

# Ascension Saint Joseph - Elgin

## FY23 Annual Hospital Community Benefits Plan Report



**Ascension**



**Ascension Saint  
Joseph**

The purpose of this report is to describe how the hospital meets the requirements outlined in the State of Illinois Community Benefits Act and Hospital Uninsured Patient Discount Act. This annual report of community benefits is public information, filed with the Attorney General and available to the public on request from the Attorney General.

**Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin**

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[healthcare.ascension.org](http://healthcare.ascension.org)

847-695-3200

Hospital EIN/Tax ID: 36-4195126

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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 persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable.

### **Ascension Saint Joseph**

As a Ministry of the Catholic Church, Ascension Saint Joseph is a non-profit hospital that provides medical care to Elgin and the surrounding communities. Ascension Saint Joseph is part of Ascension Illinois which operates 15 hospital campuses and 230 sites of care. The organization includes more than 600 providers as part of Ascension Medical Group, as well as 17,000 associates.

Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin has been meeting the health needs of Kane County residents for more than 110 years. Founded by the Franciscan Sisters, this acute care hospital continues to carry out its mission in the communities it serves. For more than a century, Ascension Saint Joseph has brought top medical care to the Fox River Valley. Our 184-bed, full-service hospital has been recognized for excellence in multiple specialties. We are known across the nation for our electrophysiology expertise, orthopedic surgery and our Cancer Care Center, which brings together board-certified doctors and specialists to provide the region's most advanced cancer treatment and rehabilitation.

For more information about Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin, visit [healthcare.ascension.org](https://healthcare.ascension.org).

### **Ascension Mission Statement**

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.

This statement was adopted on April 1, 2022.

## Community Benefits Report

### Community Benefits Provided

Below are the financial community benefits provided by the hospital during the fiscal year of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Total Financial Assistance (Emergency & Non-Emergency Care at cost)	<b>3,281,872</b>
Emergency Department Financial Assistance (at cost)	708,972
All other Community Benefits including: Government Sponsored Care, Language Assistance Services, Cash & In-Kind Donations, Health Professions Education, Research, Subsidized Health Services, Total Volunteer Services (employee & non-employee), other Government-Sponsored Program Services, Bad Debts, Other Community Benefits not detailed in the Annual Non-Profit Hospital Community Benefits Plan Report instructions.	\$25,348,281
<b>Total Community Benefits for Ascension Saint Joseph - Elgin</b>	<b>\$28,630,152</b>
<i>In addition to hospital community benefits, Ascension Illinois non-hospital entities provided \$321,475 in community benefits in the fiscal year.</i>	

### Other Benefits:

Listed above are “Other Community Benefits.” These are benefits not detailed in the Annual Non-Profit Hospital Community Benefits Plan Report instructions.

Other Community Benefits categories include Community Building Activities and Community Benefit Operations. The IRS 990 Schedule H instructions and the Catholic Health Association (CHA) publication, A Guide for Planning & Reporting Community Benefit, both identify these categories in their materials.

Listed below is the detail associated with these categories.

### Community-Building Activities

Community-building activities improve the community’s health and safety by addressing the root causes of health problems, such as poverty, homelessness and environmental hazards. These activities strengthen the community’s capacity to promote the health and well-being of its residents by

offering the expertise and resources of the health care organization. Costs for these activities include cash and in-kind donations and expenses for the development of a variety of programs and partnerships. This category includes activities such as:

- Physical improvements and housing
- Economic development
- Community support
- Environmental improvements
- Community leadership development & training
- Coalition building
- Advocacy for community health improvement & safety
- Workforce development

Community-building is documented on Part II of the IRS 990 Schedule H.

### **Community Benefit Operations**

Community benefit operations include costs associated with assigned staff and community health needs and/or assets assessments, as well as other costs associated with community benefit strategy and operations. This category includes items such as:

- Assigned staff
- Community health needs/health assets assessments
- Other resources

Community benefit operations are documents on Part 1 7a of the IRS 990 Schedule H.

## Financial Assistance

As part of our faith-based mission, Ascension Illinois is dedicated to helping the most vulnerable and treating everyone with compassion, dignity and respect. Financial assistance reflects our commitment to and reverence for individual human dignity and the common good, our special concern for and solidarity with persons living in poverty and other vulnerable persons, and our commitment to distributive justice and stewardship.

A copy of our Financial Assistance Policy can be found here:

[https://healthcare.ascension.org/-/media/healthcare/financial-assistance/illinois/fap/runningfile\\_ilchi\\_english\\_financial-assistance-policy.pdf](https://healthcare.ascension.org/-/media/healthcare/financial-assistance/illinois/fap/runningfile_ilchi_english_financial-assistance-policy.pdf)

During the fiscal year, Ascension Saint Joseph collected the following data on financial assistance applications:

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Approval and Denial Rates (Data for FY23)</i>	<i>Number of Applications</i>
Ascension Saint Joseph - Elgin	Total submitted (complete & incomplete)	151
	Approved	120
	Denied	31

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Financial Assistance Denial Reason (Data for time period of 7-1-22 thru 6-30-23)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Joseph - Elgin	Missing Supporting Documents	26
	Over Income	4
	Non-compliant with Medicaid	1
	Living outside service area	0
	Incomplete Application	0

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Joseph - Elgin	Female	54
	Not available	26
	Male	57
	Not Provided	14
	Transgender man/trans man/female-to-male	0

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Preferred Language</i>	<i>COUNTA of Last Name</i>
Ascension Saint Joseph - Elgin	NOT AVAILABLE	25

	NOT PROVIDED	61
	SPANISH	55
	ENGLISH	6
	URDU	1
	BURMESE	1
	MANDARIN	1
	TAGALOG	1
	ARMENIAN	0
	HINDI	0
	GUJARATI	0
	GREEK	0

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Joseph - Elgin	Not Provided	85
	Not Available	27
	White	29
	Black or African American	3
	Asian Indian	3
	Chinese	2
	Filipino	1
	other Asian	1

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Joseph - Elgin	Not Available	27
	Hispanic-Latino/a-or Spanish origin	29
	Not Provided	57
	Mexican-Mexican American-Chicano/a	23
	Another Hispanic-Latino/a or Spanish Origin	15



## Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA)

Federal law requires tax-exempt hospitals to conduct periodic Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) and adopt plans to meet assessed needs. In order to comply with federal tax-exemption requirements in the Affordable Care Act, a tax-exempt hospital facility must: 1) conduct a community health needs assessment every three years, 2) adopt an implementation strategy, and 3) report how identified needs not being addressed by the hospital are still being targeted by other community organizations.

Each Ascension Health hospital ministry follows the following guidelines for Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs):


- Each ministry will conduct a CHNA every three years by involving community partners and members representing diverse sectors within the community.
- There will be an annual review and update of the ministry’s CHNA Implementation Strategy highlighting the outcomes of community benefit programs that target prioritized needs.
- Monthly reporting of community benefit is required to local and system leadership.





Complete Community Health Needs Assessment reports for each hospital are made publicly available at: <https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna> and paper versions can be requested at Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin’s Administration Office.

## Prioritized Community Needs

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 Saint Joseph Elgin used a phased prioritization approach to identify the needs with the hospital community. The first step was to determine the broader set of identified needs. Through the CHNA assessment, identified needs were then narrowed to a set of significant needs which were determined most crucial for community stakeholders to address.

Following the completion of the CHNA assessment, significant needs were further narrowed down to a set of prioritized needs that the hospital will address within the implementation strategy. To arrive at the prioritized needs, Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin used the following process and criteria:

	<p>Scope of Problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How severe or prevalent is this issue in the community?</li> <li>• How many are impacted?</li> </ul>
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	<b>Disparities &amp; Equity:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there health disparities that exist?</li> <li>• Can we address those in an impactful way?</li> </ul>
	<b>Feasibility:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is our capacity to make progress (staffing resources, financial resources, other support, etc.)?</li> <li>• Are there known interventions that exist?</li> </ul>
	<b>Momentum:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there community readiness and/or political will to address this issue?</li> </ul>
	<b>Alignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we have community partners that we can align with on this issue?</li> <li>• Do we need to build new relationships?</li> </ul>

Preliminary community need prioritizations recommendations were presented to a group of internal and external stakeholders for their review. Recommendations were discussed and voted upon to determine the prioritized needs for the hospital community.

Following the completion of the current CHNA, Ascension Saint Joseph has selected the prioritized needs outlined below for its Implementation Strategy. Ascension has defined “prioritized needs” as the significant needs which have been prioritized by the hospital to address through the three-year CHNA cycle:

- **Behavioral Health (*Mental & Behavioral Health*)-**
  - From the secondary data scoring results, Behavioral Health was identified as a top health need in Kane County. This health topic includes mental health, mental health disorders, and substance abuse. There are several indicators in these topic areas that raise concern for Kane County. Compared to other counties in Illinois, Kane County has higher rates of hospitalizations and ER visits due to adult alcohol use. Teen alcohol and marijuana use, although decreasing in recent years, is also higher than most other counties in Illinois. Additionally, Kane County has higher liquor store density than most Illinois and U.S Counties. Mental Health and Mental Disorders was a top health need

from Community Survey, Focus Group, and Forces of Change Assessment participants (primary Data). Mental health care, mental health resources, and the availability of mental health providers were frequently cited as disproportionate to community need. Cost, availability of appointments, and navigation and/or knowledge about available services were all mentioned as barriers to care.

- **Access to Health Care Services (*Access to Care*) -**
  - From the secondary data scoring results, access to health services was identified to be a top health need in Kane County. Although Kane County's overall score in this area is relatively low, Kane County falls behind the State of Illinois and other counties for primary care provider rates, clinical care ranking, and adults with health insurance. Of note, the primary care provider rate is decreasing and the percentage of adults with health insurance is below both the Illinois state value and the Healthy People 2030 objective. Access to Health Services was a top health need identified from Community Survey, Focus Group, Forces of Change Assessment as well as Public Health System Assessment participants. Cost of care was a common barrier mentioned across these primary data sources. This included general cost to access care, lack of funds for purchasing needed medication as well as being uninsured or underinsured. Recent health facility closings and delays due to COVID-19 were also specifically mentioned as barriers to accessing care. The need for improved/increased culturally competent, accessible health care offered in languages that are spoken in the community was a theme that surfaced in the primary data as well. Cost and affordability were barriers.
- **Immunizations & Infectious Disease (*Communicable Diseases*) -**
  - From the secondary data scoring results, Immunizations & Infectious Diseases were identified to be a top health need in Kane County. The secondary data reveal that sexually transmitted infections (STIs), specifically syphilis and chlamydia, are on the rise in Kane County. Additionally, Kane county's vaccination rates for pneumonia among adults are among the worst in Illinois. Overcrowding in households, which has been shown to ease transmission of infectious diseases like COVID-19, is of concern in Kane County as well.
- **Nutrition, Exercise & Weight (*Diet & Exercise*) -**
  - From the secondary data scoring results, Exercise, Nutrition, & Weight was identified to be a top health need in Kane County. Access to grocery stores and healthy foods are important for decreasing risk of chronic diseases, such as obesity and heart disease, and also help improve mental health. Although the overall topic score for exercise, nutrition, and weight was low for Kane County, Kane County falls behind in some important indicators under this topic. Namely, Kane County is among the worst in Illinois and the U.S. for SNAP certified stores, children with access to grocery stores, and grocery store density. Existing and increasing food insecurity due to COVID-19, access to healthy foods, and poor nutrition were all nutritional themes from primary data. Obesity and its contribution to chronic disease among residents in Kane County was of concern

as well. Additionally, sedentary lifestyles and lack of exercise were also common points of discussion. The South Planning Area had a higher percentage of respondents who reported this food insecurity challenge (34.0%) compared to Kane County at 30.6%. The Northern and Central Planning Areas fell under the Kane County value at 27.2% and 27.0% respectively.

Ascension Saint Joseph - Elgin understands the importance of all the health needs of the community and is committed to playing an active role in improving the health of the people in the communities it serves. For the purposes of this implementation strategy, Ascension Saint Joseph - Elgin has chosen to focus its efforts on the priorities listed above.

### **Acute Community Concern Acknowledgement**

A CHNA and Implementation Strategies (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. In which case, if adjustments to an IS are necessary, the hospital will develop documentation, in the form of a SBAR (Situation-Background-Assessment-Response) evaluation summary, to notify key internal and external stakeholders of those possible adjustments.

### **Written Comments**

This annual report 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 email:

[ilarl.communitybenefit@ascension.org](mailto:ilarl.communitybenefit@ascension.org)

## Community Implementation Strategies

These strategies and action plans represent where the hospital will focus its community efforts over the next three years, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024. While these remain a priority, the hospital will continue to offer additional programs and services to meet the needs of the community, with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable.

### Behavioral Health Strategy:

1. Provide access to substance use disorder advocate services for Saint Joseph Elgin community residents.
2. Continue offering Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainings for Saint Joseph Elgin community residents.

### Ascension Saint Joseph's Role:

#### Substance Use Disorder Advocate Services

Saint Joseph Elgin will begin providing substance use disorder advocate services to community residents. This program will enable the Saint Joseph Elgin behavioral health services team to better address substance use disorder needs by screening and assessing individuals for needed services and community resources.

#### Mental Health First Aid

Saint Joseph Elgin and its community partners will continue to offer Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training to the community. MHFA trainings aim to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and improve the coordination of mental health care. MHFA trains community residents and first responders to recognize, respond, and seek assistance for signs of mental illness and substance abuse.

### Key Collaborators Or Resources:

- Kane Health Counts Executive Committee • Kane Health Counts Behavioral Health Action Team • Saint Joseph Elgin Behavioral Health Services • Ecker Center for Behavioral Health Services • Renz Addiction Counseling Centers • Community-Based Organizations • Local Physicians • Faith Institutions • Elgin School Districts • City of Elgin First Responders

### Anticipated Impact:

- Increased access to substance use disorder services • Increased mental health education for professionals and community members • Increased knowledge of substance use disorder services and mental health education

### Measured Impact:

#### Substance Use Disorder Advocate Services

- Total Number of Individuals Served • Total Payor Mix Percentage • Report REaL (Race, Ethnicity and Language) data

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Trainings • Total Number of Participants Completing MHFA Training • Increased Knowledge for > 80% of Participants • Total Number of MHFA Workshops • Report REaL (Race, Ethnicity and Language) data

**Next Steps:**

- Establish substance use disorder advocate services committee • Establish substance use disorder advocate services timeline • Identify potential community partners for referrals • Identify target audiences for trainings including virtual and hybrid offerings • Establish MHFA calendar of training including dates, times, locations. • Promote availability of training within target audiences. • Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes. • Report REaL (Race, Ethnicity and Language) data

**Access to Care Strategy:**

1. Begin offering the Dispensary of Hope program to Saint Joseph Elgin community residents in need of medication assistance.
2. Continue offering Diabetes Prevention Program education to Saint Joseph Elgin community residents at risk for Type 2 diabetes or with pre-diabetes.
3. Continue to provide assistance for individuals identified as potentially eligible for public health insurance coverage by facilitating their application for government-sponsored healthcare coverage.

**Ascension Saint Joseph’s Role:**

**Dispensary of Hope Program**

Saint Joseph Elgin will begin to offer the Dispensary of Hope program. This program delivers critical medicine-free of cost- to individuals who need it most but cannot afford it. This is a free pharmacy program for low income or uninsured individuals.

**A-List Diabetes Prevention Program**

Saint Joseph Elgin will continue to offer the Prevent T2 Diabetes program to the community. This program offers education on prevention skills for those at risk for Type 2 diabetes.

**Public Health Insurance Assistance Enrollment Services**

Saint Joseph Elgin will continue to provide assistance for public healthcare coverage enrollment.

**Key Collaborators Or Resources:**

- Kane Health Counts Executive Committee • Kane Health Counts Access to Health Care Action Team
- Kane County Health Department • Saint Joseph Elgin Pharmacy Services • Saint Joseph Elgin Diabetes & Nutrition Services • Local Physicians • Federally Qualified Health Centers (Greater Family Health) • Community-Based Organizations • Faith Institutions

**Anticipated Impact:**

- Increased access to medications • Increased access to diabetes prevention education services and

resources • Increased enrollment of eligible individuals for public healthcare coverage

**Measured Impact:**

Dispensary of Hope • Total Number of Individuals Served • Total Number of Prescriptions Filled • Report REaL (Race, Ethnicity and Language) data

Diabetes Prevention Program • Total Number of Individuals Served • Total Number of Participants with 5-7% Weight Loss • Percent of Participants Who Complete 150 Minutes of Weekly Exercise • Report REaL (Race, Ethnicity and Language) data

Public Health Insurance Assistance Enrollment Services • Total Number of Individuals Enrolled

**Next Steps:**

• Identify community partners for Dispensary of Hope program referrals • Increase use of Social Media to help promote Dispensary of Hope program • Identify target audiences for DPP workshops including virtual and hybrid • Promote availability of DPP program to target audiences • Identify locations, events, organizations to host PHI assistance enrollment services • Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes

**Immunizations & Infectious Disease Strategy:**

1. Offer access to immunization services for Saint Joseph Elgin community residents.
2. Establish support for partnerships, programs, events, projects and initiatives that address immunizations and infectious disease within the Saint Joseph Elgin community.

**Ascension Saint Joseph’s Role:**

**Vax Support Services**

Saint Joseph Elgin will provide leadership, advocacy and in-kind vaccinator support services for vaccination clinics in the community.

**Flu Fighter Program**

Saint Joseph Elgin will provide influenza vaccination clinics that are accessible for poor and vulnerable individuals in the most underserved communities. The Flu Fighter program offers influenza vaccination clinics that are accessible in the community.

**Key Collaborators Or Resources:**

• Kane Health Counts Executive Committee • Kane Health Counts Immunization & Infectious Disease Action Team • Kane County Health Department • Saint Joseph Elgin Community Health Services • State Senator Cristina Castro • Community-Based Organizations • Food Pantries: Food for Greater Elgin and Salvation Army • Faith Institutions (Second Baptist Church, Elgin Adventist Church) • Elgin School Districts( U-46)

**Anticipated Impact:**

• Increased access to immunization services • Increased number of vaccines administered to poor and vulnerable individuals • Prevention of infectious disease • Improved health status

**Measured Impact:**

• Total number of Influenza Vaccines Administered • Total number of Vaccination Clinics Offered • Total number of Vaccine Types Administered • Report REaL (Race, Ethnicity and Language) data

**Next Steps:**

1. Establish Flu Vaccination Committee. 2. Identify target audiences for Flu Vaccination Clinics in the community. 3. Identify Community Partners to host Flu Vaccination Clinics (health fairs, faith institutions, food pantries, social service organizations, schools) 4. Identify internal resources for supporting community requests 5. Establish Flu Vaccination Clinics calendar of events.

**Nutrition, Exercise & Weight Strategy:**

1. Increase opportunities for community members in the Saint Joseph Elgin community to access Nutrition, Exercise & Weight resources.

2. Establish support for partnerships, programs, events, projects and initiatives that address Nutrition, Exercise & Weight resources.

**Ascension Saint Joseph’s Role:**
**Backpack Program**

Saint Joseph Elgin will partner with Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) to provide food access for children and families in the Saint Joseph community and school districts. This program provides backpacks filled with food for children & families to have access to food during the weekends.

**Elgin Farmers Markets**

Saint Joseph Elgin will continue its partnership with the Downtown Elgin Association to increase access to fresh produce targeting SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) recipients.

**Blessing Box Micro-Pantry**

Saint Joseph Elgin will continue providing food access to community members through the micro pantry.

**Key Collaborators Or Resources:**

• Kane Health Counts Executive Committee • Kane Health Counts Nutrition, Exercise & Weight (N.E.W) Action Team • Kane County Health Department • Saint Joseph Elgin Community Health Services • Saint Joseph Elgin Weight Loss Solutions Services • Saint Joseph Elgin Diabetes & Nutrition Services • Community-Based Organizations • Northern Illinois Food Bank • Elgin School District (U-46) • Elgin Food Pantries: Food for Greater Elgin & Salvation Army • Downtown Neighborhood Association



**Anticipated Impact:**

• Increased access to healthy food • Reduce food insecurity

**Measured Impact:**

Backpack Program • Total Number of Families Served • Total Pounds of Food Provided

Elgin Farmers Markets: • Total Number Served • Total LINK Card Users Served • Total Number LINK-SNAP Benefits Spent • Total Number Nutrition, Exercise & Weight Education Toolkits

Blessing Box Micro-Pantry • Total Number of Meals Provided • Total Pounds of Food Provided

**Next Steps:**

1. Establish a Food Access Committee. 2. Identify target individuals/families for the school backpack program. 3. Establish a Calendar of Events for Elgin Farmers Markets activities and health education topics. 4. Establish food-drive event dates and potential community partners to support micro-pantry

Complete Implementation Strategy reports for each hospital are made publicly available at:

<https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna> and paper versions can be requested at Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin's Administration Office.

## Community Implementation Strategy & Health Equity Progress

During the fiscal year, the following was progress achieved on its implementation strategies or other activities the hospital is undertaking to address health equity, reduce health disparities and improve community health. Please note this list is not intended to be comprehensive of all activities the hospital is undertaking, but to highlight initiatives of interest.

Community Need:	Strategy & Progress
Behavioral Health	<p>Strategy: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) &amp; Mental Health First Aid Training</p> <p>Progress: During the tax year, in partnership with the Gateway Foundation, a warm hand-off program began which resulted in 98 patients screened for treatment, 47 accepting referrals and 28 keeping treatment plans. During FY23, promotion of the availability of the Mental Health First Aid Training continued but yielded no trainings.</p>
Access to Health Services	<p>Strategy: Dispensary of Hope Program, Diabetes Prevention, Public Health Insurance Assistance</p> <p>Progress: During the tax year, it was determined to offer a 340b and Pharmacotherapy program in lieu of the Dispensary of Hope Program at the Elgin pharmacy, in which 402 persons were provided with medication assistance. The Diabetes Prevention Program was sunset during the tax year due to financial recovery efforts and the closure of the hospital's Center for Diabetic Wellness. Patients and community members were referred to local community diabetes education programs. During the tax year, in partnership with Advocatia, Saint Joseph hosted on-site enrollment navigators for three community events as well as 231 persons were educated on health care and health related social need options.</p>
Immunizations & Infectious Disease	<p>Strategy: Vax Support, Flu Fighter Program</p> <p>Progress: During the tax year, 418 persons were provided with a free flu vaccine at 12 community clinics that were provided by the hospital to underserved communities. There were no additional requests for vaccine support during the tax year.</p>
Nutrition, Exercise & Weight	<p>Strategy: Backpack Program, Elgin Farmers Market, Blessing Box Micro Pantry</p> <p>Progress: During the tax year, the backpack program served 206 children and their families with 144,200 pounds of food. 975 persons were assisted with free produce at the Elgin Farmers</p>

	<p>Markets including 210 Link (SNAP) card users. The Elgin Blessing Box Micro Pantry provided 3,097 meals in FY23.</p>
<p>Community Support (Investing)</p>	<p>Strategy: Allocation of Giving to Prioritized Community Needs          Progress: Through the adoption of a market-wide policy in early 2022, goals were established for FY22 to ensure outgoing restricted cash donations were being invested with community organizations addressing the hospital community’s top prioritized needs from the most recent Community Health Needs Assessments. The market-level goal for all of Ascension Illinois was 60% of outgoing community support would be assisting with prioritized needs and providing a community benefit. In FY22, ninety-three percent of Saint Joseph’s outgoing community support were community benefit.</p>
<p>Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion (DEI)</p>	<p>Strategy: ABIDE Framework          Progress: At Ascension, the ABIDE (Appreciation - Belongingness - Inclusivity - Diversity - Equity) framework is used to help uncover what we need to review, dismantle, or rebuild in our policies, practices and ways of working so that we can eliminate what contributes to or perpetuates disparities, and inequities, including systemic racism. This work is ongoing and begins with leadership commitment through words and actions.</p> <p>The Ascension Illinois ABIDE Engagement Committee was formed, including representatives from each hospital and major operational function. This Committee met monthly throughout FY22 and engaged in group activities and training to support members’ work as ambassadors for ABIDE in their respective roles.</p> <p>During FY22, ABIDE ministry councils were implemented at the hospital level to ensure integration and alignment with the Ascension Illinois ABIDE Engagement Committee and with Ascension national strategic direction, our Mission and Values and our Essential Behaviors within our organizations.</p> <p>Each hospital ABIDE council focuses on cultural/workforce related initiatives, patient/consumer related initiatives, supplier/partner diversity related initiatives and community related initiatives.</p> <p>Strategy: Cultural Training          Progress: In FY22, Ascension developed a training module on</p>

	<p>Psychological Safety in support of our rollout of ABIDE. Psychological safety is a necessary component of fostering meaningful diversity and inclusion. Over 300 leaders at Ascension IL have taken this training. Additionally, there is a training module on implicit bias and ABIDE in Ascension Illinois' required for new hire and annual training. In addition, the Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Language Services provided multiple ad hoc, small group trainings on topics including fostering workplace inclusivity, cultural humility, health equity, and birth equity upon request. In total, over 400 associates attended these training sessions in person or virtually.</p>
<p>Diverse &amp; Local Purchasing</p>	<p>Strategy: Diverse Procurement Spend          Progress: In FY22 Ascension Illinois established a goal to increase its procurement spend with diverse vendors. Diverse spend FY22 baseline was \$15,753,949. Ascension Illinois collaborates with West Side United and the Illinois Hospital Association Supplier Diversity Task Force to identify diverse vendors providing products or services that we purchase. We work with our procurement partner, The Resource Group, and Ascension subsidiary companies that manage construction, environmental services and food services to identify opportunities to redirect any existing spend to diverse vendors. Several major capital projects were launched in FY21 and FY22 which presented opportunities to direct new construction spending to diverse firms. Several non-construction opportunities were also identified that are being pursued.</p>
<p>Diverse &amp; Local Hiring</p>	<p>Strategy: Associate Perceptions Survey &amp; Organizational Assessment          Progress: Ascension Illinois participated in an associate experience survey conducted to Ascension specifically designed to assess associate perceptions of the five ABIDE hallmarks within our organization. Responses were analyzed by various demographic categories, including race, ethnicity, gender, geography and job type. Areas of strength and opportunities for improvement were identified and action plans were being developed.</p> <p>Ascension Illinois conducted an organizational assessment and analysis to look at associate promotion and turnover rates by</p>

	<p>race and ethnicity. Based on this analysis, Ascension Illinois reviewed and changed policies related to associate tardiness during the first 90 days.</p> <p>Ascension Illinois is committed to a diverse workforce that reflects the communities that we serve. In FY22 we initiated multiple talent acquisition strategies, including posting Nursing positions on diverse websites to recruit African American, Hispanic and Asian nurses.</p>
<p>Community Support (Investing)</p>	<p>Strategy: Allocation of Giving to Prioritized Community Needs          Progress: Through the adoption of a market-wide policy in early 2022, goals were established for FY22 to ensure outgoing restricted cash donations were being invested with community organizations addressing the hospital community's top prioritized needs from the most recent Community Health Needs Assessments. The market-level goal for all of Ascension Illinois was 60% of outgoing community support would be assisting with prioritized needs and providing a community benefit. In FY22, sixty-two percent of Saint Mary's outgoing donations were community benefit.</p>

## Appendix

### Hospital Net Patient Revenue Report

<b>Ascension Illinois</b>	
<b>Net Revenue</b>	
<b>For the Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2023</b>	
	<b>SJ-E</b>
Net Patient Service Revenue	\$129,830,599
Add Back Charity	\$20,663,021
<b>AG Reported Net Patient Service Revenue</b>	<b>\$150,493,620</b>