

Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital

Implementation Strategy for the 2024 CHNA
Travis County, Texas



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 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment report was approved by the Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital Board of Managers on April 6, 2025, and applies to the following three-year cycle: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. This report, as well as the previous report, can be found at our public website.

We value the community's voice and welcome feedback on this report. Please visit our public website (<https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna>) to submit your comments.

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Introduction

As one of the leading non-profit and Catholic health systems in the United States, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to 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 Texas

Serving Texas for more than 120 years, Ascension Texas operates 12 hospitals and 222 sites of care, employing 16,000 associates across Central Texas. Ascension operates Ascension Providence in Waco and Ascension Seton, which includes Dell Children's Medical Center, the region's only comprehensive children's hospital and pediatric Level I trauma center, and Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas, the region's only Level I trauma center for adults. Ascension Seton partners with Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin and shares a common vision of transforming healthcare through a focus on quality and value. On average, Ascension Texas provides \$562 million annually in charity care and community benefit across Central Texas. Visit www.ascension.org and www.dellchildrens.net.

Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital

Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital opened its doors to the Austin community in May 1995 and became a part of Surgical Care Affiliates in July 2007. Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital was developed by hospital and clinical personnel to offer safe, high-quality surgical care. Experienced physicians, nurses, and technicians use the latest technology and equipment to provide high-quality care in a warm, personalized setting.

Our mission is to care for our patients, serve our physicians, and improve healthcare in America.

Our Values

- Clinical Quality – We are committed to outstanding patient care and clinical outcomes.
- Integrity – We do what is right, no matter how difficult, without exception. We say what we mean, and we do what we say.
- Service Excellence – We seek to exceed the expectations of patients, physicians, and each other in everything we do.
- Teamwork – We work together, helping and supporting one another to make our Centers, Departments, and all of SCA successful.
- Accountability – We take complete, personal responsibility for our actions and commitments.
- Continuous Improvement – We seek to improve our performance in every area – clinical, operational, and financial – constantly pushing ourselves to new heights.

Ascension Seton is a majority interest member of Northwest Hills JV Partners, LLC which is the general partner of Austin Center for Outpatient Surgery, L.P. (DBA Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital). These organizations collaborated to prepare this Implementation Strategy Report.

For more information about Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital, visit <https://northwesthillssurgical.com>.

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, Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital used a phased prioritization approach to identify community health needs. 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 by the Ascension Seton CHNA Steering Committee to the prioritized needs which the network of Ascension Seton hospitals will address. To arrive at the prioritized needs, Ascension Seton leaders used

rank-choice voting based on criteria including alignment with Ascension's mission and capacity to impact followed by group discussion and final discernment.

Following the completion of the current CHNA, Ascension Seton has selected the prioritized needs outlined below:

- Healthcare Access and Quality
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Social Determinants of Health
- Maternal and Child Health

Needs That Will Be Addressed

Ascension Seton 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. As a system, Ascension Seton will address all of the prioritized needs. However, individual hospitals, including some of our joint venture specialty hospitals, may not address all four needs. The need prioritized by Ascension Seton that will be addressed by Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital is Healthcare Access and Quality.

Needs That Will Not Be Addressed

For this implementation strategy, Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital will not address Mental and Behavioral Health, Social Determinants of Health, or Maternal and Child Health as these groups are not the primary populations served by the hospital.

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 Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital

To ensure Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital's efforts meet the needs of the community and have a lasting and meaningful impact, the 2024 Implementation Strategy was circulated by email and adopted through unanimous written consent by the Governing Board of Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital on November 11, 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 Plan

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.

Prioritized Need: Healthcare Access and Quality
Background Access to quality healthcare is critical for addressing health needs that are acute, chronic or preventive. Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital will address Healthcare Access and Quality by focusing on health literacy to promote health and prevent disease, improving access to clinical services and reducing financial barriers to healthcare and pharmaceuticals.
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital leadership. To support healthcare access and quality, Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital will collaborate with community partners and organizations for external, community-facing initiatives.

STRATEGY 1: Offer hospital resources and time to provide health screening services and educational materials for community members to be aware of their health and resources available to them.	
Anticipated Impact Establish a consistent resource for the community to obtain routine health tests and gain information on the care providers in the area.	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate time to schedule and host programs Educational materials (creating, finding, printing) Space and supplies for meeting rooms 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Provide public opportunity for patients to receive basic health screenings	Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital
Guide patients to appropriate, high-quality care via educational materials	Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital

STRATEGY 2: Provide consistent, safe meeting spaces for support groups and care organizations	
Anticipated Impact Provide local organizations with a consistent meeting space.	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate time Facility space Educational materials (creating, finding, printing) 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Provide safe and sufficient meeting space for local organizations to conduct meetings or support	Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital

groups	
Provide educational materials where relevant to the organization's mission and needs	Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital

Evaluation

Northwest Hills Surgical 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.