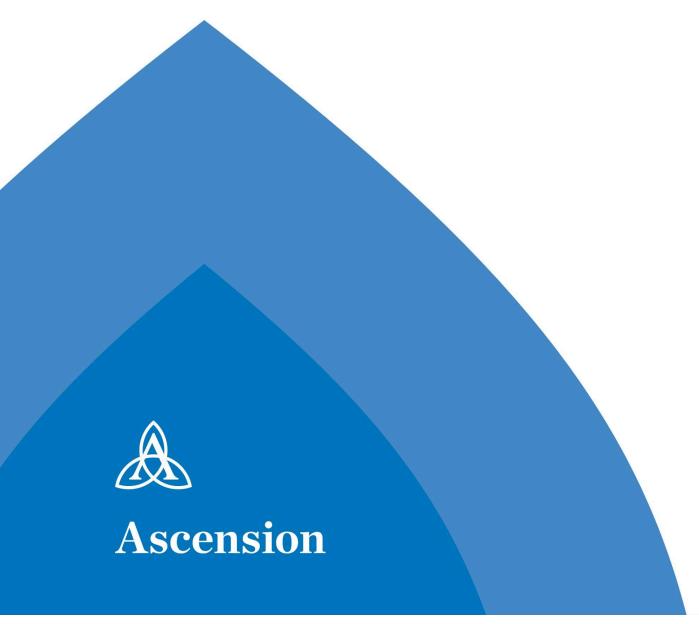
Implementation Strategy for the 2024 CHNA Cook County, Illinois



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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 800 Biesterfield Rd, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 healthcare.ascension.org 847-437-5500 36-2596381

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

As a Ministry of the Catholic Church, Ascension Alexian Brothers is a non-profit hospital that provides medical care to Elk Grove Village and the surrounding communities. Serving Illinois since 1966,





Ascension Alexian Brothers 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 Alexian Brothers is a 329 bed, full service medical facility that provides high-quality, compassionate and family-centered medical care. Ascension Alexian Brothers is an acute care hospital in Elk Grove Village, IL with advanced specialty care services including heart and vascular, neurosurgery, critical care, cancer care, stroke care, orthopedics, women's health and the Ascension Alexian Brothers Rehabilitation Hospital.

For more information about Ascension Alexian Brothers, visit:

https://healthcare.ascension.org/locations/illinois/ilchi/elk-grove-village-ascension-alexian-brothers



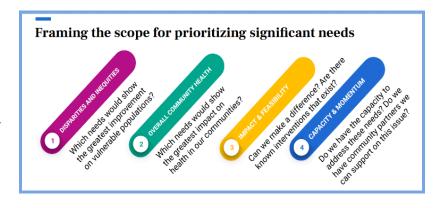
Overview of the Implementation Strategy

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 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:

Chronic Disease (Diabetes, Obesity, Heart Disease - Chronic Conditions): Chronic conditions like diabetes, coronary heart disease, and cancer have prevalence rates exceeding county, state, and national averages. These illnesses increase healthcare utilization and can worsen health outcomes if left unmanaged. African American survey respondents report greater concerns for hypertension (53.8%) and diabetes (53.8%). 29.7% of survey respondents said heart disease and stroke were a top health concern. There is a lack of specialists accepting Medicaid in the northwest suburbs, which create travel burdens for care. Education on managing/preventing



chronic diseases, including nutrition education, is lacking in low-income areas as noted by community partners.

- Mental Health & Youth Well-Being (Mental Health Quality of Life): Mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, and stress are major community concerns. Access to care is hindered by stigma, long wait times, and provider shortages, contributing to untreated or worsening mental illness. High concern for depression, anxiety, and addiction in all three assessments. Mental health concerns (36.7%) included long wait times for therapy (8+ weeks), stigma affecting care-seeking behavior, and a need for increased youth services (especially for stress and depression). Development of senior wellbeing and recreational facilities to support aging community members was important to survey respondents. Community partners called on hospitals to increase collaboration and expand use of technology for mental health and addiction recovery.
- Healthcare Access & Affordability (Access to Care Clinical Care): A significant portion of the population remains uninsured, underinsured, or faces systemic barriers to healthcare access, leading to poor preventive care (including low rates of screenings and vaccinations) and delayed treatment. 27.6% of survey respondents missed or postponed care due to barriers like lack of time (23.0%), high costs (18.7%), and inconvenient clinic hours (12.7%). Most needed support services is access to healthcare (61.5%) by survey respondents. Preventive care utilization was inconsistent among respondents with opportunities for colonoscopy, mammography, cholesterol screening & flu vaccines. Barriers include lack of Medicaid-accepting specialists; needs for multilingual health education, women's programs & affordable medications noted.
- Social Determinants of Health (Income SDoH & Housing SDoH): The social determinants of health and housing instability, food insecurity and transportation challenges were identified as top three contributors to poor health outcomes. These barriers disproportionately impact underserved communities. 19.8% of survey respondents worried about running out of food, mostly due to rising costs. Medicaid recipients struggle to find specialists in the northwest suburbs, forcing travel to Chicago, which creates transportation barriers to care. Affordable housing ranked as a top health need, particularly among African American respondents (30.8%). Community partners noted housing instability and food deserts as priority areas; Transportation challenges impact access to health care, employment and education opportunities.

Ascension Alexian Brothers 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 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 Implementation Strategy 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' 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: CHRONIC CONDITION SCREENING, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Hospital(s) Name(s)

Ascension Alexian Brothers

Prioritized Health Need #1

Chronic Disease

Objective

By June 30, 2028, there will be increased access to health screenings and education for community residents.

Community & Faith: Community Wellness Program

Tommunity at a dam community from coot rogium	
Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, community investment, education collateral, marketing resources, and other supplies
Collaborators: Park Districts, Community-based organizations, Faith-based Institutions, Schools, Food Pantries, Townships	Collaborators: staff/volunteer time donated; space for events; promotion of events
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
Identify internal resources for supporting community wellness programming	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Alexian Brothers
Identify external partners serving low-income and/or at risk persons that need community health screening and health education services	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Alexian Brothers
Establish community calendar of health screening and health education events including dates, times, and locations	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Promote awareness of health education and screenings via flyers, social media, e-newsletters, meeting with community partners	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Illinois External Communications
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Illinois 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.



STRATEGY #2: PROVIDE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital(s) Name(s)

Ascension Alexian Brothers

Prioritized Health Need #2

Mental Health & Youth Well Being

Objective

By June 30, 2028, there will be an increase of individuals provided with access to youth mental health services.

Strategy

Kenneth Young Center Partnership

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Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Alexian Brothers	 Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, community investment, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
Collaborators: Kenneth Young Center	Collaborators: data, care coordination
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A

Budget

Annual community investment

ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Continue to fortify partnerships that provide youth mental	Ascension Alexian Brothers
health services	
Provide support and assistance for needed services	Ascension Alexian Brothers
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	

The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to mental health counseling services for youth in the Ascension Alexian Brothers community.



STRATEGY #3: PROVIDE PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT SERVICES

Hospital(s) Name(s)

Ascension Alexian Brothers

Prioritized Health Need #3

Healthcare Access & Affordability

Objective

By June 30, 2028, there will be an increase of individuals provided with healthcare enrollment services from FY25 baseline.

Strategy

Advocatia Partnership

Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Saint Alexius and Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago	 Other Ascension hospital(s): Leader and staff time donated, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
Collaborators: Ascension Medical Group (AMG), Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Institutions, Food Pantries, Libraries, Immigrant Welcoming Centers	 Collaborators: in-kind space for events, promotion of services
Consultants: Advocatia and other healthcare enrollment partners	 Consultants: Advocatia program platform & consultants, data
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A

Budget

Advocatia Technology and Consultation Fees

ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Promote awareness of services via flyers, social media,	Ascension Alexian Brothers Community Health,
Ascension and Community partner newsletters	External Communications
Identify external partners that need enrollment	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit and
information	Community Health
Identify and establish opportunities for enrollment in the	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit and
community	Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTIQUATED IMPACT	

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to healthcare services for individuals who are underinsured or uninsured.



STRATEGY #4: PROVIDE ACCESS TO MEDICATION ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Hospital(s) Name(s)

Ascension Alexian Brothers

Prioritized Health Need #1

Healthcare Access & Affordability

Objective

By June 30, 2028, there will be an increase of individuals provided with medication assistance services from FY25 baseline.

Strategy

Dispensary of Hope Program

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Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Saint Alexius	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, community investment, education collateral, marketing resources, and others
Collaborators: Ascension Medical Group, Community Based Organization, Faith Based Institutions, local physicians	Collaborators: pharmacy staff, promotion of services
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A

Budget

Dispensary of Hope Program Fees

ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Promote awareness of pharmacy services via flyers, social media, Ascension and Community partner newsletters	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Alexian Brothers Pharmacy, Ascension Illinois Marketing/Communications
Identify external partners that need medication assistance information.	Ascension Alexian Brothers
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to medications for individuals who are underinsured or uninsured.



STRATEGY #5: PROVIDE ACCESS TO COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER (CRC)

Hospital(s) Name(s)

Ascension Alexian Brothers

Prioritized Health Need #3

Healthcare Access & Affordability

Objective

By June 30, 2028, establish a Community Resource Center (CRC) that will provide a structured framework for connecting individuals and families with needed resources & services.

Strategy

Community Resource Center (CRC)

Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Saint Alexius and Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital	Other Ascension hospital(s): Staff time donated, community investment, donated space within 1515 Lake Street building
 Collaborators: Partners for Our Communities, Greater Family Health, CEDA, Community Based Organizations, School District, Park District, 	Collaborators: care coordination; data
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A

Budget

- Community investment(s)
- Cost of in-kind space
- 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 framework for Community Resource Center (CRC)	Ascension Saint Alexius & Ascension Alexian Brothers
Identify external partners that may have a need for support and resources.	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Community Benefit, Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Alexian Brothers
Establish Community Resource Center (CRC) Collaborative Committee	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Create project timeline for Community Resource Center (CRC)	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Saint Alexius and Ascension Alexian Brothers
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes.	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	

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



STRATEGY #6: FOOD ACCESS ASSISTANCE

Hospital(s) Name(s)

Ascension Alexian Brothers

Prioritized Health Need #4

Social Determinants of Health: (SDoH: Food Security)

Objective

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.

Strategy

Local Food Assistance Support & Partnerships

- Micropantry
- Faith & Food Initiative
- Community Investment Program

Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Saint Alexius, 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, Willow Creek Care Center, local food pantries, Faith Based Institutions 	 Collaborators: staff/volunteer time donated; resources/materials; promotion of programs
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A

Budget

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

ACTION STEPS Micropantry	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify food-drive event dates	Ascension Alexian Brothers Volunteer Department
Identify potential community partners to support maintenance of MicroPantry	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Provide funding support for local community food access programs and initiatives	Ascension Alexian Brothers
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ACTION STEPS Faith & Food Initiative	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Identify local faith institutions that will participate in program	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Alexian Brothers
Provide funding and distribution support for program	Ascension Alexian Brothers
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health
ACTION STEPS Community Investment Program	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 Alexian Brothers Community Investment Committee



Identify internal resources to support food pantry initiatives (i.e. food drives, nutrition education and training)	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Alexian Brothers	
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Alexian Brothers	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT		
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthy food and reduced food insecurity.		



STRATEGY #7: HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Hospital(s) Name(s)

Ascension Alexian Brothers

Prioritized Health Need #4

Social Determinants of Health: (SDoH: Housing & Transit)

Objective

By June 30, 2028, increase support for individuals in need of housing assistance in the Ascension Alexian Brothers community.

Strategy

Local Housing Assistance Support & Partnerships

Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Saint Joseph Hospital Chicago	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, community investment
Collaborators: Fellowship Housing, Little Sisters of the Poor St. Joseph Home for the Elderly	Collaborators: staff/volunteer time donated, data
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A

Budget

- Annual community investments
- In-kind support

ROLE/OWNER
Ascension Illinois Community Health
Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension
Alexian Brothers Community Investment Committee
Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension
Alexian Brothers
Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension
Alexian Brothers

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to safe and affordable housing to improve overall health.



STRATEGY #8: TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

Hospital(s) Name(s)

Ascension Alexian Brothers

Prioritized Health Need #4

Social Determinants of Health: (SDoH: Housing & Transit)

Objective

By June 30, 2028, increase support for individuals in need of transportation assistance in the Ascension Alexian Brothers community.

Strategy

LYFT Concierge Services Partnership

Collaborators	Resources
Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Saint Joseph Hospital Chicago	Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, community investment
Collaborators: Lyft Concierge Services	 Collaborators: transportation services & platform, data
Consultants: N/A	Consultants: N/A
Other non-profit hospital: N/A	Other non-profit hospital: N/A

Budget

Concierge Service Fees

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 Alexian Brothers Care Management
Cover costs of Lyft Concierge Services (LCS) monthly/annual service fees for identified patients within parameters allowed under applicable law	Ascension Alexian Brothers
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Illinois Community Health, Ascension Alexian Brothers
ANTICIDATI	

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthcare services by eliminating transportation barriers.



Evaluation

Ascension Alexian Brothers 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 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.