



# Allen County Regional Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan

*2025-2027*

◆ Allen County Regional Hospital



# Allen County Regional Hospital CHNA Implementation Strategy

Adopted by the Allen County Regional Hospital Board of Directors on September 25, 2024.

This Implementation Strategy describes how Allen County Regional Hospital (ACRH or the hospital) plans to address significant needs described in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) published by the hospital on September 25, 2024. See the CHNA report at [Community Health Needs Assessments & Implementation Plans | Saint Luke's Health System \(saintlukeskc.org\)](https://www.saintlukeskc.org/Community-Health-Needs-Assessments-Implementation-Plans). ACRH plans to implement the initiatives described during the calendar years 2025 through 2027.

Conducting the CHNA and developing this Implementation Strategy were undertaken by the hospital to assess and address significant health needs in the community served by ACRH, and in accordance with Internal Revenue Service regulations in Section 501(r) of the Internal Revenue Code.

This Implementation Strategy addresses the significant community health needs described in the CHNA report. This document identifies the significant needs the hospital plans to address through various strategic initiatives and explains why the hospital does not intend to address certain other significant needs identified in the CHNA report.

This document contains the following information:

1. About ACRH
2. Definition of the Community Assessed by ACRH
3. Summary of Significant Community Health Needs
4. Implementation Strategy to Address Significant Health Needs
5. Significant Community Health Needs ACRH Will Not Address
6. Adoption of the Implementation Strategy by ACRH's Authorized Body

## 1. About ACRH

Allen County Regional Hospital is part of [Saint Luke's](https://www.saintlukeskc.org), a faith-based, not-for-profit, aligned health system committed to providing the highest levels of excellence in compassionate health care and health-related services. With 14 hospital and campuses and more than 100 clinic locations across the Kansas City region, Saint Luke's cares for patients in 65 specialties across 67 counties in Missouri and Kansas.

Saint Luke's is the West Region of BJC Health System, one of the largest nonprofit health care organizations in the United States and the largest in the state of Missouri, serving urban, suburban, and rural communities across Missouri, southern Illinois, eastern Kansas, and the greater Midwest region. BJC operates as [BJC HealthCare](https://www.bjc.org) in its East Region.

## **Health Equity**

The ACRH CHNA report indicates that an overarching focus on advancing health equity has the best potential to improve community health. Accordingly, ACRH will continue to implement initiatives focused on advancing health equity in the Saint Luke's Destination 2025 Strategic Plan and in the yearly ACRH Operational Plan.

The Saint Luke's Destination 2025 Strategic Plan includes goals and objectives focused on strengthening organizational culture and investing in the healthcare workforce by implementing programs for training on unconscious bias, health inequities, diversity, inclusivity, and belonging for leadership, staff, and medical staff. ACRH will use data analytics to identify and reduce disparities in patient outcomes, patient satisfaction, readmission rates, approvals for financial assistance, and collections actions. In addition, ACRH will advance health equity in the communities served by increasing access, providing equitable care, and partnering with community organizations.

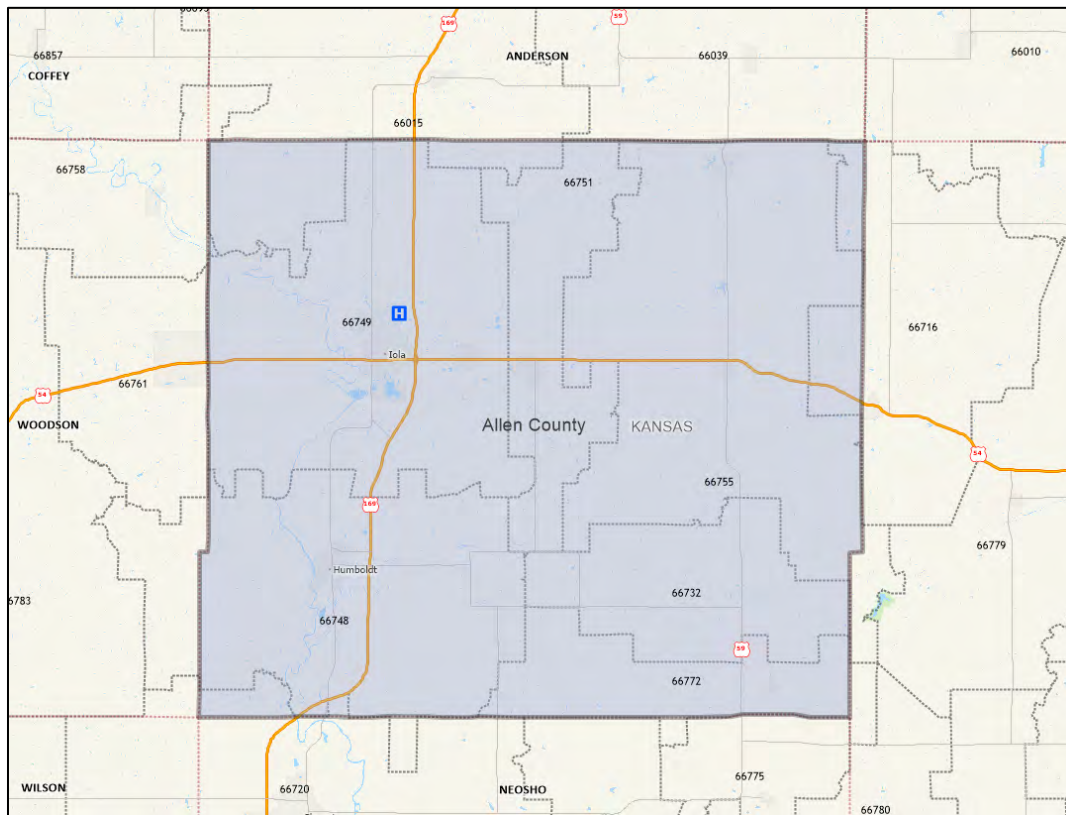
ACRH will develop community health baseline measures to monitor key indicators and assess the impact of this 2025-2027 Implementation Strategy.

### **2. Definition of the Community Assessed by ACRH**

For purposes of this CHNA, ACRH's community is defined as Allen County, Kansas. The community was defined by considering the geographic origins of the hospital's inpatient discharges and emergency room visits in the calendar year 2023. Allen County accounted for approximately 81 percent of the hospital's 2023 inpatient cases and 76 percent of emergency room visits.

The total population of Allen County in 2021 was 12,464.

The following map portrays the community assessed by ACRH and the hospital's location within Allen County.



Source: Caliper Maptitude, 2024.

### 3. Significant Community Health Needs

As determined by analyses of quantitative and qualitative data, the significant health needs in the community served by Allen County Regional Hospital are (presented in alphabetical order):

- Access to Health and Preventive Services, including Maternal and Child Health
- Mental Health
- Needs of Older Adults
- Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Chronic Conditions
- Social Drivers of Health
- Substance Use and Tobacco

The CHNA report for ACRH describes each of the above community health needs and why they were determined to be significant.

### 4. Implementation Strategy to Address Significant Health Needs

This Implementation Strategy describes how ACRH plans to address the significant community



health needs identified in the 2024 CHNA report. A committee consisting of ACRH and Saint Luke's staff and leadership reviewed findings in the CHNA report and identified significant community health needs that the hospital intends and does not intend to address during calendar years 2025 through 2027.

As part of that decision-making process, the committee considered criteria such as:

- Whether the need is being addressed by other organizations;
- The extent to which the hospital has expertise or competencies to address the need;
- The availability of resources and evidence-based interventions needed to address the need effectively;
- The frequency with which stakeholders identified the need as a significant priority; and
- The potential for collaborations with other community organizations to help address the issue.

By applying these criteria, ACRH determined that it will implement initiatives to address all six of the significant community health needs identified by the CHNA process.

The following pages describe the actions ACRH intends to implement to address each of the significant needs, identifies the resources the hospital plans to commit, and any planned collaborations between the hospital and other organizations.

## **Access to Health and Preventive Services, including Maternal and Child Health**

To address this need, ACRH will implement the following initiatives:

### **Continuing Initiatives:**

- Continue providing access to care by operating the rural health clinic and by providing financial assistance for eligible community members.
- Continue improving access to health coverage by advocating for Medicaid expansion in Kansas and assisting patient enrollment in health insurance and medication assistance programs.
- Continue providing funding to improve patient transportation options.
- Continue providing vaccination and immunization services.
- Continue providing sports physicals for students in K-12 schools and Allen County Community College.
- Continue providing post discharge rides in partnership with Thrive Allen County.

### **New or Expanded Initiatives:**

- Expand telehealth visit options for all residents, with a focus on underserved communities.
- Collaborate with the SEK Multi-County Health Department to support preventive care services, community baby shower, and other events improving access to healthcare and preventive services for women, infants, and children.

- Expand access to advanced care with access to Saint Luke's expansive network of resources and specialty services.

#### **Anticipated Impact:**

The anticipated impact of these initiatives is improved access to compassionate, culturally appropriate healthcare and preventive services for all community members.

#### **Commitment of Resources:**

- Clinical and non-clinical staff time
- Resources and supplies to implement and coordinate programming
- Training, promotion, and education

#### **Planned Collaborators:**

- Thrive Allen County
- SEK Multi-County Health Department
- Public school system and other educational institutions
- Community-based organizations and social service agencies

## **Mental Health**

To address this need, ACRH will implement the following initiatives:

#### **Continuing Initiatives:**

- Continue mental health screening, including depression and anxiety, when conducting sports physicals.
- Continue providing behavioral health assessments in the emergency department.

#### **New or Expanded Initiatives:**

- Expand the partnership with SEK Mental Health Center to enhance provision of social work services, school-based therapists, and Mental Health First Aid training.

#### **Anticipated Impact:**

The anticipated impact of these initiatives is improved identification of mental health concerns and provision of referrals to appropriate mental health care and treatment services.

#### **Commitment of Resources:**

- Clinical and non-clinical staff time
- Resources and supplies to implement and coordinate programming
- Training, promotion, and education

#### **Planned Collaborators:**

- SEK Mental Health Center

- Public school system and other educational institutions
- Community-based organizations and social service agencies

## **Needs of Older Adults**

To address this need, ACRH will implement the following initiatives:

- Continue connecting patients with Senior Life Solutions, a group-based mental health program, for older adults.
- Continue collaborating with the Southeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging (SEKAAA) to offer nutritious meals and socialization for older adults via the 60+ Dine congregate meal program.
- Continue offering health education programming to older adults in partnership with Thrive Allen County.

### **Anticipated Impact:**

The anticipated impact of these initiatives is improved health and quality of life for older adults.

### **Commitment of Resources:**

- Clinical and non-clinical staff time
- Resources and supplies to implement and coordinate programming

### **Planned Collaborators:**

- Senior Life Solutions
- Southeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging (SEKAAA)
- Thrive Allen County

## **Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Chronic Conditions**

To address this need, ACRH will implement the following initiatives:

### **Continuing Initiatives:**

- Continue screening for food insecurity and providing referrals to community resources.
- Continue participating in health fairs to identify and manage risks associated with chronic conditions.
- Continue partnership with Thrive Allen County to maintain a community walking trail and recreational physical activity.

### **New or Expanded Initiatives:**

- Expand access to Saint Luke's on-line support groups, including Gilda's Club.
- Improve access to specialists and nutrition educators via telehealth.
- Establish in-person support groups in collaboration with Thrive Allen County.
- Expand CPR training services in the community.

### **Anticipated Impact:**

The anticipated impact of these initiatives is provision of nutrition education, chronic disease management programs, and opportunities for physical activity through community partnerships.

### **Commitment of Resources:**

- Clinical and non-clinical staff time
- Resources and supplies to implement and coordinate programming
- Training, promotion, and education

### **Planned Collaborators:**

- Thrive Allen County
- Community-based organizations and social service agencies

## **Social Drivers of Health**

To address this need, ACRH will implement the following initiatives:

- Screen at least 80% of hospital and ambulatory patients for SDOH related needs, including transportation and provide referrals to community-based resources.
- Maintain and refer to the Find Help database, a community-based resource list, including food, housing, transit, education, financial, and legal services available in the region.

### **Anticipated Impact:**

The anticipated impact of these initiatives is improved connection to resources and assistance for SDOH related needs.

### **Commitment of Resources:**

- Clinical and non-clinical staff time
- Resources and supplies to implement and coordinate programming

### **Planned Collaborators:**

- Community-based organizations and social service agencies

## **Substance Use and Tobacco**

To address this need, ACRH will implement the following initiatives:

- Collect unused medications through community-based drop boxes and collection services.
- Screen patients for tobacco and substance use and provide education and referrals to cessation and treatment resources.
- Explore partnerships to provide education in local schools on the effects tobacco, vaping, and other electronic nicotine delivery systems.



**Anticipated Impact:**

The anticipated impact of these initiatives is reduced substance use and tobacco amongst community members.

**Commitment of Resources:**

- Clinical and non-clinical staff time
- Resources and supplies to implement and coordinate programming

**Planned Collaborators:**

- Community-based organizations and social service agencies
- Public school system and other educational institutions

**5. Needs ACRH Will Not Address**

ACRH is addressing all six significant health needs identified in its 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This Implementation Strategy outlines specific initiatives set forth to address specific health needs identified in the 2024 CHNA. ACRH engages in many other community benefit, preventive, and wellness activities with the goal of improving the health and wellbeing of the diverse community served.

**6. Implementation Strategy Adoption**

The Board of Directors for ACRH reviewed and adopted this Implementation Strategy on September 25, 2024.

◆ **Contact us**

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