

# Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin (OHOW)

**Implementation Strategy for the 2024 Tax Year CHNA  
Milwaukee County, WI**

**Prepared by Ascension Wisconsin**



**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.

**Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin, LLC  
39-2015655**

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The <authorized governing body approved the tax year 2024 Implementation Strategy on October 31, 2025 (2024 tax year) and applies to the following three-year cycle: July 2025 to June 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

### Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin



Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin (OHOW) is a specialty orthopedic hospital formed in 2001 as a joint venture between Columbia St. Mary's, Inc., part of Ascension Wisconsin, and Orthopaedic Group Joint Venture, LLC, a group of physician owners. After eight years in its initial location, Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin opened its current 30-bed, 10 operating room facility in 2009. Serving Milwaukee and surrounding counties, OHOW delivers comprehensive orthopedic care to its patients. The hospital provides

inpatient and outpatient surgical care, advanced diagnostic services and physical therapy for patients suffering from musculoskeletal injuries and pain. In addition to the main hospital location, OHOW also has eight outpatient physical therapy locations throughout the Milwaukee area.

### Physician-Owned Hospital Disclosure

Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin is partially owned by physicians and meets the federal definition of a "physician-owned hospital." A list of physician-owners is available upon request and we are happy to answer any questions you may have. For more information about Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin, visit <https://www.ohow.com/>.

## 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/>.

## 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, Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin used a phased prioritization approach to identify the needs of the Milwaukee County 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.

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, Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin used a process based upon the AHA Community Health Improvement's (ACHI) key components for prioritizing community health issues to identify the needs on which the hospitals would focus. Following the completion of the community health needs assessment, Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin leadership and stakeholders considered the following criteria in choosing the significant needs:

- Scope of problem
- Health disparities
- Feasibility
- Momentum/commitment
- Alignment

### Needs That Will Be Addressed

Following the completion of the current CHNA, Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin in collaboration with leadership from other Ascension hospitals in Milwaukee has selected the prioritized needs outlined below for its 2024 IS. Ascension has defined "prioritized need" as the significant need that the hospital has prioritized to address through the three-year CHNA cycle:

- **Chronic Conditions:** This need was selected because prevention is an important step towards 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 and orthopedic

injuries, lessening the need for medication or other treatments. This priority especially focuses on communities disproportionately affected by structural barriers that limit opportunities for healthy living.

Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin 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, Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin has focused its efforts on the above priority.

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

Based on the prioritization criteria, the health needs identified through the CHNA that Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin does not plan to address at this time include:

- **Access to Care:** This need was not selected because Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin has a commitment to and respect for each person's dignity with a special concern for those who struggle with barriers to access healthcare services and already provides financial assistance to certain individuals who receive medically necessary care from Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin.
- **Community Safety, Maternal & Child Mental Health and Substance Misuse:** These needs were not selected because Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin is a small specialty hospital with focus on a specific range of patient needs and these needs are outside the expertise, capacity and scope of services provided. However, Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin is committed to participating with partners in addressing these needs and will continue to look for opportunities to do so.
- **Economic Stability:** This need was not selected because Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin understands the relationship between economic factors such as housing, access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity and chronic conditions. Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin will consider how to support access to healthy foods and other economic factors in addressing chronic conditions, prevention and ensuring equity within our communities.
- **Healthy Living:** This need was not selected because Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin understands the interconnection between healthy living and chronic conditions. Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin will consider how to support healthy living such as nutrition, physical activity and healthy weight in addressing chronic conditions, particularly for populations with limited opportunities to engage in healthy living.

While these needs are not the focus of this Implementation Strategy, Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin 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 Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin does to support health within the community.

To find a list of resources for each need not being addressed, please refer to the Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin's 2024 CHNA: <https://healthcare.ascension.org/CHNA>.

## **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 the Authorizing Board of Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin, LLC**

To ensure the Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin'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 the authorizing board of Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin, LLC on October 31, 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: Health Promotion and Chronic Condition Prevention</b>   |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Hospital</b><br>Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin (OHOW)  |                                      |
| <b>Prioritized Health Need</b><br>Chronic Conditions   |                                      |
| <b>Objective</b><br>By the end of the three year cycle, Ascension Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin will have increased its participation and support for community-level access to healthy foods and health promotion education.                              |                                      |
| <b>Strategy</b><br>Promote/enhance access to nutritious foods to support overall health and well-being, thereby reducing the risk of chronic conditions  |                                      |
| <b>Collaborators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Hospital - Milwaukee Campus</li> <li>Milwaukee Health Care Partnership through Ascension Wisconsin</li> <li>Multiple community-based organizations (CBOs)</li> </ul> |                                      |
| <b>Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Ascension Wisconsin Milwaukee hospitals</li> <li>Various CBOs which focus on reducing stigma and providing community-level education on mental health and addiction.</li> </ul>                    |                                      |
| <b>ACTION STEPS</b>  | <b>ROLE/OWNER</b>                    |
| 1. Participate in and support community-level initiatives that promote healthy living and increase access to healthy foods.  | 1. Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin |
| 2. Increase access to prevention screenings and health education offered in the community  | 2. Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin |
| <b>ANTICIPATED IMPACT</b>  |                                      |
| A reduction in the burden of chronic health conditions and improved overall well-being of communities  |                                      |



## **Evaluation**

Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin 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. Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin uses a tracking system to capture community benefit activities and implementation.