

Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha

**Joint Implementation Strategy for the 2022 CHNA
Waukesha County, WI**

Prepared by Ascension Wisconsin



Ascension

The goal of this report is to offer a meaningful understanding of the most significant health needs across Waukesha County, as well as to inform planning efforts to address those needs. Input was intentionally gathered from persons who are the most vulnerable and their communities to identify their unmet health needs or gaps in services. Findings from this report can be used to identify, develop and focus hospital, health system and community initiatives and programming to better serve the health and wellness needs of the community.

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The 2022 Implementation Strategy was approved by the Board of Directors, the authorized body of Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha, on May 8, 2023 (2022 tax year) and applies to the following three-year cycle: July 2023 to June 2026. This 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 at <https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna> to submit your comments.

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Introduction

Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha

Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha are part of a joint venture between Emerus and Ascension Wisconsin. These neighborhood hospitals offer the full services of a hospital and 24/7 emergency room, as well as laboratory testing, imaging and comprehensive inpatient care. While providing high quality emergency and hospital care to the community, these-eight inpatient bed hospitals are smaller in scale.

Ascension

As one of the leading non-profit, Catholic health systems in the United States, Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. The national health system operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 145 hospitals and more than 40 senior living facilities – in 19 states and the District of Columbia, while providing a variety of services including clinical and network services, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, facilities management, risk management and contracting through Ascension’s own group purchasing organization.

Ascension’s Mission provides a strong framework and guidance for the work done to meet the needs of communities across the U.S. 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/>.

Overview of the Implementation Strategy

Purpose

This implementation strategy (IS) is the hospitals' response to the health needs prioritized from their current Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). It describes the actions the hospitals will take to address prioritized needs, allocate resources and mobilize hospital programs and community partners to work together. This approach aligns with Ascension Wisconsin's commitment to offer programs designed to address the health needs of a community, with special attention to persons who are underserved and vulnerable.

IRS 501(r)(3) and Form 990, Schedule H Compliance

The CHNA and IS satisfy certain requirements of tax reporting, pursuant to provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, more commonly known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As part of the ACA, all non-profit hospitals are required to conduct a CHNA and adopt an implementation strategy every three years. Requirements for 501(c)(3) Hospitals Under the Affordable Care Act are described in Code Section 501(r)(3), and include making the CHNA report (current and previous) widely available to the public. In accordance with this requirement, electronic reports of both the CHNA and the current implementation strategy can be found at <https://healthcare.ascension.org/CHNA> and paper versions can be requested at the hospital.

Needs That Will Be Addressed

Following the completion of the current CHNA, Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha have selected the prioritized needs outlined below for their 2022 Implementation Strategy. The hospitals have defined "prioritized needs" as the significant needs which have been prioritized by the hospitals to address through the three-year CHNA cycle:

- Chronic Disease and Prevention was selected because prevention is an important step toward a healthier community. For those with chronic diseases, proper treatment through healthcare can help improve quality of life. A healthy lifestyle through access to healthy foods, increase in activity and decreased stress can reduce the risk of several chronic diseases, lessening the need for medication or other treatments. This priority especially focuses on communities disproportionately affected by structural barriers relating to poverty. Ascension Wisconsin is committed to quality treatment of chronic diseases and focusing on prevention efforts.

In alignment with these priorities and the voice of the community, strategies addressing these health issues will focus on equity, working to address the root social causes of health disparities in our communities and giving special attention to those that have been made vulnerable by historic disadvantages.

Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha understand the importance of all the health needs of the community and are committed to playing an active role in improving the health of

the people in the communities they serve. For the purposes of this implementation strategy, the hospitals have chosen to focus their efforts on the priorities listed above.

Needs That Will Not Be Addressed

The following significant needs were not selected for the 2022 CHNA cycle: Access to Health Care, COVID-19, Substance Use and Abuse and Mental Health. Below is the rationale behind not prioritizing these issues.

Access to Health Care: Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha have a commitment to and respect for each person's dignity with a special concern for those who struggle with barriers to access healthcare services. These hospitals provide financial assistance to certain individuals who receive medically necessary care from the hospitals.

COVID-19: While Coronavirus/COVID-19 was identified as a top need, leadership agreed that it should not be listed as a priority because responding to this acute community concern is our duty as healthcare providers and should not be counted as community health improvement. Instead, all strategies should be created through the lens of the pandemic, with a particular focus on the resulting social impacts and exacerbated health disparities.

Substance Use and Abuse and Mental Health: Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha are small neighborhood hospitals with focus on a specific range of low acuity patient needs. However, the hospitals are committed to participating with partners in addressing these needs and will continue to look for opportunities to do so.

This report does not encompass a complete inventory of everything Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha do to support health within their community. To find a list of resources for each need not being addressed, please refer to Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha's 2022 CHNA: <https://healthcare.ascension.org/CHNA>.

Acute Community Concern Acknowledgement

A CHNA and IS offer a construct for identifying and addressing needs within the community(s) it serves. However, unforeseen events or situations, which may be severe and sudden, may affect a community. At Ascension, this is referred to as an acute community concern. This could describe anything from a health crisis (e.g., COVID-19), water poisoning, environmental events (e.g., hurricane, flood) or other event that suddenly impacts a community. If adjustments to an IS are necessary, the hospital will develop documentation to notify key stakeholders of possible adjustments.

Written Comments

This IS has been made available to the public and is open for public comment. Questions or comments about this report can be submitted via the website: <https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna>.



Approval and Adoption by the Board of Directors of Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha

To ensure Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha's efforts meet the needs of the community and have a lasting and meaningful impact, the 2022 Implementation Strategy was presented and adopted by the Board of Directors of Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha on May 8, 2023. Although an authorized body of the hospital must adopt the IS to be compliant with the provisions in the Affordable Care Act, adoption of the IS also demonstrates the board is aware of the IS, endorses the priorities identified and supports the action plans developed to address prioritized needs.

Action Plans

The IS below is based on prioritized needs from the hospitals' most recent CHNA. These strategies and action plans represent where the hospitals will focus their community efforts over the next three years. While these remain a priority, the hospitals will continue to offer additional programs and services to meet the needs of the community, with special attention to people who are living in poverty/with low income or otherwise made vulnerable.

Priority 1: Chronic Disease and Prevention	
Background	Chronic conditions are responsible for the majority of deaths in the United States (CDC, 2022). A healthy lifestyle reduces risk of several chronic diseases, risk factors and illnesses. However, not all people have equal access to healthy opportunities. For example, individuals with low income and some racial and ethnic minorities live farther from supermarkets, limiting their access to affordable and nutritious food (Healthy People 2030), and/or have built environments that otherwise worsen their quality of life (AJMC, 2022). This can contribute to disparities in chronic disease morbidity and mortality. Individuals with low income and some racial and ethnic minorities have higher rates of obesity and chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, high cholesterol/blood pressure and stroke. For example, in Wisconsin, the Black/African American death rate due to heart disease is 1.5 times higher than the overall rate and 12.4% of Hispanic adults report diabetes compared to 9.2% of White adults (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2021). Older adults are also disproportionately affected by chronic conditions, with 80% managing at least one chronic condition (CDC, 2011).
Objective	By 2026, the percentage of the population who lack adequate access to food in Waukesha County will decrease (baseline: 6%).
Healthy People 2030 Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NSW-01 - Reduce food insecurity and hunger ● NSW-03 - Reduce the proportion of adults with obesity ● HDS-01 - Improve cardiovascular health ● HDS-04 - Reduce the proportion of adults with high blood pressure (Healthy People 2030)
Collaborative Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current: Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital - Elmbrook Campus, Ascension Medical Group Wisconsin ● Potential: Schools, local food pantry, various community based organizations (CBOs), Hunger Task Force
Strategy 1: Implement Prevention and Detection Activities Within the Community	
Anticipated Impact	Increased access to healthy foods and increased education on the benefits of healthy eating for community members in Waukesha County.
Priority Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Families and individuals living in poverty and/or with low income; older adults

Resources Committed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff time donated to numerous organizations, cash donations to community organizations, education collateral, marketing resources, Neighborhood Resource 	
INITIATIVES	TACTICS
Engage and Educate Community Members about Health and Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contribute to community education sessions on healthy foods within the community, focusing on early interventions -Provide chronic disease support and prevention to groups that have been historically marginalized
Expand Opportunities for Community Members to be Engaged in Healthy Living Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Donate fresh produce and other healthy foods through various channels -Partner with/support community-based organizations (CBOs) to positively influence the social determinants of health related to chronic conditions
Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process outcomes of community engagement activities to respective tactics 	
Strategy 2: Provide Initiatives to Patients for Improved Chronic Disease Care and Prevention	
Anticipated Impact Increased access to healthy foods and increased education on the benefits of healthy eating for Ascension Wisconsin patients and associates.	
Priority Populations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients experiencing barriers to healthy foods, particularly those with low-income; patients who are under/uninsured; older adults 	
Resources Committed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff time, IT infrastructure for tracking, funding as needed for food support 	
INITIATIVES	TACTICS
Promote Screenings and Interventions for Chronic Disease Support and Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Connect food insecure patients with chronic conditions to condition-specific food, education and support -Improve standardized processes for healthy weight/BMI screenings and provide referrals to nutritionists and other resources as needed
Educate Patients and Associates about Healthy Living and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hold healthy living demonstrations in partnership with Ascension Wisconsin healthcare facilities, particularly around specific chronic conditions -Identify and address social factors that influence chronic conditions through screening and referral to mitigate social-related barriers
Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of patients screened Number of patients referred to support services Process outcomes to respective tactics 	

Evaluation

Ascension Wisconsin Hospital - Menomonee Falls and Waukesha will develop a comprehensive measurement and evaluation process for the implementation strategy. The hospitals 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 Wisconsin uses a tracking system to capture community benefit activities and implementation. To ensure accountability, data will be aggregated and reported on in the next CHNA.