



Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center
Community Benefit Implementation Plan
2023-2025

MISSION

To be your trusted partner in all healthcare decisions.

Our Carle Health shared mission defines who we are, what we stand for, and the importance of our relationship with our patients, staff and community. As a locally-based private, not-for-profit organization, we take seriously our obligation to treat and provide high quality care to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. This mission statement looks beyond medicine to include research and education, both of which remain highly valued by our organization.

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

There are many factors that can influence the health and well-being of a community, and Vermilion County has had a long history of challenges. Consistently ranked in the bottom quartile of the County Health Rankings, many of the county's problems are deep-rooted and have become the community cultural norm.

The Champaign-Vermilion County Regional Executive Committee, consisting of representatives from Carle Hoopes Regional Health Center (CHRHC), the Carle Health system, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District (CUPHD), OSF HealthCare, Vermilion County Health Department, and United Way of Champaign and Vermilion counties, started research to conduct an updated Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in Vermilion County in preparation for the CHNA and Community Benefit Implementation Plan.

Development of this plan was a collaborative effort, working with community partners, regional schools of nursing, local and state government representatives, and input from county residents. More than 50 community leaders from a variety of agencies and organizations, as well as more than 500 county residents, contributed to the assessment via both in-person meetings and surveys. After assessing the current health status of the community and identified needs, the Regional Executive Committee created a comprehensive plan to improve our community's health.

History of the Champaign-Vermilion County Regional Executive Committee

In an effort to more efficiently and collaboratively assess the health and well-being of the community and determine the most significant health needs in the community, the Vermilion County Executive Assessment Committee was formed in 2014. The group included representatives from Carle, OSF (Presence), United Way, I Sing the Body Electric, and the Vermilion County Health Department.

Expanding into the region to make the best use of resources and staff, the Executive Assessment Committee joined with counterparts in nearby Champaign County in 2016 to become the Champaign-Vermilion County Regional Executive Committee. This transition also included hiring and helping to cover the salary of a full-time Regional Community Health Plan Coordinator, responsible for overseeing both counties' health plans as an employee of both Champaign and Vermilion County public health departments.

In addition to the Committee, work groups were formed – one for each priority – in order to determine how to implement programs and tackle these significant health needs. These groups are comprised of representatives from various health facilities and agencies in town, and continue to meet multiple times throughout the year.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Based upon the Community Health Needs Assessment using both quantitative and qualitative research, Carle Hoopston Regional Health Center prioritized the significant community health needs of Vermilion County considering several criteria including: alignment with the hospital’s mission, existing programs, the ability to make an impact within a reasonable time frame, the financial and human resources required, and whether there would be a measurable outcome to gauge improvement. The following three health areas were selected as the top priorities:

- 1. Behavioral Health**
- 2. Violence**
- 3. Income/Poverty**
- 4. Health Behaviors**

As a Critical Access Hospital, Carle Hoopston Regional Health Center will continue its work to improve the overall health of the community through service to its patients, including emphasis on Access to Health Services, and other specialties and services the hospital or the Carle Health system provides. Carle Health is diligently working to improving access and services throughout the east central Illinois region, not just for this geographic area. Many of the other concerns are also addressed through services provided for Carle patients, but these areas are not the primary emphasis of the Community Benefit Implementation Plan which targets more specific low-income populations in Vermilion County.

Following is a description of each priority area, risk factors, indirect and direct contributing factors, goals, objectives, and strategies selected for each of the three health priority areas. Each worksheet incorporates the goals and objectives Vermilion County has set for the next three years. These health plans were developed in partnership with community leaders representing multiple agencies and organizations.

This plan includes Carle Hoopston Regional Health Center’s intent to address and measure outcomes from 2023-2025.

Behavioral Health:

Description of Priority Area:

Behavioral health issues continue to be an issue across the county. Lack of resources, funding, and stigma contribute to the issue in Vermilion County. According to County Health Rankings, the most recent ratio of the county population in Vermilion County to the number of mental health providers was 300:1. This number is better than the State of Illinois’ ratio of 370:1, but lower than the Top US

Performers’ ratio of 250:1. The number of suicides in Vermilion County has increased every year for the past four years in Vermilion County, with 18 in 2021, the number of 211 calls in Vermilion County continue to increase, and aggregate data on drug-related overdose deaths maintains high in Vermilion County.

When asked to identify health concerns other than chronic disease, survey respondents identified mental health as a priority. When combined with drug/substance abuse, the behavioral health priority area was deemed essential to creating a healthier community. By educating community partners on early identification of behavioral health conditions, increasing awareness of behavioral services and decreasing the stigma associated with seeking services, behavioral health improvement will be brought to the forefront of health priority in Vermilion County.

Implementation Plan – Anticipated Impact & Plan to Evaluate:

Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center, in partnership with the Carle Health system, will pursue these initiatives to address behavioral health in Vermilion County:

1. Increase access to behavioral health care by working to increase the number of behavioral health providers, LCSWs, X-wavered physicians in Vermilion County.
2. Institute mental health medical care in Carle primary care offices in Vermilion County.
3. Establish and launch a new telehealth service focused on Behavioral Health for residents in Vermilion County, allowing residents to connect with world-class care from their home.
4. Continue partnering with Iroquois Mental Health to offer mental and behavioral health programs in Hoopeston at our outpatient facility.
5. Increase medication assisted therapies availability using Carle Health’s Mobile Health Clinic in Vermilion County.
6. Continue to support Mental Health First Aid Trainings by supporting the Vermilion County Mental Health Board, while extending virtual opportunities to the community through Carle Community Health Initiatives.
7. Work to coordinate outreach and efforts to co-hire NPPs with local partners in Vermilion County.
8. Provide donations and in-kind support to community and school-based programs that improve access to mental health programming.

Measure of Success:

Measurement	2023	2024	2025
Increase mental health providers and LCSWs in Vermilion County	1 net new providers	1 net new providers	1 net new provider
Instituting mental health care in Carle Primary Care Offices	1 net new location	1 net new locations	1 net new locations

Increase number of X-waivered physicians in Vermilion County	4 net new providers	4 net new providers	4 net new providers
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Violence:

Description of Priority Area:

National data shows that gun violence has been a chronic issue over the past decade and that some cities have seen recent surges in shootings. There is evidence of the harmful effects of violence on child development, the long-term health of affected populations, and the economic development of entire communities. Over the last several years, the number of violent crimes, especially gun-related, have increased in Vermilion County. Respondents of the community health survey of 2022 identified Violence as a priority in Vermilion County. Most recent violent crime rate for Vermilion County was 705 crimes per 100,000 population, according to County Health Rankings, which is significantly higher than the Illinois and national rates.

Implementation Plan – Anticipated Impact & Plan to Evaluate:

Carle Hoopston Regional Health Center, in partnership with the Carle Health system, will pursue these initiatives to reduce substance violence in the community:

1. Continue screening at points of entry into Carle systems in Vermilion County for signals of abuse, neglect, gun safety, and more violence related indicators to identify and act proactively on signals of violent households and make linkages to supportive community services.
2. Investigate and advocate for seniors experiencing physical, social isolation, or financial abuse through partnership with Carle Health CRIS Healthy Aging Center.
3. Provide financial support to organizations whose mission and programming addresses violence and focuses on keeping children active in healthy, organized, and supervised activities.
4. Document and track violence in workplace settings to better inform the community about violent instances at healthcare facilities, and how to better protect those who provide critical care.
5. Continue to provide in-kind support from Carle Health leadership to participate in the Vermilion County Violence Coalition.

Measure of success:

Measurement	2023	2024	2025
Provide In-Kind Leadership Staff Time to Vermilion County Violence Coalition.	12 hours	12 hours	12 hours

Provide grant funding and in-kind support to community organizations to support violence prevention	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
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Income/Poverty:

Description of Priority Area:

According to recent Census data, nearly 19% percent of Vermilion County residents live in poverty, and almost 13% of Vermilion County residents are expected to experience food insecurity. Research has shown people living in poverty can face greater barriers accessing medical care, less likely to have health insurance, have less access to healthy foods, which contribute to higher rates of obesity and chronic disease. Poor health can limit one’s ability to work, reduce economic opportunities, inhibit educational attainment, and lead to medical debt and bankruptcy. Residents identified income/poverty as a high area of concern as did community stakeholders who described their focus on educational advancement and increased awareness of community resources that offer assistance.

Implementation Plan – Anticipated Impact & Plan to Evaluate:

Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center. In partnership with the Carle Health system, will pursue these initiatives to address income disparities and poverty in the community:

1. Offer healthcare career/job fairs for high school students in Vermilion County.
2. Establish mentoring programs between Carle staff and students at Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center, Carle at the Riverfront, and other Carle entities in Vermilion County.
3. Commit to the finalization of the Carle at the Riverfront project, while increasing natural economic development opportunities- opportunities for jobs, and a safe place in Vermilion County to receive education and care.
4. Offer financial literacy assistance education and tax assistance for seniors through partnership with Carle Health CRIS Healthy Aging Center.
5. Evaluate expansion of the Population Health care model in Vermilion County based on the successes in the Champaign County region.
6. Continue to provide leadership time in-kind on the Income/Poverty workgroup through StepUp Vermilion County.
7. Assist seniors in remaining independent and relieving stresses associated with budgeting on a limited income through the Money Management Program through partnership with Carle Health CRIS Healthy Aging Center.

8. Offer counseling to connect seniors with services including Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program (MSP), Low Income Subsidy (LIS), Housing, Phones, Funding for various services, Benefit Access Applications (license plate discounts, free bus pass), Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), VITA-TCE certified tax assistance, Alliance for information and referral system (AIRS) certified referrals through partnership with Carle Health CRIS Healthy Aging Center.
9. Continue the commitment of Carle Hoopston Regional Health Center's leadership's involvement on community boards and commissions which focus on addressing issues of income/poverty, and racial and social determinants of health.
10. Continue Carle Hoopston Regional Health Center's financial commitment to school districts in Vermilion County- Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO), response-to intervention programs (RTI) – direct intervention programs working with children, and programs that focus on income and poverty disparities in families.
11. Carle Hoopston Regional Health Center will continue to ensure care is available for all that need through its System Financial Assistance program by working diligently in Medicaid enrollment assistance, Social Work focused on Vermilion County and entire Hoopston region
12. Carle Hoopston Regional Health Center will address food insecurity, will work on establishing community access to healthy food access, and work towards healthy foods rx.
13. Expand prescription for nutrition program and food access through Carle's Mobile Health Clinic.

Measures of success:

Measurement	2023	2024	2025
Hold Career Fairs Focused on Health Care Career Pathways for High School Students	1	1	1
Provide Healthcare Focused Volunteer Opportunities for High School and College Students in Vermilion County	1	1	1
Established healthy food options with the Carle Mobile Health Clinic	Work Towards Establishment	Yes	Yes

Healthy Behaviors:

Description of Priority Area:

Like many communities in the United States, obesity and obesity related illnesses continue to be a concern in Vermilion County. Obesity is associated with poorer mental health outcomes, reduced quality of life, and the leading cause of death in the U.S. and worldwide, through contributing to heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some types of cancer.

In Vermilion County, almost three-quarters (72.9%) of residents were diagnosed with obesity and being overweight. According to the most recent County Health Rankings, 39% of adults in Vermilion County are obese, higher than the Illinois average of 32%. In the 2022 CHNA survey, respondents indicated that being overweight was the second most important health issue and was rated as the most prevalently diagnosed health condition. Research strongly suggests that obesity is a significant problem facing youth and adults nationally, in Illinois, and within Vermilion County.

A healthy lifestyle, comprised of regular physical activity and balanced diet, has been shown to increase physical, mental and emotional well-being. In Vermilion County, 31% of adults are subject to physical inactivity, while access to healthy exercise opportunities sit at 63%, lower than both Illinois and the US.

A healthy lifestyle, comprised of a proper diet, has been shown to increase physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Consequently, nutrition and diet are critical to preventative care. Over two-thirds (69%) of residents report no consumption or low consumption (1-2 servings per day) of fruits and vegetables per day.

Implementation Plan – Anticipated Impact & Plan to Evaluate:

Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center will pursue these initiatives to increase healthy behaviors, and reduce obesity:

1. Encourage providers to give out nutrition Rx and physical activity Rx.
2. Provide secure and healthy food options through Congregate Meal Program and Meals on Wheels through partnership with Carle Health CRIS Healthy Aging Center.
3. Provide comprehensive assessments providing homecare aides, emergency home response services, automated medication dispense as well as referrals to other CRIS services through the Care Coordination Unit through partnership with Carle Health CRIS Healthy Aging Center.

4. Provide Wellness Works articles related to health at all Farm Bureaus on a monthly basis through Carle Health Rural Health and Farm Safety.
5. Offer education on critical farm and rural safety by providing Progressive Ag Safety Days within Vermilion County through Carle Health Rural Health and Farm Safety.
6. Inform Vermilion County of significant health priorities and awareness efforts through bulletin inserts in faith communities through Carle Health Faith Community Health.
7. Continue to distribute food boxes to families in need under the Carle Community Health Initiative.
8. Increase awareness of overall health and wellness through Carle and Health Alliance health-based social media platforms.
9. Donations to community and school-based programs that encourage physical activity and nutritional education.

Measure of Success:

Measurement	2023	2024	2025
Children reached about farm and rural safety	350	350	350
Distribute healthy food boxes to families in need under CHI	100	100	100
Provide funding to community agencies	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000

Access to Care:

While Access to Care was not selected as a priority for the 2022 CHNA conducted in conjunction with community partners, critical access to care will continue to be a priority for Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center.

As a tax-exempt organization, Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center provides care to patients regardless of their ability to pay for that care or source of payment. We also recognize that some patients need help paying their bills. Carle’s Financial Assistance Program provides discounts or free care to those who need it. Carle’s generous Financial Assistance Program, consistently and diligently applied, has resulted in our ability to reach many people over the years. In 2021 alone, Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center provided \$1,913,168 in charity care at cost to 5,368 unique individuals.

In addition to charity care, Carle supports a wide range of programs and services to increase community capacity, health care work force expansion, and social services that provide complementary healthcare-related services.

Carle Hoopston Regional Health Center has, and will continue to, pursue these initiatives to improve access to care:

1. Offer a charity care program and communicate the availability of that program.
2. Recruit more providers into the Carle system, thereby expanding access/capacity.
3. Support local community clinics to ensure added local capacity for health care.
4. Support United Way and other area agencies to improve availability of health services.
5. Donate to existing community health and dental programs.
6. Participate in population health initiatives that actively manage the health of members.
7. Support students in health care fields; GME programs to grow number of future physicians.
8. Promote prescription affordability as a 340B provider.
9. Enhance access-related initiatives that will improve patient access and ability to interface more efficiently for needed services – Patient Contact Center, Scheduling Center, Prescription Refill request process, virtual visits and more.
10. Continue to provide outreach care access and education through the Carle Community Health Initiative’s Faith Community Health and Rural Health and Farm Safety services.

Addressing Social Determinants of Health:

Carle Health is committed to providing world-class care and services to the communities they serve through empathy and inclusion. In partnership with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion department, the Carle Health Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Steering Committee provides advisory support to the Board of Trustees and Executive Leadership Team to instill a culture of equity by establishing a clear strategy for improving the cultural awareness and inclusivity of the organization and those Carle Health serves. Additionally, the system-level Health Equity Clinical Guidance committee is responsible for guiding the organizational strategy and implementation of work to address health disparities in the communities Carle Health serves.

In recent years, Carle Health staff, providers and leaders have participated in system-level training opportunities focusing on addressing unconscious bias, the impact of social determinants of health, and building more inclusive and culturally humble healthcare. The Carle Health DEI Steering Committee and Health Equity Clinical Guidance Committee will continue to support the Carle Health System in advising on ways the organization can recruit and promote a diverse workforce, procure goods and services

locally from historically underrepresented communities, offer training that addresses cultural humility and implicit bias, and forge partnerships and investments that address social needs such as food, housing, and community safety.

In January 2022, all Carle Health leaders completed a required DEI-focused training on Inclusive Leadership, building leadership knowledge and accountability on topics like bias and privilege, equity and social structures that impact health, professional opportunity and well-being. In June-July 2022, 97% of all Carle Health employees completed a mandatory training on *The Impact of Social Determinants of Health*, which focused on social drivers and their impacts on individual and community health, the importance of empathy, and system-level initiatives and opportunities to close gaps and address negative impacts of social determinants. In October 2022, the Carle Health system kicked off an *equity challenge*, a 12 week engagement to raise awareness and action on the effects of racism in healthcare. This event included a national speaker, weekly resources and reflection questions and system-wide discussion sessions, prompting team members across the system to better understand the effects of systemic and interpersonal racism in healthcare and to identify ways to disrupt racism's impact in healthcare.

APPENDIX

Populations and Communities Served:

Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center is a Critical Access Hospital committed to improving quality of life in northern Vermilion County and the surrounding area. CHRHC integrated with The Carle Foundation in 2012 to provide more access to primary and specialty care. Total, The Carle Foundation's service area extends into 41 counties in Illinois and Indiana, serving nearly 1.4 million residents.

The primary service area of Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center is defined as the geographical boundary of Vermilion County, Illinois, and includes the majority of CHRHC patients. The secondary service area includes outpatient facilities in Cissna Park, Hoopeston, Milford, Rossville, Watseka, as well as Carle Danville on Fairchild, Carle Mattoon on Hurst and in Tuscola.

Pockets of extreme poverty exist throughout this region, with rates highest around the city of Danville. The programs within our community benefit plan generally have impact upon all the targeted communities, with certain programs directed at specific populations.

Dates Adopted/Approved:

Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center's Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Benefit Implementation Plan were both adopted and approved by CHRHC's Board of Trustees on October 27, 2022.