

Ascension Saint Alexius

FY22 Annual Hospital Community Benefits Plan Report



Ascension



**Ascension Saint
Alexius**

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 Alexius
1555 Barrington Rd, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
healthcare.ascension.org
847-843-2000
Hospital EIN/Tax ID: 36-4195126

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Introduction	4
Ascension Saint Alexius	4
Ascension Mission Statement	4
Community Benefits Report	5
Community Benefits Provided	5
Financial Assistance	7
Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA)	10
Prioritized Community Needs	10
Community Implementation Strategies	14
Community Implementation Strategy & Health Equity Progress	28
Appendix	32
Hospital Net Patient Revenue Report	32

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 Alexius

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

Serving Illinois since 1979, Ascension Saint Alexius is continuing the long and valued tradition of addressing the health of the people in our community, following in the footsteps of legacy Alexian Brothers, a Roman Catholic order.

Ascension St. Alexius is a state-of-the-art facility that offers the latest in surgical services and is a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with 318 licensed beds. Ascension St. Alexius is recognized as a Blue Distinction Center in bariatric surgery, maternity services, spinal surgery and joint replacement. It has received a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and is recognized as a Baby-Friendly birth facility by Baby-Friendly USA, Inc. Ascension Saint Alexius is also a Level II Trauma Center and has a Commission on Cancer Three-year Accreditation.

For more information about Ascension Saint Alexius 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, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Total Financial Assistance (Emergency & Non-Emergency Care at cost)	\$7,912,448
Emergency Department Financial Assistance (at cost)	\$6,047,277
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.	\$42,508,908
Total Community Benefits for Ascension Saint Alexius	\$51,592,198
<i>In addition to hospital community benefits, Ascension Illinois non-hospital entities provided \$514,609 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/project/ascension/healthcare/amita-locations/illinois/ilchi/financial-assistance-policy/amita-health-financial-assistance-policy-english.pdf>

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

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Approval and Denial Rates (Data for FY22)</i>	<i>Number of Applications</i>
Ascension Saint Alexius	Total submitted	918-
	Complete	906
	Incomplete	12
	Approved	700
	Denied	216

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Financial Assistance Denial Reason (Data for time period of 1-1-22 thru 6-30-22)</i>	<i>Number of Applications</i>
Ascension Saint Alexius	Missing Documents	57
	Over income	35
	Incomplete Application	28
	Non-compliant with Medicaid	17
	Living out of service area	2

Beginning on January 1, 2022 the hospital's Financial Assistance Application (FAA) was updated with the inclusion of optional demographic information including race, ethnicity, preferred language and gender identity.

Below is data collected for the six month period of January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascension Saint Alexius	Not Available	277
	Not Provided	225
	Female	27

Male	19
Transgender woman/trans woman/male-to-female	1

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Preferred Language</i>	Total
Ascension Saint Alexius	NOT AVAILABLE	277
	NOT PROVIDED	113
	SPANISH	71
	ENGLISH	35
	POLISH	10
	GUJARATI	10
	HINDI	4
	URDU	3
	TAMIL	3
	TELUGU	2
	UKRAINIAN	1
	TAGALOG/ILONGGO	1
	RUSSIAN	1
	MONGOLIAN	1
	MARATHI/HINDI	1
	MALAYALAM	1
	KOREAN	1
	KANNADA	1
	JUDIC	1
	ITALIAN	1
	HINDI/URDU	1
	HINDI/GUJARATI	1
	GUJARATI/HINDI	1
	FRENCH	1
	CZECH	1
	CHINESE	1
	ASSYRIAN/ARABIC	1
	ASSYRIAN	1
	ARABIC/FRENCH/ITALIAN	1
	ARABIC	1
AMHARIE	1	

<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Race</i>	Total
Ascension Saint Alexius	Not Available	277
	Not Provided	114



**Ascension Saint
Alexius**

	White	105
	Asian Indian	25
	Black or African American	10
	Korean	5
	American Indian or Alaska Native	5
	Other Asian	4
	Filipino	3
	Chinese	1
<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	Total
Ascension Saint Alexius	Not Available	277
	Not Provided	190
	Hispanic-Latino/a-or Spanish Origin	54
	Mexican-Mexican American-Chicano/a	26
	Another Hispanic-Latino/a or Spanish Origin	2

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 Alexius’ 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 Alexius 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 Alexius 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 Alexius 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:

- **Social and Structural Determinants of Health -**
 - **Food Access and Food Security (SDoH- Food Security):** This need was selected because access to healthy food was identified within the top six most important needed improvements on the community survey. This need was voted the top need in this category in the prioritization process. The top five most common searches in the Community Resource Directory included food pantries, food assistance, and food delivery.
 - **Transportation (SDoH- Housing & Transit):** This need was selected because lack of transportation creates additional barriers to access health care especially for the elderly,

low-income, and disabled persons. The top three most common searches in the Community Resource Directory included transportation for healthcare and transportation in general.

- **Housing (SDoH - Housing & Transit):** This need was selected because social and economic factors are important drivers of health outcomes. Affordable housing and access to affordable housing were identified within the top six most important needed improvements on the community survey. Homelessness and housing instability was the number four most important health need identified on the community survey.
- **Access to Care and Community Resources -**
 - **Resources, Referrals, Coordination, and Connection to Community -Based Services (Access to Care):** This need was selected because in the CHNAs focus groups, access to needed healthcare and community resources are named as critical components to achieving the best health outcomes. This need was voted the number two need in this category in the Ascension Saint Alexius prioritization process.
 - **Timely Linkage to Quality Care, including Behavioral Health and Social Services (Access to Care):** This need was selected because Health insurance is the primary way that individuals access the healthcare system in the United States with 56% of Cook County residents receiving coverage through employer-based plans. Eleven percent of the population under age 65 are without health insurance in Cook County compared to 9% in Illinois. Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents to the community survey reported a loss of employment because of the pandemic, 6% reported a loss or reduction in insurance coverage, and 7% reported a lack of access to basic medical care. This need was voted the number one need in this category in the Ascension Saint Alexius prioritization process.
 - **Workforce Development and Support for Healthcare, Behavioral Health, and Human Services (SDoH - Education):** This need was selected as education is an important determinant of health because poverty, unemployment, and underemployment are highest among those with lower levels of educational attainment. Higher levels of poverty are primarily concentrated in the far Northwest, West, and South sides of the city and county. Additionally, workforce needs and challenges, specifically for healthcare, were listed as high priority in the CHNA stakeholder listening sessions.
- **Prevention and Treatment of Priority Health Conditions: Maternal and Child Health, Mental Health, Chronic Conditions -**
 - **Maternal and Child Health (Maternal, Infant, Child Health):** This need was selected because maternal mortality rates in the United States have been increasing even though the global trend has been the opposite. In addition, vast maternal health inequities exist between racial and ethnic groups. Racial and ethnic disparities exist for preterm births, postpartum depression, violence, obesity and preventable complications. Nine percent (9%) of babies born in Cook County have a low birth rate compared to 8% for Illinois. There are 20 teen births per 1,000 female population ages 15-19 in Cook County

- compared to 18 for Illinois.
- **Mental Health (*Mental & Behavioral Health*)**: This need was selected because 39% of community survey respondents identified mental health as one of the most important health needs in their communities. Forty percent of community survey respondents identified access to mental health services as being needed to support improvements in community health. The self-reported adult depression rates in Cook County are higher (17.3%) than national averages (10%). Similarly, youth depression has been on the rise. This need was voted in the top two of this category for the Ascension Saint Alexius prioritization process.
 - **Chronic Conditions (*Chronic Disease - Cancer, Heart Disease, Obesity, Diabetes*)**: This need was selected because Community input respondents identified a number of chronic health conditions as important health needs in their communities including cancers (19%), heart disease and stroke (14%), diabetes (12%), obesity (10%), and lung disease (2%).

Ascension Saint Alexius 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 Alexius 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, 2022 to June 30, 2025. 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 #1: Food Access Assistance	
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)	
Prioritized Health Need Social and Structural Determinants of Health (<i>SDoH: Food Security</i>)	
Strategy Increase food access assistance for food insecure individuals for ASA community residents.	
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Produce Mobile ● Micro Pantry ● Local Food Pantry Support and Partnerships 	
Objective By June 30, 2025, increase community support for local food pantries, increase food access partnerships and increase the number of individuals provided with food access assistance.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: ASA community residents, including ASA associates and patients. ● Medically Underserved Population: Individuals experiencing food insecurity in the community. 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Mercy, Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph Joliet, Ascension Resurrection ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborator: Greater Chicago Food Depository, Ascension Illinois Food Access and Nutrition Workgroup ● Consultants: Touchpoint ● Other Non-Profit Hospitals: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, funding/cash donations, materials to build and/or maintain MicroPantry, education collateral, marketing resources, and others ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborators: Greater Chicago Food Depository, Faith-Based Institutions, staff/volunteer time donated ● Consultants: N/A ● Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS: Produce Mobile	ROLE/OWNER

Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius
Establish Produce Mobile Community Calendar	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health and Greater Chicago Food Depository
Participate in Ascension Illinois Food Access and Nutrition Workgroup	Ascension Illinois
Identify internal resources for supporting healthy food donations, healthy food distribution and healthy food access program delivery	Ascension Saint Alexius
Provide funding support for local community food access programs and initiatives	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Support Review Committee, Ascension Illinois Community Benefit
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup and Community Health
ACTION STEPS: MicroPantry	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health & TouchPoint
Participate in Ascension Illinois Food Access and Nutrition Workgroup	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health and Greater Chicago Food Depository
Identify internal resources for supporting healthy food donations, healthy food distribution and food access program delivery	Ascension Saint Alexius
Identify food-drive event dates	Ascension Saint Alexius
Identify potential community partners to support maintenance of MicroPantry	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Provide funding support for local community food access programs and initiatives	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Support Review Committee, Ascension Illinois Community Benefit
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup and Community Health
ACTION STEPS: Local Food Pantry Support and Partnerships	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Participate in Ascension Illinois Food Access and Nutrition Workgroup	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health and Greater Chicago Food Depository
Identify local food pantries in need of financial support	Ascension Illinois Community Health Director

Identify internal resources to support food pantry initiatives (i.e. food drives, nutrition education and training)	Ascension Illinois Community Health Director
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup and Community Health
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FY22 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: Feeding America, Greater Chicago Food Depository 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthy food and reduced food insecurity.	

STRATEGY #2: Transportation Assistance
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)
Prioritized Health Need Social and Structural Determinants of Health (<i>SDoH- Housing & Transit</i>)
Strategy Provide transportation services for patients and community residents.
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lyft Concierge Services ● Uber Concierge Services
Objective By June 30, 2025, increase the percentage of individuals that have been screened and connected to transportation assistance services.
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: ASA patients and community residents. ● Medically Underserved Population: Individuals experiencing transportation barriers in the ASA community especially low-income individuals.
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Mercy, Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph Joliet, Ascension Resurrection ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborator: Lyft, Uber, Case Management-program collaborators, Partners for our Communities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consultants: N/A ● Other Non-Profit Hospitals: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ascension Saint Alexius: staff time donated for program maintenance ● Ascension Saint Alexius: cash donations to community organizations in need of transportation assistance services ● Lyft Concierge Services: Program Coordinator ● Partners for Our Communities: Program Coordinator 	
ACTION STEPS: Lyft Concierge Services	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Case Management, Therapies
Identify patients (i.e., uninsured, underinsured, VA, Medicaid, Medicare, etc.) in need of transportation assistance	Ascension Saint Alexius Case Management, Therapies
Establish eligibility criteria for patients in need of transportation assistance	Ascension Saint Alexius Case Management, Therapies
Pay Lyft Concierge Services (LCS) monthly/annual service fees	Ascension Saint Alexius
Provide funding support for local community based organizations (CBO) in need of transportation assistance	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Support Review Committee
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup and Community Health
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase total of persons screened with transportation needs from baseline ○ Increase total Number of rides provided from baseline ● Data Source; Data Owner: Lyft Concierge Services or other transportation service 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthcare services by eliminating transportation barriers.	

STRATEGY #3: Housing Assistance
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)
Prioritized Health Need Social and Structural Determinants of Health (<i>SDoH- Housing & Transit</i>)
Strategy Provide support to transitional housing community based organization.
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local Housing Assistance Support and Partnerships

Objective By June 30, 2025, increase support for individuals in need of housing assistance in the AAB community.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: ASA patients and community residents. ● Medically Underserved Population: Single mothers experiencing housing assistance needs in the ASA community. 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Alexian Brothers ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborator: Fellowship Housing ● Consultants: N/A ● Other Non-Profit Hospitals: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ascension Saint Alexius: staff time donated for program maintenance ● Ascension Saint Alexius: cash donations to community organizations in need of housing assistance services ● Fellowship Housing: Program Coordinator 	
ACTION STEPS: Local Housing Assistance Support and Partnerships	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Identify community partner that provides housing assistance services	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Explore opportunities for housing assistance partnerships with external partners	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Provide funding support for local community based organizations (CBO) in need of housing assistance	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Support Review Committee
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup and Community Health
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the number of Individuals that receive Transitional Housing Assistance from baseline. ● Data Source; Data Owner: Fellowship Housing Program Coordinator 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to safe, affordable housing to improve overall health.	

STRATEGY #4: Access to Community Resources	
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)	
Prioritized Health Need Access to Care and Community Resources (<i>Access to Care</i>)	
Strategy Increase access to community resources and community-based services for ASA community.	
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascension Neighborhood Resources Directory/FindHelp Local Community Based Organization (CBO) Support and Partnerships 	
Objective By June 30, 2025, the number of searches in the directory will increase. By June 30, 2025, establish and support three community partnerships that will enable them to provide healthcare and other needed services to low-income community residents.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Population: ASA community residents and patients. Medically Underserved Population: ASA community residents who are underinsured/uninsured. 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Holy Family, Ascension Mercy, Ascension Resurrection, Ascension, Ascension Saint Francis, Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago, Ascension Saint Joseph-Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph-Joliet, Ascension Saint Mary-Kankakee, Ascension Saints Mary and Elizabeth-Chicago, Ascension Alexian Brothers Joint Venture: N/A Collaborators: Community Based Organizations, FQHC, Faith Based Institutions, Food Pantries Consultants: FindHelp Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Ascension hospital(s): Strategy Sources and Funding Joint Venture: N/A Collaborators: Community Based Organization, Faith Based Institutions, Food Pantries, FQHC Consultants: Neighborhood Resources, Findhelp.org-directory source Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS: Community Resource Directory	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Promote awareness of the Neighborhood Resource Directory via flyers, social media, e-newsletters	Ascension Illinois: Population Health , Community Benefit, Community Health
Provide Neighborhood Resource Directory training for internal and external partners.	Ascension Illinois: Population Health , Community Benefit, Community Health

Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes.	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup
ACTION STEPS: Local Community Based Organization Support and Partnerships	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Community Health
Identify external partners that may have a need for support and resources	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Explore and identify what resources are needed	Ascension Saint Alexius
Provide support and assistance for needed resources	Ascension Illinois Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes.	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 Baseline Data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the number of searches within the directory from baseline. ○ Increase the number of persons trained on directory from baseline. ○ Increase community support of CBOs from baseline. ● Data Source/Data Owner: Neighborhood Resource Directory/FindHelp.org; CBISA 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to community resources, services and referrals for individuals in need.	

STRATEGY #5: Public Health Insurance Coverage Enrollment Services (PHICES)
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)
Prioritized Health Need Access to Care and Community Resources (<i>Access to Care</i>)
Strategy Provide Public Health Insurance Coverage Enrollment Services
Strategy Source Advocatia or similar enrollment partner
Objective By June 30, 2025, there will be an increase of enrollment services from FY22 baseline.
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: Adults, children, immigrants, ● Medically Underserved Population: Uninsured and underinsured individuals
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Holy Family, Ascension Mercy, Ascension Resurrection, Ascension, Ascension Saint Francis, Ascension Saint Joseph Chicago, Ascension Saint Joseph-

<p>Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph-Joliet, Ascension Saint Mary-Kankakee, Ascension Saints Mary and Elizabeth-Chicago, Ascension Alexian Brothers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborators: Ascension Medical Group (AMG), Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Institutions, Food Pantries, Libraries, Immigrant Welcoming Centers ● Consultants: Advocatia or other enrollment partners ● Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
<p>Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, funding/cash donations to community organizations, education collateral, marketing resources, and others ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborators: Ascension Medical Group, Community Based Organization, Faith Based Institutions, Food Pantries ● Consultants: Advocatia-program consultant ● Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS: Public Health Insurance Coverage Enrollment Services (PHICES)	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius
Promote awareness of PHICES via flyers, social media, Ascension and Community partner newsletters	Ascension Saint Alexius and Community Health
Identify external partners that need PHICES information	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit and Community Health
Identify and establish opportunities for PHICES in the community	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit and Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup
<p>Output(s) and/or Outcome(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 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 ● Data Source; Data Owner: Advocatia 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
<p>The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to healthcare services for individuals who are underinsured or uninsured.</p>	

STRATEGY #6: Workforce Development
<p>Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)</p>
<p>Prioritized Health Need</p>

Access to Care and Community Resources (<i>SDoH - Education</i>)	
Strategy Provide opportunities for students to engage with health care professionals.	
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Student Practicums/Internships/Clinical Rotations 	
Objective By June 30, 2025, increase the number of students who participate in workforce development programs through ASA.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Population: ASA community residents, teens and college students. 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Saint Joseph-Elgin, Ascension Alexian Brothers Joint Venture: N/A Collaborators: Harper College, Chamberlain College, other area colleges and universities Consultants: N/A Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Ascension hospital(s): N/A Joint Venture: N/A Collaborators: Local area colleges and universities: Program Coordinators Consultants: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Nursing
Identify community partners for workforce development opportunities	Ascension Saint Alexius and Community Health
Mentor students interested in healthcare careers	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit Community Health, Nursing, Radiology Therapies, Nutrition Services, EMS
Support student clinical rotations and internships for those who are entering healthcare careers	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit Community Health, Nursing, Radiology Therapies, Nutrition Services, EMS
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline: FY22 Data Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of students participating in workforce development programs or partnerships Data Source; Data Owner: CBISA, Nursing, Radiology, EMS, Dietary 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	

The anticipated impact of these actions is increased workforce opportunities for youth in the hospital community.

STRATEGY #7: Maternal and Child Health Resources and Services

Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)	
Prioritized Health Need Priority Health Conditions: Maternal and Child Health (<i>Maternal, Infant, Child Health</i>)	
Strategy Implement strategies to address maternal health disparities and promote birth equity (BE).	
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) Screening • PREM (Patient Related Experience Measure) Tool 	
Objective By June 30, 2025, there will be increased birth equity (BE) initiatives that support improved health outcomes for mothers and babies.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target Population: Pregnant women ASA community • Medically Underserved Population: Un- &/or under-insured pregnant women; women of color 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Alexian Brothers • Joint Venture: N/A • Collaborators: IL Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Ascension Illinois Medical Group; Obstetrical Healthcare Providers, FQHCs, Ascension Women’s Health Service Line • Consultants: N/A • Other non-profit hospital - N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Ascension hospital(s): Strategy Sources and Funding • Joint Venture: N/A • Collaborators: IL Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Ascension Illinois Medical Group; Community-Based Organization Obstetrical Healthcare Providers, FQHCs, Ascension Women’s Health Service Line • Consultants: Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Illinois Department of Public Health, Perinatal Advisory Committee • Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius Mother Baby Unit
Participate in the Ascension Illinois Women’s Health committee and Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative	Ascension Illinois Women’s Health committee

Participate in the Ascension Saint Alexius prenatal workgroup	Ascension Saint Alexius Prenatal Workgroup
Identify internal resources for supporting birth equity initiatives	Ascension Saint Alexius Prenatal Workgroup
Identify community partners and healthcare providers to engage in birth equity initiatives	Ascension Saint Alexius Prenatal Workgroup
Train internal staff on the workflow and service coordination process of SDoH screening and PREM tool	Ascension Saint Alexius Prenatal Workgroup
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Prenatal Workgroup
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 data; TBD based on preliminary PREM results ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase birth equity (BE) education opportunities from baseline. ○ Decrease disparity by race and/or ethnicity in maternal health outcomes from baseline. ● Data Source; Data Owner: Ascension Illinois, IL Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Ascension Alexian Brothers Mother Baby Unit 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is improved health outcomes for mothers and babies.	

STRATEGY #8: Access to Mental Health Resources and Services
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)
Prioritized Health Need Prevention and Treatment of Priority Health Conditions: Mental Health (<i>Mental & Behavioral Health</i>)
Strategy Provide Emergency Department (ED) Annex Clinical Support Initiative
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emergency Department (ED) Annex
Objective By June 30, 2025, increase access to mental health assessments, services, education and resources through the ED Annex Clinical Support initiative.
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: Ascension Saint Alexius community residents ● Medically Underserved Population: Un- &/or under-insured individuals
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital ● Joint Venture: N/A ● Collaborator: Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital, ● Consultants: N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Non-Profit Hospitals: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital • Joint Venture: N/A • Collaborators: Ascension Saint Alexius • Consultants: N/A • Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS: Emergency Department (ED) Annex	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this Strategy	Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital & Ascension Saint Alexius
Establish timeline for implementation of ED Annex services	Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital & Ascension Saint Alexius
Identify internal resources for supporting ED Annex	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Design implementation workflows that allow for more access, safety and privacy	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Orient and train internal team members on services and workflow	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: FY22 Data • Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase number of patients served by ED Annex Clinical Support initiative from baseline • Data Source; Data Owner: Emergency Department; BHS Service Line 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to mental health services and resources for individuals that present to the ED experiencing mental health symptoms or crisis.	

STRATEGY #8: Chronic Condition Screening, Education and Awareness
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Alexius (ASA)
Prioritized Health Need Prevention and Treatment of Priority Health Conditions: Chronic Conditions (<i>Chronic Disease - Cancer, Heart Disease, Obesity, Diabetes</i>)
Strategy Provide access to health screenings and health education for ASA community residents.

Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Wellness Programs Local Community Based Organization (CBO) Support and Partnerships 	
Objective By June 30, 2025, there will be increased access to health screenings and education for community residents.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Population: Ascension Saint Alexius community residents Medically Underserved Population: Un- &/or under-insured, high risk populations 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Ascension Hospitals: Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Saint Joseph, Ascension Mercy Joint Venture: N/A Collaborator: Park Districts, Community-based organizations, Faith-based Institutions, Schools, Food Pantries, Townships Consultants: N/A Other Non-Profit Hospitals: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Ascension hospital(s): Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin Joint Venture: N/A Collaborators: Community-based organizations, Faith-based Institutions, Schools, Food Pantries - program collaborators Consultants: N/A Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
ACTION STEPS:	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint Associate Lead for this Strategy	Ascension Saint Alexius
Promote awareness of health education and screenings via flyers, social media, e-newsletters, meeting with community partners	Ascension Saint Alexius
Identify internal resources for supporting community wellness programming	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Identify external partners serving low-income and/or at risk persons that need community health screening and health education services	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Establish community calendar of health screening and health education events for virtual and/or hybrid offerings including dates, times, and locations	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health
Promote availability of health screenings and health education events within target audiences	Ascension Illinois: Community Benefit, Community Health, Marketing/ Communications
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Alexius Implementation Strategy Workgroup

Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 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 increased access to health screening services and increased knowledge of chronic condition risk factors among high risk populations.

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 Alexius' 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
Social & Structural Determinants of Health	Strategy: Mobile Food Pantry Progress: In partnership with the Greater Chicago Food

	<p>Depository, Saint Alexius provided support to mobile food pantries in the community to increase food access. In FY22, the hospital assisted with 3 mobile food pantries. Over 450 persons were assisted with this community benefit.</p> <p>Strategy: Transportation Assistance Progress: Saint Alexius is committed to reducing patients and community members health related social needs that create barriers to care. In FY22, the hospital assisted over 670 persons through services provided by Lyft Concierge.</p>
<p>Access to Care, Community Resources & Systems Improvement</p>	<p>Strategy: Community Resource Directory (Aunt Bertha/Findhelp.org) Progress: Saint Alexius associates utilized the social determinant of health software, Findhelp.org, to connect and refer patients to local resources such as food pantry, health clinics, utilities support and more. Additionally, an external website is hosted for the community as a community benefit to search for their own resources. In FY22, additional community partners were added to the resource portal and training held for Community Based Organizations as well as internal associates. There are on average 2,887 resources available in the directory for the hospital community. A total of 1,034 persons were assisted by the directory in FY22.</p>
<p>Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder</p>	<p>Strategy: Mental Health First Aid Trainings Progress: In FY22,, Saint Alexius Medical Center continued reaching out to external partners to host training. Fourteen virtual trainings were held serving 73 individuals in FY22. 100% of participants reported increased knowledge of signs, symptoms and risk factors of mental illnesses and addictions. 100% of participants reported improvement in mental health literacy and anti-stigma levels following the training.</p>
<p>Chronic Condition Prevention & Management</p>	<p>Strategy: Diabetes Prevention Program Progress: Due to the pandemic, the Diabetes Prevention Program was converted to a virtual format. In FY22, 9 virtual trainings were offered in both English & Spanish.</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</p>

	<p>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, fifty-two percent of Saint Alexius' outgoing community support were community benefit.</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 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 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</p>

	<p>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 & 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 & Local Hiring</p>	<p>Strategy: Associate Perceptions Survey & 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 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</p>

	positions on diverse websites to recruit African American, Hispanic and Asian nurses.
--	---

Appendix

Hospital Net Patient Revenue Report

Ascension Illinois	
Net Revenue	
For the Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2022	
	SA
Net Patient Service Revenue	346,301,112
Add Back Charity	45,862,695
AG Reported Net Patient Service Revenue	392,163,807



**Ascension Saint
Alexius**