

# Community Benefit Report 2022



## A Message from Chanda Chacón, MPH, FACHE President & CEO



I am pleased to share with you Children's Nebraska's 2022 Community Benefit Report. This report features some of the community-focused initiatives in which Children's has been involved over the past year, and it highlights our unwavering commitment to the health and wellbeing of children and our broader community.

Our mission is to improve the life of every child through exceptional Care, Advocacy, Research and Education. We know the quality of a child's health is largely dependent on social and environmental factors—the life that happens outside of the walls of the hospital. Children need healthy food and safe housing. They need to feel secure in their home, neighborhood and community, and they need caregivers with systems and support to help them navigate life's challenges.

In 2021, Children's announced four priority Impact Areas where our teams can make a difference to improve these social and environmental factors to help kids grow up healthy and strong:

- Financial Stability
- Food Security
- Healthy Housing
- Pediatric Mental Wellness

All work in these Impact Areas is conducted with a lens on health equity, to ensure our community's most vulnerable children have a fair and just opportunity to enjoy a healthy future.

Our team is committed to making a lasting impact on children's health and on the health of future generations by addressing important community health needs. In fact, we believe so much that this work will positively impact the health of the community that we have named Megan Connelly, DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-AC/PC, NE-BC, vice president for Community Health & Advocacy at Children's. Megan has a long history at Children's in patient-facing and leadership roles, and I am excited to introduce you to her.



Megan Connelly

We remain committed to the highest quality care and exceptional patient experiences, and we look forward to sharing more on the value of our investment in the health and wellbeing of all children and their families.

Sincerely,

Chanda Chacón, MPH, FACHE  
President & CEO

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### MISSION

To improve the life of every child through exceptional Care, Advocacy, Research and Education.

### VISION

To be a global leader for children's health.

**VALUES** | INNOVATION | COLLABORATION | ACCOUNTABILITY | RESPECT | EXCELLENCE

### OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY:

Children's Nebraska is committed to improving health equity for all children. Our experts collaborate widely, engage our community, advocate tirelessly and invest intentionally in the future of all children, particularly those in greatest need.

**155,392** Unique Patients Served in 2022

**724,126** Total Patient Visits in 2022





## BeInvolved Connects Children's Nebraska Team Members with our Community

It's no secret that giving back helps others, but it also comes with significant benefits to the giver. Research shows that serving others can improve a volunteer's physical and mental health. Children's team members have experienced the positive impact of service with the launch of BeInvolved, an employer-paid volunteer program.

Launched in June of 2022, BeInvolved is led by Children's Nebraska's Wellbeing team, in collaboration with Children's Community Health & Advocacy team. Each team member receives a bank of eight hours of paid volunteering time per calendar year. The hours can be used at any nonprofit organization that improves the lives of children. Within the program's first six months, Children's team members logged more than 800 volunteer hours at nonprofit organizations across Nebraska.

"At Children's, we strive to improve the lives of children, families and the communities we serve—inside and outside the walls of our hospital and clinics," says Janel Allen, Children's executive vice president & chief people officer. "The BeInvolved program sends a strong message to team members. We care about our community, and we care about you—and we're willing to back up that commitment with time and money."

# Boosting Engagement and Purpose Through Service

Children's Nebraska's BelInvolved program empowers team members to use their time and gifts to support non-profit organizations, making a difference in our community—where children live, learn and play.



## NICU Team Commits to Regular Volunteer Activities

Children's NICU team schedules regular BelInvolved events and invites collaborating departments and the team's family members to join them. Volunteering has given this Children's team a better understanding of the daily struggles faced by people in our community.

One notable volunteer experience was at the Stephen Center, where Children's NICU team helped provide mothers recovering from addiction or escaping violence with the support they need to care for their families.

## Remote Teams Connect Through BelInvolved

Children's Accounting team works predominantly remotely. Although they appreciate flexibility in work location, they also enjoy the ability to connect in person.

When BelInvolved began in 2022, the Accounting team embraced the opportunity to coordinate volunteer efforts to support community organizations and work together in person.







## Caring Contacts Offers Support for Kids in Crisis

At Children's Nebraska, we strive to provide the very best care and resources for children and adolescents with mental health challenges. The Caring Contacts program is offered to each patient after completion of a mental health assessment (MHA). Social Work completes an MHA on every patient presenting with suicidal ideation or suicide attempt in Children's Emergency Department (ED). In January 2023, Caring Contacts reached 500 enrolled patients, with 98% of all patients offered Caring Contacts opting to enroll in the program.

Caring Contacts provides six handwritten notes throughout the year to these patients, authored and personalized by the social worker who completed their initial MHA. These notes convey words of support, offer coping skills, normalize mental

health struggles and encourage patients to reach out to mental health support systems. Many patients and parents have responded to the handwritten notes, expressing appreciation for the correspondence they have received over the year.

Caring Contacts was initiated in May of 2020 in response to the increase of patients being assessed for suicidality in the ED. Since the inception of Caring Contacts, Children's has reached the goal of zero suicide with no reports of completed suicide for patients enrolled in the program.

Zebulon Timmons, M.D., division chief of Children's Emergency Department, has been an enthusiastic supporter of the program.

"I am a true believer in the Caring Contacts program," says Dr. Timmons. "I have seen the results and many responses from children and teens in crisis, and it is obvious how meaningful these interactions are to them. I also think it helps build compassion across our team, making these patients' struggles more personal and less clinical."

## Further Expanding Suicide Prevention Efforts



In 2022, Children's Nebraska was one of 16 organizations nationally to receive grant funding from Preventing Youth Suicide: A Cardinal Health Foundation National Collaborative grant. The collaborative is a partnership with Children's Hospital Association, Cardinal Health Foundation and the Zero Suicide Institute (ZSI) at the Education Development Center. Children's was awarded \$100,000 to implement a framework developed by ZSI, committing to a system-wide transformation to better care for children at risk of suicide. The program is the first national collaborative intended to develop a pediatric-specific approach to address the youth mental health crisis and improve suicide care in children's hospitals and health systems using data-backed strategies to identify and care for youth at risk for suicide.

Children's has developed an informational packet to encourage other health, mental health, education and child-serving organizations that may be interested in replicating the program, thanks to funding provided by a Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Title V MCH Block Grant. Caring Contacts was presented as a suicide prevention tool at the Nebraska School Mental Health Conference and Nebraska School Counselor Conference in 2023.

**Caring Contacts** has a significant impact on Children's Nebraska social workers. Below are quotes from two social workers who offer Caring Contacts to families.

*"I just love Caring Contacts! The letters I've received in return really express the impact the program has on their wellbeing and hope for the future."*

– Mackenzie Parks, LICSW

*"For me, Caring Contacts gives me a chance to slow down and learn from the powerful, brief moments when I am able to connect with these patients and their families."*

– Eva Doescher, LCSW

It's been 6 whole months since I saw you in the Emergency Department. I'm hoping it's been 6 months of working hard and learning more about yourself. 6 months of understanding feelings better and learning how to cope with both good and bad days. Whatever help you need, I'll be there to help some times! Ask shows strength!

Hi, I'm just checking in again to offer a word of encouragement. Working on our mental health is a life-long process and an important piece to having a full, productive life. Please don't give up or lose hope! Keep talking to adults you can trust and following the recommendations of your treatment team. I will keep you in my thoughts and send positive vibes your way!

EVERYDAY may not be good, but there is something good in EVERY DAY! I wanted to remind you to look for instances of joy or gratitude, even on the hard days. One of the best things in life is that we never know how amazing tomorrow might be! Never give up and always know there are people around (including me) who care about you and want you well!





## Children's DECON Team Stands Ready to Respond

Hospital decontamination (DECON) teams are trained to respond in disasters where victims are presumed to have been exposed to hazardous materials, known as HazMat incidents. The process is designed to quickly remove or reduce chemicals that may cause further harm to the injured patient or expose responding health care professionals. Teams participate in disaster drills, where they wear personal protective equipment and practice the DECON process in a simulated disaster situation. In the Omaha metro area, trained DECON teams are an identified Community Health Need, and the lack of trained teams in our area is a concern for all health care systems. Children's Nebraska's DECON team is proud to have consistently maintained training for team members and trainers over the past few years, even during the pandemic.

### DECON Team Facts:

1

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires DECON teams to complete a 16-hour training class for new members and an annual eight-hour training class for current members.

2

Children's DECON team has five certified trainers and continues to send team members to Train the Trainer certification to build capacity.

3

To address the shortage of trained teams, Children's DECON team has extended training invitations to DECON team members from other health care systems.



# EMS Tier Response Provides Expertise in Pediatric Emergencies

Just 10% of all calls for 911 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response are for pediatric patients. For this reason, EMS response units spend most of their training and preparation resources on adult patients. When emergency medical services are needed for a young patient, Children's Nebraska has become a crucial resource to local EMS teams in assisting with patient care and providing education free of charge.

In 2018, Children's Transport team started the EMS Tier Response program in response to a request from a local community EMS program that had experienced a difficult pediatric call. Children's Transport team provides ground response on pediatric emergency calls when the local EMS unit reaches out for assistance. The Transport team communicates via radio with EMS and agrees on the best way to provide care. Children's may meet local EMS units at the scene or on the way to the hospital to support a patient in transport. Children's offers this service to all counties in the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro area.

"This is a life-changing program that helps to get critical care expertise and equipment to pediatric patients sooner," says Kaela Thompson, Yutan EMT and firefighter. "A lot of the treatments that would normally have to wait until arriving at the hospital Emergency Department can be started sooner because Children's team can arrive on scene."

Children's EMS Tier Response is offered free of charge to patients and to the local communities requesting support. After each event, Children's Transport Outreach team follows up with the agency and offers to debrief and conduct case reviews as requested.

"Children don't get sick that often, so it is a rare event for EMS to respond to a pediatric patient. We like to bring our expertise and education wherever we can to help," says Robert Chaplin, M.D., Children's Nebraska Transport team medical director.



**EMS Tier Response volume has grown significantly since the program began in 2018**



# Children's Injury Prevention Team Helps Keep Kids Safe

Injuries are the leading cause of death and disability to children in the U.S., and many of these injuries and deaths are preventable. The Injury Prevention program at Children's Nebraska is committed to decreasing the incidence of traumatic injuries through multi-faceted, community-based child safety education programs. Children's Injury Prevention team, part of the Trauma department, informs children, parents, educators and child safety advocates about injury prevention through outreach and events.

## Injury Prevention Programs and Services:



### STOP THE BLEED®

STOP THE BLEED® is one of our nation's largest public health campaigns. Its goal is to save lives by training people across the country how to stop traumatic bleeding. Uncontrolled bleeding is the number one cause of preventable death after injury.



STOP THE BLEED is a free class offered by Children's Trauma team. The hour-long class is a combination of lecture and hands-on training on wound-packing and tourniquet use to train, equip and empower the bystander in the critical first minutes after a trauma injury that causes bleeding.

Children's Nebraska's Trauma team has made it a goal to get as many children, team members and community members as possible trained in STOP THE BLEED. In the community, the team has trained EMS agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, church groups, construction groups, youth groups and many more organizations.



### BIKE SAFETY

More children ages 5 to 14 are seen in emergency rooms for injuries related to biking than for any other sport. Children's Nebraska's Injury Prevention team takes bike safety very seriously, sharing bike safety resources and distributing bike helmets at outreach events.



**1,000+**

**More than 1,000 free helmets** were distributed in 2022, including **over 600** at the Omaha Healthy Kids Day event in April.



### INJURY PREVENTION CONFERENCE

Children's Nebraska hosted its first Injury Prevention Conference in November 2022. The conference featured presentations on a variety of topics, such as violence prevention, suicide prevention, gun safety, driving/car seat safety, burn prevention, legislative advocacy and more. Participants from across Nebraska and as far away as the East Coast attended online and in person. Continuing Medical and Nurse Education credit was offered in partnership with Children's Office of Education.



### FIREWORKS SAFETY GLASSES

In 2022, Children's Nebraska, Nebraska Medicine, Truhlsen Eye Institute and UNMC teamed to spread awareness about eye safety ahead of the Independence Day holiday by offering free safety glasses to the public.



**3,000**

3,000 pairs of safety glasses were distributed in the Omaha metro area in 2022.

"Fireworks and sparklers are incendiary and explosive devices that can burn at temperatures up to 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit. Even brief contact with the delicate tissues of the eye can cause devastating burns," says Paul Rychwalski, M.D., Children's chief of Pediatric Ophthalmology and the Dr. John and Irene Graether Endowed Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology at Truhlsen Eye Institute. "Also, high velocity projectiles like bottle rockets can cause massive injuries to the cornea, lens and retina and even cause the eye to rupture."





## CAR SEAT SAFETY

Estimates say eight out of 10 child car seats are improperly installed. Young children who are correctly restrained in child safety seats have an 80% lower risk of fatal injury in the event of a motor vehicle crash than those who are unrestrained.

### Installation and Fit

Car seat safety checks educate parents on how to properly install and use a child car seat. Children's Nebraska's nationally certified child passenger safety technicians check car seats for families, fit children properly in their car seats, teach parents how to install a car seat and provide passenger safety information. Children's operates a car seat fitting station available by appointment and offered to the community at events throughout the year.



#### Car Seats Provided:

79

at fitting station

16

at events

280

for refugee families

375

TOTAL

#### Car Seat Checks:

357

at fitting station

262

at events

619

TOTAL

### Car Seat Recycling

After being damaged or reaching their expiration date, car seats are no longer safe to transport children and should be discarded. Expiration dates may be found under the seat or stamped onto the frame of most models. Car Seat recycling events collect old, damaged or unused seats to be taken to a special recycling facility. The events are held a few times each year.



Scan the QR code to learn about  
**Car Seat Fitting and Upcoming Events**



Travis Hedlund, Injury Prevention coordinator; Amy Borg, Child Passenger Safety specialist; Kristin Foster, Trauma Outreach coordinator; Kaela Thompson, Trauma registrar; Jessica Lee, manager, Trauma program.

## Car Seats for Refugee Families

Vehicle safety is a critical concern, especially for kids. In the U.S., car seats are not only a cultural norm, they are also the law, and both can be unfamiliar to some refugee and evacuee parents and families. Children's Trauma team joined forces with Lutheran Family Services and Refugee Empowerment Center to support the hundreds of Afghan refugees flying into Omaha and relocating throughout Nebraska.

In 2022, Children's Injury Prevention team donated 280 car seats and booster seats to support these families as they adjust to a new environment. Brochures, translated into Pashto and Dari, were included with each car seat.

According to Amy Borg, child passenger safety specialist in Children's Trauma Department, motor vehicle accidents are one of the leading causes of unintentional injury deaths among children. "We do what we do because we want to help kids and save lives," Borg says. "I'm honored to be able to help parents protect their kids in a culture so new to them."



## GUN & MEDICATION SAFETY

Injury Prevention is collaborating with Children's Behavioral Health and Social Work departments on gun safety and suicide prevention by developing gun safety education materials and supplying gun locks as well as medication lock boxes.



## SAFE KIDS DOUGLAS COUNTY

Safe Kids Douglas County is led by Children's Nebraska, which provides dedicated and caring staff, operations support and other resources to assist in achieving our common goal: to keep kids safe. The coalition implements evidence-based programs, such as car seat safety checks, safety workshops and sports clinics that help parents and caregivers prevent childhood injuries.



## Medical Legal Partnerships Improve Health Outcomes for Families

More than 80% of an individual's health is determined by social factors\*, including:

- Income and access to health insurance
- Family stability
- Legal Immigration status in the U.S.
- Housing
- Employment
- Mental Health
- Education

\*University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (2023). [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

When patients and families are faced with limitations due to these social factors, their health and the health of our community suffers.

Children's Nebraska's medical legal partnerships with Legal Aid of Nebraska and the Immigrant Legal Center bring together medical professionals and legal service providers to address social causes of health disparities, including immigration status, guardianship, access to benefits and safety planning for detention or deportation.

Legal advocacy for patients and families reduces barriers created by high out-of-pocket costs, decreasing uncompensated care costs. Families benefit from improved health outcomes and receive the support they need to thrive.

### Most recently, Children's Social Work team made:

- 112 referrals to Immigrant Legal Center with 69 families receiving legal support when pathways to legal status were identified; 31 cases closed during 2022 with 100% having favorable outcomes for the patient/family.
- 176 requests to Legal Aid of Nebraska for 187 legal issues related to family needs including income maintenance, legal guardianship and housing; 146 cases were closed with favorable outcomes in 2022.

Children's is proud to partner with these organizations as we work together to improve the life of every child and champion the needs and welfare of children.



# Exploring the Landscape of Community Health Needs

In the fall of 2022, Children's Nebraska hosted four days of community exploration for Implementation Strategy Plan team members, Children's Community Health & Advocacy team and interested executive leaders. Participants visited nonprofit organizations serving the Omaha area to learn about programs that serve vulnerable child and family populations with one or more services in the impact areas of Financial Stability, Food Security, Healthy Housing and Pediatric Mental Wellness. Following the tours, attendees and host organizations were surveyed on their knowledge, interest and experience for each of the four areas.

"We appreciated the chance to highlight our community and to showcase our programs that impact the families, youth and parents we serve. Programs like Pathways to Success and Siembra Nebraska provide a host of opportunities to Latino and immigrant youth to explore careers and engage with professionals in ways they would not otherwise have a chance to do," says Albert Varas, CEO of the Latino Center of the Midlands, one of the host agencies for Financial Stability exploration.

"Spending the day out in the city opened my eyes to the vast number of opportunities we have to partner with and support organizations doing amazing work in our community. I am grateful for the opportunity to see, experience and

understand the work of our community partners," says Elise Ingram, MBA, BSN, RN, CNML, CPN, director, Ambulatory Operations at Children's Nebraska.

"I enjoyed the opportunity to learn and network with community resources. I now have many more tools and relationships in my toolbox to help the children and families I work with daily overcome social determinants of health," says Diana Scheetz, BSN, RN, CCM, CPN nurse case manager at Children's.



# School Health Team Supports Student Physical and Mental Health Across Nebraska

## New School Nurse Training and Support

School nurses are critical to keeping kids healthy across Nebraska. In partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education and the CDC Healthy Schools Grant, school nurses are receiving extra support from Children's Nebraska.

School nurses often serve as a single staff member to one or more school buildings within their district. It can be lonely and challenging work, filled with unique situations based on the individual needs of the students in the school. With the goal of providing the best training, resources and connections, Children's hosted its first statewide New School Nurse training in the summer of 2022 when Andrea Riley, BSN, RN, joined the Children's team from Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The training was free to participants and included both live and virtual components to help new school nurses and their accompanying administrators forge a successful path for the school year ahead. Riley, along with Kim McClintick, MSN, RN, who serve on Children's School Health team, organized and presented the training.



New School Nurse Training Cohort, July 2022.

To supplement initial training and help school nurses address new and unique needs, School Nurse Huddles are monthly meetings facilitated by the Children's team for new nurses to come together to ask questions, make connections and support one another.

Additionally, Children's School Health team launched an online learning library with on-demand learning modules designed to equip new school nurses with baseline knowledge of school health. These tools are free and accessible to any school health professional or administrator in Nebraska.

This project is funded in part by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Title V Maternal Child Health (MCH) Block Grant.

## Continuing Education for All School Nurses

Since the start of the 2020/21 school year, Children's Nebraska has hosted School Health Learning Collaborative sessions for our Nebraska school partners. These sessions serve as an opportunity for school nurses and other school staff to learn and interact with Children's experts as schools faced known and unknown challenges related to COVID-19 and other common health issues students experience in schools. School staff and administrators are also invited, and Continuing Nurse Education (CNE) credits are available to those who attend live sessions. The sessions are recorded and posted to Children's Nebraska's website.



Scan the QR code to view the  
**Learning Collaborative sessions**

## Resources and Connections Benefit School Counselors and Social Workers

School social workers and counselors help students and their families address needs and barriers that may prevent them from attending school ready to learn. Children's Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) have partnered to enhance the resources and support available to school counselors and social workers.

Children's has established partnerships with the School Social Work Association of Nebraska and the Nebraska School Counselor Association to support these groups in Nebraska. Grant funding from a DHHS Title V MCH Block Grant allowed Children's to help add 50 new members between the two organizations. Additionally, Children's helped to support professional development opportunities for these member organizations with a focus on school mental health and suicide prevention.





Student mental health is a key priority for this team. In 2022, the first-ever EmPOWER Youth Summit brought together 300 students from 22 schools across the Omaha metro area for a hope-filled day focused on mental wellness education, creativity, self-care and peer support, equipping students with tools and strategies to advocate for themselves and others around mental health in schools. The event was a collaborative effort led by Children's, the Kim Foundation, Region 6 Behavioral Health Services, Metro Area Suicide Prevention Coalition and other metro youth organizations.

Children's partnered with the Nebraska Department of Education and Project AWARE to enhance their Mental Health Anti-Stigma campaign, creating TikTok videos for students and caregivers and a primary care provider video with the message, "It's OK to not be OK!" Children's led the development of culturally inclusive campaign materials in Spanish, Arabic, Karen and Vietnamese.



An attendee at the EmPower Youth Summit takes a moment to share an example of empowerment.



# Why Focus on School Health?

Each student's success in school is directly impacted by their life experiences and support systems outside of school. There is a strong and well-documented link between poverty, student health outcomes and academic success. More than one-quarter of children and adolescents have a chronic health condition such as asthma, severe allergies, seizure disorders, diabetes or poor oral health. It is essential for students to receive support in managing chronic health conditions so they can be present and engaged in school.

School Health team members help students and families navigate social barriers to good health, known as the Social Determinants of Health, so they can effectively secure resources to manage chronic conditions and navigate situations that may negatively impact their health and success in school.

## Key Topics in School Health:

**Physical health:** concussions, diabetes, sudden cardiac arrest/AEDs, Down syndrome and development and blood borne pathogens

**Mental health:** bullying, supporting students living in foster care, ADHD behavioral interventions, drug use and suicide prevention

# Children's Launches Heart Safe Schools Initiative with Project ADAM

Children's Nebraska is proud to have been designated a Project ADAM affiliate hospital in 2022, which brings opportunities to advocate for necessary access to automated external defibrillator (AED) equipment and AED/CPR training in schools and communities.

Project ADAM stands for Automated Defibrillators in Adam's memory. It is a national initiative named for Adam Lemel, a 17-year-old who collapsed and died from sudden cardiac arrest in 1999 while playing basketball. Defibrillation could have saved his life. Adam's parents collaborated with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin to create the program in his memory.

Project ADAM's Heart Safe School program ensures schools have well-maintained automated AED equipment, CPR/AED trained staff and a practiced plan to respond to a sudden collapse on campus, giving students, staff and visitors the best possible chance to survive a sudden cardiac arrest.

Electrophysiologist Matthew Sorensen, M.D., a member of Children's Nebraska's nationally recognized Criss Heart Center team, serves as the regional medical director for Project ADAM and works with Children's team to support the program's development and community activities. The initiative marks a strategic investment to align Children's cardiac experts as a local and statewide resource for community schools. It is a collaboration between Children's Criss Heart Center and Community Health & Advocacy teams.

Omaha's Creighton Preparatory School became the first Nebraska school to receive a Heart Safe Schools designation in April 2022. With this designation, Creighton Prep serves as a model for other schools to demonstrate the importance of and commitment to preparedness and training for an unexpected cardiac event.

Since April 2022, Children's has designated 14 schools and one community site as Heart Safe. Through outreach efforts and the work of each designation, over 250 sites have shown interest in partnering with Children's to become designated. Children's Project ADAM is here and ready to help all schools and communities be prepared and keep their students, families and communities safe.



**Heart Safe School**  
*Project ADAM*

**Heart Safe Schools have taken all the steps necessary to safeguard the health of students, including:**

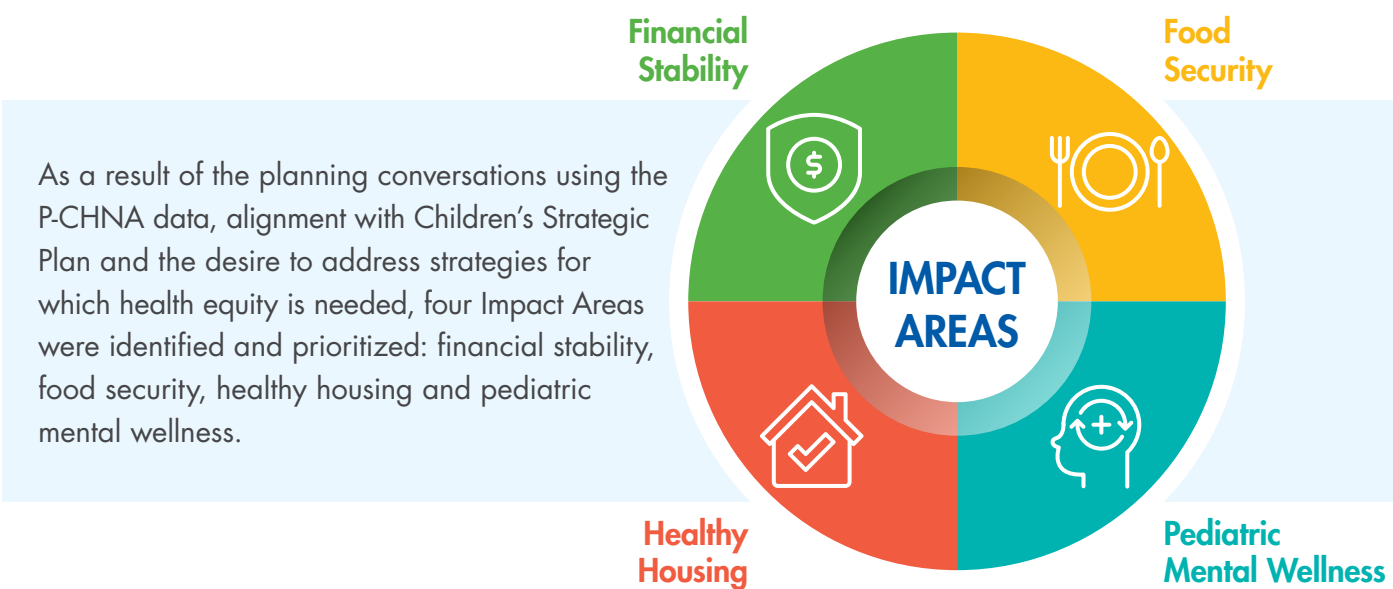
- Ensure AEDs are available and accessible
- Have a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) emergency response plan and trained emergency response team
- Perform SCA drills practiced annually
- Maintain equipment and designation



Members of Children's Criss Heart Center and Community Health & Advocacy teams joined administrators, faculty and students at Creighton Prep for a press conference recognizing Prep's Heart Safe School designation through Project ADAM.

# 2022-2024 Implementation Strategy Plan: Responding to Identified Community Health Needs

Following the completion of the 2021 Pediatric Community Health Needs Assessment (P-CHNA), Children’s Nebraska developed a three-year Implementation Strategy Plan (ISP) to be carried out from 2022 to 2024.



To ensure clarity in populations impacted by health inequities, Children’s Community Health & Advocacy team have adopted the National Institutes of Health definition of underrepresented populations.

**The National Institutes of Health (NIH) definition of underrepresented children includes:**

- Children experiencing homelessness
- Children living in foster care
- Children of color
- Children living in poverty and/or in rural areas
- Children living in rural areas
- Children with disability

Given three of the four Impact Areas are new areas of focus for Children’s, the first 18 months of the 2022-24 ISP concentrate on:

<p><b>Discovery &amp; Research</b></p> <p>Collecting data regarding populations impacted, conducting an inventory of current policies, practices and workflows that support related work internally and in the community and understanding the local and national landscape to identify best and emerging practices.</p>	<p><b>Advocacy</b></p> <p>Assessing current and proposed policies and legislation affecting each Impact Area and identifying key partners and champions for the work.</p>	<p><b>Education &amp; Training</b></p> <p>Evaluating staff awareness, knowledge and sensitivity to each Impact Area, and identifying education and training opportunities and modes for delivery.</p>
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# 2022 Children's Financial Commitment to the Community

**Total Community Benefit = \$175,464,684**

## BROADER COMMUNITY HEALTH

**\$84,873,443**

### Subsidized Health Services

**\$1,642,496**

Hospital-based clinical services that meet the needs of the region's child-patient population delivered at a financial loss after reimbursement and charity care considerations are recognized

### Health Professions Education

**\$22,474,837**

Training for medical, nursing and other health care professionals including clinical rotations, pediatric-specific education, internships and scholarships

### Cash & In-Kind Contributions

Contributions provided to non-profit organizations whose work impacts community health needs and aligns with the mission of Children's Nebraska

**\$1,071,081**

Children's Specialty Clinics/Nebraska Pediatric Providers operations support

**\$59,685,029**

## UNCOMPENSATED CARE

**\$86,457,564**

### Financial Assistance\*

**\$5,562,698**

Free and discounted health care for patients who qualify for Children's Financial Assistance programs

### Unreimbursed Medicaid

**\$80,894,866**

Total shortfall when the cost of care is greater than the amount allowed for Medicaid reimbursement

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

**\$4,133,677**

### Community Health Improvement

**\$3,327,631**

Programs, education and services outside of direct patient care designed to improve overall community health by addressing defined Community Health Needs

### Community Benefit Operations

**\$790,046**

Management of Community Benefit data collection and reporting, including oversight for development of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Implementation Strategy Plan (ISP)

### Community Building Activities

**\$16,000**

Programs and resources designed to make physical improvements, provide for community support, advocate for community health improvements and address communitywide workforce issues

\* Financial Assistance Policy Summary: The mission of Children's Nebraska is to Improve the life of every child...through exceptional Care, Advocacy, Research and Education. Our commitment to children's health also includes providing care to patients who are unable to pay or require payment assistance. To help all children receive the care they need, Children's provides financial assistance for medically necessary and emergency care to patients who meet eligibility requirements. Children's Financial Assistance policy can be found at <https://www.childrensnebraska.org/hospital-experience/billing-insurance-medical-records/financial-assistance/>.





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