs, gentrification and limited affordable housing options including senior housing. 45% of respondents identified homelessness and housing instability as a major concern. 29.4% of Black/African American respondents and 16.8% of Hispanic/Latino respondents ranked affordable housing as a top priority. Community partners & focus group participants linked unstable housing to worsening health conditions including mental health issues. Emergency shelters are at capacity, leaving many without stable housing while gentrification pushes out lower-income residents especially seniors.*

Ascension Saint Joseph 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 Saint Joseph has focused its efforts on the above priorities.

## **Needs That Will Not Be Addressed**

All of the significant needs were selected for prioritization to be addressed in this CHNA cycle.

## **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 Saint Joseph'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.

<b>STRATEGY #1: PROVIDE PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT SERVICES</b>	
<b>Hospital(s) Name(s)</b> Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago	
<b>Prioritized Health Need #1</b> Healthcare Access & Affordability	
<b>Objective</b> By June 30, 2028, there will be an increase of individuals provided with healthcare enrollment services from FY25 baseline.	
<b>Strategy</b> <b>Advocatia Partnership</b>	
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Resources</b>
<b>Other Ascension Hospitals:</b> Ascension Alexian Brothers; Ascension Saint Alexius	<b>Other Ascension hospital(s):</b> Leader and staff time donated, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
<b>Collaborators:</b> Ascension Medical Group (AMG), Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Institutions, Food Pantries, Libraries, Immigrant Welcoming Centers	<b>Collaborators:</b> in-kind space for events, promotion of services
<b>Consultants:</b> Advocatia and other healthcare enrollment partners	<b>Consultants:</b> Advocatia program platform & consultants, data
<b>Other non-profit hospital:</b> N/A	<b>Other non-profit hospital:</b> N/A
<b>Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocatia Technology and Consultation Fees</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION STEPS</b>	<b>ROLE/OWNER</b>
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Promote awareness via flyers, social media, Ascension and community partner newsletters	Ascension Saint Joseph Community Health, External Communications
Identify external partners that need enrollment information	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit and Community Health
Identify and establish opportunities for enrollment in the community	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit and Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
<b>ANTICIPATED IMPACT</b>	
The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to healthcare services for individuals who are underinsured or uninsured.	

STRATEGY #2: PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES	
<b>Hospital(s) Name(s)</b> Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago	
<b>Prioritized Health Need #1</b> Healthcare Access & Affordability	
<b>Objective</b> By June 30, 2028, there will be an increase of individuals provided with access to healthcare services from FY25 baseline.	
<b>Strategy</b> <b>CommunityHealth Partnership</b>	
Collaborators	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other Ascension Hospitals:</b> Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago, Ascension Medical Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other Ascension hospital(s):</b> staff time donated, community investment fund, education collateral, marketing resources, and others</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaborators:</b> CommunityHealth (free &amp; charitable clinic)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaborators:</b> care coordination</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consultants:</b> N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consultants:</b> N/A</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other non-profit hospital:</b> N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other non-profit hospital:</b> N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community investment</li> <li>• In-kind health services</li> </ul>	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Continue to fortify partnerships that provide access to healthcare services	Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago, Ascension Illinois Community Health
Provide support and assistance for needed services	Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago, Ascension Medical Group
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthcare services for individuals in the Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago service area.	

<b>STRATEGY #3: PROVIDE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES</b>	
<b>Hospital(s) Name(s)</b> Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago	
<b>Prioritized Health Need #2</b> Mental Health & Youth Well Being	
<b>Objective</b> By June 30, 2028, increase individuals provided with eating disorder services and resources.	
<b>Strategy</b> <b>Eating Disorder Program</b>	
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Resources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Other Ascension hospitals:</b> Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital and Ascension Saint Alexius</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Other Ascension hospital(s):</b> staff time donated, community investment, education collateral, marketing resources, and others</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Collaborators:</b> TBD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Collaborators:</b> TBD</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Consultants:</b> N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Consultants:</b> N/A</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Other non-profit hospital:</b> N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Other non-profit hospital:</b> N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual community investments</li> <li>In-kind support</li> <li>Materials &amp; resources</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION STEPS</b>	<b>ROLE/OWNER</b>
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Develop partnerships to increase access and education to youth and adult mental health services	Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago, Ascension Illinois Community Health
Provide support, education and coordination for needed services	Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
<b>ANTICIPATED IMPACT</b>	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to specialized care for eating disorders in the Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago community.	

STRATEGY #4: FOOD ACCESS ASSISTANCE	
<b>Hospital(s) Name(s)</b> Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago	
<b>Prioritized Health Need #3</b> Social Determinants of Health: (SDoH: Food Security)	
<b>Objective</b> By June 30, 2028, increase community support for local food pantries, increase food access partnerships and increase the number of individuals provided with food access assistance.	
<b>Strategy</b> <b>Local Food Assistance Support &amp; Partnerships (Community Investment Program)</b>	
Collaborators	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Other Ascension hospital(s):</b> Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Alexian Brothers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Other Ascension hospital(s):</b> staff time donated, community investment, education collateral, marketing resources, and others</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Collaborators:</b> Greater Chicago Food Depository, local food pantries, Faith Based Institutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Collaborators:</b> staff/volunteer time donated</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Consultants:</b> N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Consultants:</b> N/A</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Other non-profit hospital:</b> N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Other non-profit hospital:</b> N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual community investments</li> <li>In-kind support</li> </ul>	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify local food pantries in need of financial support	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Joseph Community Investment Committee
Identify internal resources to support food pantry initiatives (i.e. food drives, nutrition education and training)	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Joseph
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Joseph
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthy food and reduced food insecurity.	

STRATEGY #5: HOUSING ASSISTANCE	
<b>Hospital(s) Name(s)</b> Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago	
<b>Prioritized Health Need #3</b> Social Determinants of Health: (SDoH: Housing & Transit)	
<b>Objective</b> By June 30, 2028, increase support for individuals in need of housing assistance in the Ascension Saint Joseph-Chicago community.	
<b>Strategy</b> <b>Local Housing Assistance Support &amp; Partnerships (Community Investment Program)</b>	
Collaborators	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other Ascension hospital(s):</b> Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Alexian Brothers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other Ascension hospital(s):</b> staff time donated, community investment</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaborators:</b> Little Sisters of the Poor St. Joseph Home for the Elderly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaborators:</b> staff/volunteer time donated, data</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consultants:</b> N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consultants:</b> N/A</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other non-profit hospital:</b> N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other non-profit hospital:</b> N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual community investments</li> <li>• In-kind support</li> </ul>	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify local housing assistance partners including those in need of financial support	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago Community Investment Committee
Identify internal resources to support local housing assistance initiatives	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to safe and affordable housing to improve overall health.	

STRATEGY #6: TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE	
<b>Hospital(s) Name(s)</b> Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago	
<b>Prioritized Health Need #4</b> Social Determinants of Health: (SDoH: Housing & Transit)	
<b>Objective</b> By June 30, 2028, increase support for individuals in need of transportation assistance in the Ascension Saint Joseph-Chicago community.	
<b>Strategy</b> <b>LYFT Concierge Services Partnership</b>	
Collaborators	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other Ascension hospital(s):</b> Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Alexian Brothers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other Ascension hospital(s):</b> staff time donated, community investment</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaborators:</b> Lyft Concierge Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaborators:</b> transportation services &amp; platform, data</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consultants:</b> N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consultants:</b> N/A</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other non-profit hospital:</b> N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other non-profit hospital:</b> N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concierge Service Fees</li> </ul>	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify patients (i.e., uninsured, underinsured, VA, Medicaid, Medicare, etc.) in need of transportation assistance	Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago Care Management
Cover costs of Lyft Concierge Services (LCS) monthly/annual service fees for identified patients within parameters allowed under applicable law	Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthcare services by eliminating transportation barriers.	

## **Evaluation**

Ascension Saint Joseph-Chicago's 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 Saint Joseph-Chicago 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.