

Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet

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 Joliet

333 North Madison Street, Joliet, IL 60435

healthcare.ascension.org

815-725-7133

Hospital EIN/Tax ID: 36-4195126

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Introduction	3
Ascension Saint Joseph	3
Ascension Mission Statement	4
Community Benefits Report	4
Community Benefits Provided	4
Financial Assistance	6
Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA)	8
Prioritized Community Needs	9
Community Implementation Strategies	12
Community Implementation Strategy & Health Equity Progress	20
Appendix	24
Hospital Net Patient Revenue Report	24

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 Joliet 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 has been meeting the health needs of Joliet and the Will County area for over 130 years. Founded by the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, the Medical Center continues to carry out its mission. Located in the heart of the southern suburbs, 480- bed Saint Joseph Medical Center provides many advanced health care services including Neurosurgical Services, Open-Heart Surgery Program, Cancer Care, Level II Emergency/Trauma Center, Family Birthing Suites, Level II Special Care Nursery, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Rehabilitation Services, Behavioral Health Services and Sleep Disorder Center.

For more information about Ascension Saint Joseph Joliet, visit 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)	\$8,929,756
Emergency Department Financial Assistance (at cost)	\$1,927,617
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.	\$37,219,725
Total Community Benefits for Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet	\$46,149,480,
<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

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 - Joliet	Total submitted (complete & incomplete)	169
	Approved	131
	Denied	38

<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 - Joliet	Missing Supporting Documents	29
	Over Income	6
	Non-compliant with Medicaid	3
	Incomplete Application	0
	Living out of service area	0

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet	Not available	74
	Female	38
	Male	42
	Not Provided	15

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Preferred Language</i>	<i>COUNTA of Last Name</i>
Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet	NOT AVAILABLE	72
	NOT PROVIDED	53

	SPANISH	18
	ENGLISH	22
	FRENCH	1
	GREEK	1
	IGBO	1
	TWI	1

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet	Not Available	77
	White	47
	Not Provided	38
	Black or African American	5
	Asian Indian	0
	Filipino	2
	Vietnamese	0

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet	Not Provided	68
	Not Available	76
	Hispanic-Latino/a-or Spanish origin	13
	Mexican-Mexican American-Chicano/a	11
	Another Hispanic-Latino/a or Spanish Origin	0
	Puerto Rican	1

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 Joliet’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 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 used the following process and criteria:

	<p>Scope of Problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How severe or prevalent is this issue in the community? • How many are impacted?
---	--

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

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:

- **Access to Care** (*Access to Care*): Data from the community input survey respondents listed lack of resources or access to resources as a top concern. Nearly 22 percent of survey respondents report seeking emergency department care when in need of healthcare instead of through primary care physician or community clinic. Stakeholders provided feedback that improvement is needed in the area of literacy, including health literacy, among socially vulnerable populations. Health insurance is the primary way that individuals access the healthcare system in the United States with 91% having insurance in Will County. Populations with lower insured percentages include males, African-American/Black, Asian, and other races as well as those with Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. The geographic locations for those most uninsured are the

following zip codes: 60432, 60433, 60484. The 60432 and 60433 zip codes are federally designated as a health professional shortage area. The provider ratios per population in Will County for primary care, mental health and dental care are worse than state ratios, which increase access to care issues for those who are uninsured and those with higher health related social needs. There are 91 dentists in Will County that accept Medicaid, which equals a rate of less than one dentist per 1,000 population of Medicaid beneficiaries.

- **Access to Food and Nutrition** (*SDoH - Food Insecurity*): 33% of adults in Will County are obese, which is slightly higher than state & national percentages. 26% of adults report no leisure-time physical activity. 7% of the population are low income and also do not live close to a grocery store compared to 5% in the rest of Illinois. 16% of adults report fair or poor health in Will County. 10% of adults aged 20 and above have been diagnosed with diabetes, which is similar to state percentages. Data from the community input survey respondents listed lack of resources or access to resources as a top concern. Stakeholder feedback indicated there is a need for increased and continued advocacy for funding human services and socially vulnerable.
- **Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse** (*Mental & Behavioral Health*): Data from the community input survey respondents ranked depression/anxiety disorders, tobacco use and other mental health issues at the top concern in their home. Within the community, survey respondents ranked illegal drugs and prescription drug misuse at the most common concerns. Concerns over lack of local mental health services within the county was also a concern. The rate of Will County population to mental health providers is 680 population to one provider. This is significantly less than the Illinois ratio and national ratio. Adults who report excessive drinking (21%) is less than state and national percentages, however, alcohol-impaired driving deaths in Will County are much higher at 31% compared to Illinois and the United States.
- **Workforce Development** (*SDoH - Education*): Data from the community input survey respondents listed lack of good paying jobs as a top concern. Stakeholders also provided feedback that there is a need for increased educational opportunities, jobs, workforce and employment opportunities in the county. Stakeholders also shared there is a need to re-build, stabilize and grow the public health and health care workforce as well as diversify. Poverty is a key driver of health status. Populations with the highest poverty include zip codes 60433, 60432, 60436 as well as persons who are African-American/Black, Other Race or of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. There was a higher unemployment rate among: males, Hispanic/Latinx population, Black or African American population and in the 16-19 years age group. Also in zip codes 60433, 60484, 60468.t.

Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet 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 - Joliet 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

Community Implementation Strategies

These strategies and action plans represent where the hospital will focus its community efforts over the next three years, July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. 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.

STRATEGY: Community Wellness & Outreach	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet	
Prioritized Health Need Access to Care (<i>Access to Care</i>)	
Strategy Provide access to health screenings and health education in the hospital community.	
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Wellness Programs Local Community Based Organization (CBO) Support and Partnerships Medical Mission at Home 	
Objective By June 30, 2026, there will be increased access to health screenings and education for the community.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Population: SJ-J community residents Medically Underserved Population: Uninsured and underinsured individuals, high risk populations 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborators: Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, Park Districts, Educational Institutions, 	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-kind staff time, funding/cash donations to community organizations, education collateral, training, screenings, other materials or clinical services. 	
ACTION STEPS:	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint internal lead for this strategy.	Ascension Saint Joseph -Joliet, Community Benefit, Community Health
Identify internal resources for supporting community wellness programming	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health
Identify external partners serving low-income and/or at risk persons that need community health screening and health education services	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health, VNA, Will Grundy Medical Clinic, Aunt Martha's
Promote availability of health screenings and health education events within target audiences and community partners	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health

Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health, Community Benefit
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY23 Data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase number of community health education occurrences from baseline ○ Increase number of community screening opportunities from baseline ● Data Source; Data Owner: CBISA, Community Health 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase screenings and wellness activities in the community.	

STRATEGY: Insurance & Social Care Enrollment Services	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet	
Prioritized Health Need Access to Care (<i>Access to Care</i>)	
Strategy Provide access to free education and enrollment services for health insurance and other benefits.	
Strategy Source Advocatia	
Objective BY June 30, 2026, there will be an increase of enrollment services from FY23 baseline.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: Adults, children, and immigrants ● Medically Underserved Population: Uninsured and underinsured individuals 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaborators: Community Based Organizations, Faith-Based Organizations, ● Consultants: Advocatia 	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In-kind staff time, funding/cash donations to community organizations, education collateral, training, screenings, other materials. 	
ACTION STEPS:	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint internal lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Benefit, Community Health
Promote awareness of services via flyers, social media, Ascension, Community Benefit and Community partner newsletters with target audiences, both internal and external	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Benefit, Community Health
Identify external partners that can connect to populations needing education and enrollment in insurance or other social needs programs.	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Benefit, Community Health

Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Benefit, Community Health
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY23 Data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase persons enrolled in health care coverage from baseline ○ Increase persons educated on enrollment coverage from baseline ○ Increase persons enrolled in social needs programs (SNAP, WIC, utility assistance, others) from baseline. ● Data Source; Data Owner: Advocatia 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to healthcare and social services for individuals who are underinsured or uninsured.	

STRATEGY: Food Access Partnerships & Food Insecurity Data Collection	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet	
Prioritized Health Need Access to Food and Nutrition (<i>SDoH - Food Insecurity</i>)	
Strategy Increase food access for food insecure individuals within the hospital community.	
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health Related Social Needs (HRSNs) Screenings ● Micro Pantry ● Mobile Food Pantries 	
Objective By June 30, 2026, there will be an increase of food access programs for the hospital community including Ascension associates, patients, and the community at-large.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: Older adults, children, and immigrants; individuals experiencing homelessness or poverty. ● Medically Underserved Population: Individuals experiencing food insecurity 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaborators: Northern Illinois Food Bank, ● Consultants: Touchpoint, Ascension Illinois Food Access and Nutrition Workgroup 	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In-kind staff time, funding/cash donations to support programs, education collateral, training, other materials. 	
ACTION STEPS:	ROLE/OWNER

Appoint internal lead(s) for strategy.	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Benefit, Community Health
Participate in Ascension Illinois Food Access and Nutrition Workgroup	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health
Partner with food bank or other partners to increase mobile food banks within hospital community	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health
Promote mobile food banks with target populations	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health
Providing funding and support for mobile food banks	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health
Continue to identify food resources for micro pantry via hosted food drives, donations and other methods	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health; Touchpoint
Review SDoH data collected in EHR system related to food needs	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Benefit, Community Health
Refine programs based on new data sources from EHR	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Benefit, Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Benefit, Community Health, Touchpoint
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY23 Data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase total number of individuals served by food access programs from baseline ○ Increase total number of meals provided from baseline ○ Increase total pounds of food provided from baseline ○ Increase cash donations provided to food access organizations from baseline ● Data Source; Data Owner: CBISA, Northern Illinois Food Bank, EHR 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to food for those in need.	

STRATEGY: Mental Health Education
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet
Prioritized Health Need Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse
Strategy Mental Health Education and Awareness
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training ● C3 Mental Health Awareness Training

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other MH Trainings 	
Objective By June 30, 2026, there will be an increase in the MH training participants of FY23 baseline.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Population: community residents, including ASJ associates and physicians, those working with teen students in junior high and high school. Medically Underserved Population: Teen and Adult individuals experiencing mental health issues. 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborators: Community-based organizations, Faith-based institutions, Schools, First Responders, Government, Business community Consultants: Americorps; Ascension BH Service Line Services 	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and mental health education; funding for consultants and materials. 	
ACTION STEPS:	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint internal lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Joseph -Joliet; Community Benefit, Community Health
Promote awareness of the MH trainings via flyers, social media, Ascension and Community Partner newsletters	Ascension Saint Joseph -Joliet, Community Benefit, Community Health
Identify internal staff that need MH training	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Identify external partners that need MH training	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Establish calendar of MH trainings for virtual and/or hybrid offerings including dates, times, and locations	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Promote availability of MH training within target audiences	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health,
Host MH training for internal and external partners	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline: FY23 Data Target: Increase the total number of individuals that received MH training from baseline. Data Source; Data Owner: Mental Health First Aid; C3 MHAT; Other Trainings; Americorps; BH Training Facilitators 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to Mental Health education and resources.	

STRATEGY: Access to Substance Use Disorder Resources

Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet	
Prioritized Health Need Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse	
Strategy Provide a warm hand-off program for patients in need of access to SUD treatment. Develop a partnership with Joliet Fire Department and Thriveworks.	
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm Hand-off Program • Community Health Collaborations 	
Objective By June 30, 2026, provide warm hand-off services for SUD patients that present in the ED and medical floors. By June 30, 2023 develop partnership with Joliet Fire Department and Thriveworks to increase access to mental health services for underserved residents.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target Population: ASJ - Joliet community residents in need of substance use disorder services and resources. • Medically Underserved Population: Individuals experiencing mental health issues; persons experiencing poverty and/or homelessness. 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborators: Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health; Other SUD community providers; Emergency Medicine; Care Management; Joliet Fire Department, City of Joliet • Vendors: Family Guidance Center; Thriveworks 	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborator space within or near Emergency setting; funding for partnership. 	
ACTION STEPS:	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint or re-appoint an internal lead for each strategy.	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet; Emergency Medicine; Care Management
Evaluation and update workflows (as necessary) that allow for warm-handoffs.	Ascension Saint Joseph - Chicago, Emergency Department, Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health Service Line; Vendors
Initiate partnership between hospital, fire department and vendor.	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet; Strategy Lead(s)
Establish agreement for partnership.	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet; Strategy Lead(s)
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet; Strategy Lead(s), Community Benefit
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s)	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: TBD (FY23 Baseline for Warm Hand Off; no baseline for Thriveworks partnership) ● Target: Increase from baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ # of patients screened for Substance Use Disorders treatment ○ # of patients provided treatment ○ # of vouchers provided ○ # of vouchers redeemed ● Data Source; Data Owner:
ANTICIPATED IMPACT
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to substance use disorder services and community resources for individuals in need.

STRATEGY: Workforce Development Programs & Partnerships	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet	
Prioritized Health Need Workforce Development (<i>SDoH - Education</i>)	
Strategy Increase educational opportunities and workforce development programs within the community.	
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Collaborations and Partnerships ● Internship Programs ● Scholarships 	
Objective BY June 30, 2026, there will be an increase of workforce programs within the community.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: Young adults, teens, Ascension associates ● Medically Underserved Population: Persons experiencing poverty, persons otherwise vulnerable; historically marginalized communities. 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaborators: Will County Workforce Investment Board, Will County Heros, Will County Center for Economic Development (CED), local colleges and universities, local middle and high schools ● Consultants: Ascension Human Resources 	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In-kind staff time, funding/cash donations to support programs, education collateral, training, other materials. 	
ACTION STEPS:	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint internal lead(s) for this strategy	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Benefit, Community Health
Form internal committee focused on workforce development	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health, Nursing, HR, Volunteer Services, Other Allied Health

Identify community partners (new and existing) to collaborate on workforce development initiatives.	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health, internal committee
Implement workforce development programs	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Health, internal committee
Provide community investments for scholarships	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Investment Review Committee
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Joseph - Joliet, Community Benefit, Community Health
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY23 Data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase number of individuals participating in workforce development programs or partnerships ● Data Source; Data Owner: CBISA, Other data sources TBD 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased workforce opportunities for adults and youth within the hospital community.	

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 Joliet’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 & Substance Abuse	<p>Strategy: Mental Health First Aid Trainings Progress: During the tax year, Saint Joseph continued reaching out to external partners to host trainings which resulted in one training for youth mental health first aid.</p> <p>Strategy: Warm Hand-Off Program Progress: During the tax year, Saint Joseph continued to partner with Family Guidance Center to offer an on-site certified alcohol and drug counselor to assist the patients and community with treatment options. This program targets those who are uninsured and the Medicaid populations. 326 persons were screened for treatment, provided with referral resources and scheduled for treatment.</p>
Access to Health Care	<p>Strategy: Partnerships with Will-Grundy Medical Center and Aunt Martha’s Health and Wellness Progress: During the tax year, the hospital continued to meet with Aunt Martha’s to enhance care coordination and referrals of patients needing a medical home. On average, 43% of appointments scheduled are kept. The partnership began tracking new metrics late in the tax year and discussed different hospital programs that can be extended to clinic patients such as Diabetes Education and Food Access Pantry Program. The hospital also continued to provide financial support of \$50,000 to the Will-Grundy Medical Clinic, a free and charitable clinic. Annually, the Clinic provides free care to vulnerable persons including diagnostic and surgical care coordination at a value of over \$10 million.</p>
Access to Food & Nutrition	<p>Strategy: Rx Mobile Food Pantries & Micro Pantry Progress: During the tax year, Saint Joseph continued to partner with Northern Illinois Food Bank to assist those in need through the My Pantry Express (MPX) referral program. During the tax year 534 patients were screened and 58 patients who tested positive for food insecurity were given access to the MPX</p>

	<p>program. Additionally, the hospital continued to offer the 24/7 emergency micro pantry to the community. The pantry served 5,437 meals during the tax year.</p>
<p>Stabilization of the Built Environment</p>	<p>Strategy: Health and Housing Collaboration Progress: During the tax year, after a hiatus due to the pandemic, work began again to establish a strategic health and housing collaborative among the hospital and other key community organizations. Additionally, through collaboration, the hospital made key community linkages to assist persons experiencing homelessness post discharge. Saint Joseph continues to be an active participant in meetings and in advancing the collaborative work on homelessness.</p>
<p>Community Support (Investing)</p>	<p>Strategy: Standardization of Community Investment Alignment Progress: Guidelines for community investment criteria to guide outgoing contributions to the community were established across Ascension hospitals late in the fiscal year that became effective July 1, 2023. A system-wide goal of 90% of all community investments must align with at least two of six criteria points including: Strategic Priority, Community Health Needs Assessments, Social Determinants of Health, Identified health disparities within the community, health equity improvement and Laudato Si’ environmental improvements.</p>
<p>Diversity, Equity & 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 FY23 and engaged in group activities and training to support members’ work as ambassadors for ABIDE in their respective roles.</p> <p>During FY23, established ABIDE ministry councils at the hospital level ensured integration and alignment with the Ascension Illinois ABIDE Engagement Committee and with Ascension</p>

	<p>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 Trainings Progress: In FY23, Ascension developed and implemented the training module: ABIDE in Action Exploring Equitable Interactions in Healthcare. Over 400 leaders at Ascension have taken this training. Additionally, there is a training module on implicit bias and ABIDE that is required for new hire and annual training for all Ascension associates.</p>
<p>Diverse & Local Purchasing</p>	<p>Strategy: Diverse Procurement Spend Progress: Ascension has set guidelines toward measurable success of supplier diversity. Specific numeric goals are currently being evaluated for FY24.</p> <p>Ascension guidelines are still being adopted, but include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintaining a portfolio of contract categories/areas for diverse-owned suppliers consideration Engaging the Senior Manager, Diversity and Sustainability as soon as a business need for contracting in said portfolio is identified to provide sufficient time to identify potential opportunities for diverse-owned suppliers to participate in the process. 2. Identifying suppliers to include in the sourcing process and to evaluate diverse-owned suppliers where possible. 3. Ensuring diverse-owned supplier classifications (i.e., minority, women, veteran or small) are flagged appropriately in the contract management system. 4. Consistent monitoring of metrics and analytics to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of the program and compliance with this policy. 5. Include diverse-owned suppliers who can meet The Resource Group requirements in procurement opportunities. 6. Participate in outreach events for diverse-owned suppliers to inform them of contracting opportunities available for them to participate in the procurement of

	<p>products and services by The Resource Group.</p> <p>Ascension Illinois has worked with the local community organization, West Side United, to increase opportunities for diverse suppliers in the community. West Side United connects diverse suppliers on the west-side of Chicago with healthcare organizations for service procurement.</p>
<p>Diverse & Local Hiring</p>	<p>Strategy: SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Recommendations)</p> <p>Ascension Illinois' Associate Engagement Survey surrounds the ABIDE hallmarks. Our SOAR action planning focuses on efforts for improvement in each of the ABIDE hallmarks. The Associate Engagement Survey and the SOAR process is conducted and performed annually with evaluation and modified throughout the year. This process is guided by Executive and Senior Leadership with implementation and evaluation by Department Leaders.</p> <p>Strategy: Workforce Development</p> <p>A new sub-department within Human Resources was created in FY23 to improve workforce development in the communities we serve through partnerships, pipeline creation and other methodologies. Additionally, organization-wide the VOCARE program was introduced as an internal mobility and career development program for entry level associates.</p>

Appendix

Hospital Net Patient Revenue Report

Ascension Illinois	
Net Revenue	
For the Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2023	
	SJ-J
Net Patient Service Revenue	\$352,670,867
Add Back Charity	\$50,239,856
AG Reported Net Patient Service Revenue	\$402,910,723