

Ascension St. Vincent Evansville

Implementation Strategy for the 2024 CHNA Vanderburgh County, Indiana



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.

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The Ascension St. Vincent Evansville Board of Directors approved the 2024 Implementation Strategy on September 26, 2025 (2024 tax year) and applies to the following three-year cycle: July 2025 to June 2028 (FY 2026 - FY 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 99,000 associates, 23,000 aligned providers, 94 wholly owned or consolidated hospitals, and ownership interests in 27 additional hospitals through partnerships. Ascension also operates 30 senior living facilities and a variety of other care sites offering a range of healthcare services.

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 St. Vincent Indiana

Ascension St. Vincent operates 19 hospitals in addition to a comprehensive network of affiliated joint ventures, medical practices and clinics serving Indiana and employs more than 13,000 associates. In Fiscal Year 2024, Ascension St. Vincent provided more than \$357 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty throughout the state.

Ascension St. Vincent Evansville

Ascension St. Vincent Evansville, a Ministry of the Catholic Church, is a non-profit hospital governed by a local board of trustees represented by community members, medical staff, and sister sponsorships. For many years, the hospital has been providing medical care for residents of Vanderburgh County, Indiana, and neighboring areas.

In 1872, Sister Marie Voelker, DC and three other Daughters of Charity arrived in Evansville to start a healthcare facility located on the banks of the Ohio River in a former marine hospital which was used during the Civil War. In 1894, the second location was at the corner of First Avenue and Columbia Street. In 1956, the former St. Mary's Medical Center relocated to Washington Street where it resides today. In 2017, the hospital changed its official name to St. Vincent Evansville (ASV) for recognition purposes throughout the state of Indiana. ASV hospital is a 508-bed acute care facility and offers the following services: bariatric services, cancer, cardiovascular services, diabetes care, maternity services, medical imaging, mental & behavioral health, orthopedics, pediatrics, rehabilitation services, respiratory care, senior services, surgery, wellness medicine, women's health, and wound treatment. St. Vincent Evansville's primary service area is Vanderburgh County which is in Southern Indiana.

For more information about Ascension St. Vincent Evansville, visit

<https://healthcare.ascension.org/stvincent>.

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 St. Vincent Evansville used a phased prioritization approach to identify the needs of Vanderburgh County. 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.

After completing the CHNA assessment, significant needs were further narrowed down to prioritized needs that the hospital will address within the IS. To arrive at the prioritized needs, Ascension St. Vincent Evansville participated in an in-person prioritization session, which included representatives of several community organizations and hospital staff. During the session, participants reviewed the CHNA data and were asked to consider the following:

- Based on the data reviewed and your own contextual knowledge, what health issues, sub-issues, or combinations of issues would you elevate as the highest priorities?
- Which issues can we reasonably impact over the next three years by leveraging existing resources/partnerships or establishing new resources/partnerships?
- Which issues are most relevant to Warrick County as a whole? We encourage all participants to look beyond any agendas of their individual organizations.

Responses were documented in real time, fostering open discussion and ultimately leading to group consensus on the prioritized needs.

The criteria used to prioritize the significant needs were:

- **Data review** - The results of both primary and secondary data from the most recent CHNA
- **Participants' contextual knowledge** - The participants' insights based on their professional experience and their understanding of the community
- **Impact** - The hospital facility has acknowledged competencies and expertise to respond to the issue in ways that will produce a reasonable impact
- **Existing resources/partnerships** – There are established relationships and infrastructure to support effective interventions
- **Relevance** - The relevance of the issue to entire service area; looking beyond an organization's agenda

Needs That Will Be Addressed

Following the completion of the current CHNA, Ascension St. Vincent Evansville has selected the prioritized needs outlined below for its 2024 IS. Ascension has defined “prioritized needs” as the significant needs that the hospital has prioritized to address through the three-year CHNA cycle:

- **Access to Care** – This need was selected because access to care indicators such as adults reporting fair or poor health, low birthweight babies, per capita supply of healthcare providers, preventable hospital stays, and/or core preventive services compared unfavorably to peer counties or U.S. averages and because community meeting participants identified access to care (including preventive services) as a priority.
- **Behavioral Health (includes Mental Health and Access to Mental Health Services and Substance Use Disorders and Suicide)** – This need was selected because mental health indicators such as number of poor mental health days, number of mental health providers per population, depression rate and/or suicide rate compared unfavorably to peer counties or U.S. averages and because community meeting participants identified mental health as a priority. Substance use disorder is included because indicators such as drug poisoning deaths, percentage of tobacco and/or e-cigarette users, opioid-related deaths, and/or the percentage of alcohol-impaired driving deaths compared unfavorably to peer counties or U.S. averages and because community meeting participants stressed the prevalence of SUD and mental health as co-occurring health issues and identified them as priorities.
- **Healthy Families (includes Maternal, Infant, and Child Health, which will be addressed)** - This need was selected because the following indicators compare unfavorably to state and/or national benchmarks: children in need of services (active cases), experience with foster care and children removed from household, child mortality, infant mortality (especially among Black infants), low birth weight and teen births. Community input stressed existing disparities based on factors such as race, ethnicity, cultural norms and income and the lack of access to affordable, quality childcare was noted as a key factor impacting this health issue.

Ascension St. Vincent Evansville 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 St. Vincent Evansville has focused its efforts on the above priorities.

Needs That Will Not Be Addressed

Based on the prioritization criteria, the health needs identified through the CHNA that Ascension St. Vincent Evansville does not plan to address within the hospital's IS at this time include:

- **Aging Population-** The hospital, together with AMG, works collaboratively with the Ascension St. Vincent - Center for Healthy Aging to support older adults as they cope with complex health problems that can be associated with aging. Additionally, the hospital remains committed to partnering with community groups to address these identified health needs and will continue to seek opportunities to do so. As federal, state, and local authorities, as well as community-based organizations, are working to address needs of seniors, the hospital will not directly address this need in the current Implementation Strategy.
- **Outreach and Advocacy** - The hospital, together with AMG, works to address misperceptions in the community about health issues and educate about external factors, such as federal, state and local funding cuts to needed programs and services. The hospital places significant emphasis on collaboration via participation in numerous coalitions, leading joint outreach efforts to the community, and conducting a collaborative community health needs assessment with various local anchor institutions and stakeholders. The hospital remains committed to partnering with community groups to address these identified health needs and will continue to seek opportunities to do so.

While these needs are not the focus of this Implementation Strategy, Ascension St. Vincent Evansville 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 St. Vincent Evansville does to support health within the community.

To find a list of resources for needs not being addressed, please refer to the Ascension St. Vincent Evansville's 2024 CHNA: https://healthcare.ascension.org/2024_CHNA/Evansville.

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 by Ascension St. Vincent Evansville

To ensure the Ascension St. Vincent Evansville's efforts meet the needs of the community and have a lasting and meaningful impact, the 2024 Implementation Strategy was presented and adopted by the Ascension St. Vincent Evansville Board of Directors on September 26, 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.

Access To Care	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension St. Vincent Evansville Hospital	
Prioritized Health Need Access to Care	
Objective <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By June 30, 2028, Ascension St. Vincent Evansville will increase the 3-year total number of individuals enrolled in public programs through the completion of an Enrollment Pathway by 3% compared to the total enrolled during FY2023–FY2025. By June 30, 2028, Ascension St. Vincent Evansville will increase the 3-year total number of individuals established with a medical home through the completion of a Medical Home Pathway by 3% compared to the total established in FY2023-FY2025. 	
Strategy Provide technical support for individuals when applying for public programs and finding primary care.	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborators: FSSA, FQHCs, community groups focused on access to care, referring organizations ASV Department/Program: Health Access/Community Health Worker (CHW) Advocacy, Mission Integration 	Budget* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate time to develop materials with updated eligibility requirements Associate time working with individual to complete a pathway Printing costs for updated materials
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Establish, or utilize an existing, internal workgroup to identify and implement ways the hospital can support the CHW and increased access to care.	IS Priority Lead (Access)
Work with Advocacy and Communications to develop materials to inform individuals of new Medicaid eligibility requirements.	IS Priority Lead (Access)
Complete the Medical Home Pathway through the following steps: assess and address barriers to establishing a medical home, refer patients to a medical home, educate on process, assist with scheduling, confirm attendance at appointment and follow up for ongoing concerns.	Community Health Worker
Complete the Enrollment Pathway through the following steps: verify appropriate application is completed, review referrals for social drivers of health (SDOH), assess and address barriers, monitor patient progress and provide ongoing management.	Community Health Worker
Track and report progress via bi-annual IS Tracker Report.	Health Access Director & Community Benefit

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to care by providing support with establishing a medical home and securing medical insurance.

**The budget for this initiative is an estimate and should be considered as such.*

Behavioral Health	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension St. Vincent Evansville Hospital	
Prioritized Health Need Behavioral Health (including mental health, substance use disorder, and suicide)	
Objective By June 30, 2028, Ascension St. Vincent Evansville, in collaboration with the Stress Center, will sponsor and support the certification of at least one community member who works with youth and young adults, ages 10 through 24, in the evidence-based online QPR Pathfinder Training.	
Strategy Support the development of a new workforce of crisis responders.	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborators: QPR, Community partners, community coalitions, local schools and youth sports/clubs • ASV Department/Program: Stress Center, Peyton Manning Children's Hospital 	Budget* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee for QPR training • Staff time working towards this initiative
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Develop applicable materials, including an application for individuals who are interested in being trained and post training document(s) to assess the perceived impact from the training.	Community Benefit
Promote the training opportunity, identify individual(s) to attend training, secure training placement, and complete required post-training documentation.	IS Priority Lead (Behavioral Health)
Complete required quarterly reporting to Community Benefit.	IS Priority Lead (Behavioral Health)
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact is an increase to the number of community members who work with young people that are equipped to recognize and respond effectively to the signs of a suicide crisis, enhancing early intervention and reducing the risk of suicide among youth and young adults.	

**The budget for this initiative is an estimate and should be considered as such.*

Maternal, Infant, and Child Health	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension St. VincentEvansville Hospital	
Prioritized Health Need Maternal, Infant, and Child Health	
Objective By June 30, 2028, Ascension St. Vincent Evansville Hospital will implement a standardized perinatal mood and anxiety disorder (PMAD) screening and referral process.	
Strategy Conduct ongoing screening of women who are in the perinatal stage to assess the need for mental health intervention and/or treatment.	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other nonprofit hospital(s): Ascension St. Vincent Indianapolis• ASV Department/Program: ASV Women’s Hospital’s Lactation & Perinatal Services, Nurse Navigators, Stress Center, AMG Women’s Health	Budget* <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff time planning and training providers• Cost of producing provider training materials• Cost of producing patient materials
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
FY26 - Leverage previous cycle implementation strategy to access relevant data to establish baseline, set goals and monitor progress.	IS Priority Lead (MICH)
FY27 - Finalize the standardized PMAD screening and referral process and continue data monitoring.	
FY28 - Develop and provide training for applicable providers/associates.	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact is an increase in the number of women who are screened and treated for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.	

**The budget for this initiative is an estimate and should be considered as such.*

Maternal, Infant, and Child Health	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension St. Vincent Evansville Hospital	
Prioritized Health Need Maternal, Infant, and Child Health	
Objective By June 30, 2025, Ascension St. Vincent Evansville will increase the 3-year total (FY26-FY28) of completed Pregnancy Pathways by 3% compared to the previous 3-year total (FY23-FY25).	
Strategy Provide on-going support to ensure prenatal care by reducing barriers, such as access to medical insurance and transportation.	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborators: Community partners • ASV Department/Program: Health Access/Community Health Worker, Ascension Medical Group Providers 	Budget* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff time of Health Advocate • Supplies to support individual during and after pregnancy
TION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Complete the Pregnancy Pathway through the following steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage patients and teach about healthy pregnancy and refer to a provider for prenatal care. • Review referral for social determinants needs, contact patients for assessment and follow up. • Identify and address barriers to prenatal care, confirm prenatal appointment adherence. • Confirm full term (>37 weeks), normal birth weight (>=5 lbs, 8 oz). • Provide follow up and ongoing management as needed. 	Community Health Worker
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact is an increase in the number of babies born weighing more than 5 lbs. 8 oz.	

**The budget for this initiative is an estimate and should be considered as such.*

Evaluation

Ascension St. Vincent Evansville 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 St. Vincent Evansville 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.