



Carle Hooperston Regional Health Center

2026-2028 Implementation Strategy

 **Carle** Health

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Introduction

The Carle Health shared Mission Statement was adopted by Carle's Board of Trustees on March 12, 2021.

To be your trusted partner in all healthcare decisions.

Our mission statement 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. As the region's trusted healthcare provider, we are also called to be the region's trusted community partner – providing assistance, programs and resources when and where our communities need them.

Executive Summary

Carle Hooperston Regional Health Center (CHRHC), a 24-bed Critical Access Hospital in Hooperston, IL, is part of Carle Health, a vertically integrated system with a bold but simple mission: to be the trusted partner in all healthcare decisions for everyone who depends on it. The hospital provides highly accessible, high-quality care to improve health in Vermilion County and the surrounding area. Always focused on its North Star – providing the best care possible for patients – CHRHC is driven by a deep philanthropic spirit to solve real-world health issues now and into the future.

Specialty services include cardiology, behavioral health and diagnostic services (including nuclear medicine, digital mammography, podiatry, pulmonology, nephrology, radiology and laboratory), along with emergency medicine and surgical services. CHRHC also provides access to primary care with clinics in Cissna Park, Danville, Hooperston, Mattoon, Milford, Rossville, Tuscola and Watseka. CHRHC employs more than 380 team members, with over 50 physicians and advanced practice providers.

Implementation Strategy

2025 Community Health Needs Assessment Summary

The 2025 Vermilion County Community Health Needs Assessment is a collaborative undertaking by Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center, OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center, United Way of Danville Area, Vermilion County Mental Health Board, and Vermilion County Public Health Department. This assessment, with the help of collaborative community partners, identified numerous health issues impacting individuals and families in the Vermilion County region. Prevalent themes included demographic composition, disease predictors and prevalence, leading causes of mortality, accessibility to health services, and healthy behaviors.

The 2025 CHNA included a detailed analysis of secondary data to assess the community's health status. Information was collected from numerous secondary sources, both publicly and privately available data. Additionally, primary data were collected for the general population and the at-risk or economically disadvantaged population. Areas of investigation included perceptions of community health issues, unhealthy behaviors, issues with quality of life, healthy behaviors and access to medical care, dental care, prescription medication, and mental-health counseling. Social drivers of health were also analyzed to understand why certain population segments responded differently.

Ultimately, the identification and prioritization of the most important health-related issues in the Vermilion County region were identified. The collaborative team considered health needs based on: (1) magnitude of the issue (i.e., what percentage of the population was impacted by the issue); (2) severity of the issue in terms of its relationship with morbidities and mortalities; (3) potential impact through collaboration. Using a modified version of the Hanlon Method, three significant health needs were identified and determined to have equal priority: Behavioral Health, Income/Poverty, and Access to Healthcare.

Community Benefit Implementation Strategy

Based upon the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment using both quantitative and qualitative research, input from members of the community, numerous meetings with hospital, clinical, operational, and system leadership, and from input received from Carle Health's East Region Community Health Initiatives Board of Directors, Carle Hoopeston 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. Income/Poverty
3. Access to Healthcare

Following is a detailed description of actions the hospital intends to take in response to the prioritized health need, data and indicators supporting each as a priority, anticipated Impact of these actions, programs and resources the hospital plans to commit to address the health need, and planned collaboration between the hospital and other facilities or organizations.

While there were other health needs identified through the course of the CHNA process, the three listed above were prioritized as significant health needs. Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center has committed a plan and resources below to each of the significant health needs prioritized by the community.

Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center will evaluate the impact of these efforts through annual review, compilation, and annual reporting to the IRS through the 990 Schedule H, the Illinois Community Benefit Report, and through regular updates and meetings with the Carle Health East Region Community Health Initiatives Board of Directors.

This plan includes Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center's intent to address and measure outcomes from 2026-2028.

Priority 1: Behavioral Health

Actions the hospital intends to take to address the health need:

- Recruit behavioral health providers to add capacity within the community.
- Maintain psychiatry residency program participation at Carle at the Riverfront in Danville in Vermillion County, training the next generation of healthcare workers in this space.
- Implement addiction medicine nurse practitioner at Carle at the Riverfront in Danville in Vermillion County.
- Embed integrated behavioral health clinicians in Carle primary care offices in Vermilion County.
- Continue partnering with Iroquois Mental Health to offer mental and behavioral health programs in Hooperston at our outpatient facility.
- Provide Naloxone training and support to local community libraries throughout Champaign County.
- Partner with local health departments to expand Naloxone distribution and access.
- 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.
- Provide Memory Care programming and support groups for clients and/or family members affected with Alzheimer's/Dementia disease with Carle Health/CRIS Healthy Aging.

Indicators that support this as a priority:

According to 2025 County Health Rankings, the ratio of the county population in Vermilion County to the number of mental health providers was 240:1, a slight decrease from recent years. This number is lower than the State of Illinois' and national ratio of 280:1 and 290:1 respectively. The number of suicides in Vermilion County has increased every year for the past four years in Vermilion County, with 24 in 2025 data, which is higher than the state and national average of 14 and 16 respectively. The number of 211 calls in Vermilion County continue to increase, and aggregate data on drug-related overdose deaths maintains high in Vermilion County.

From 2025 CHNA Community Survey:

- Mental Health
 - Of respondents, 41% indicated they felt depressed in the last 30 days and 40% indicated they felt anxious or stressed.
 - Of respondents 34% indicated that they spoke to someone, the most common response was to a counselor (43%). In regards to self-assessment of overall mental health, 9% of respondents stated they have poor overall mental health.
- Substance Use:
 - Of survey respondents, 16% indicated they consume at least one alcoholic drink each day.
 - Of survey respondents, 16% indicated they improperly use prescription medications each day to feel better and 7% indicated the use of marijuana each day.

Anticipated impacts of these actions:

- Access to mental and behavioral health care in a very rural community will be maintained and in some case increased.
- Patients residing in the service area will have a greater understanding and recognition of behavioral health needs, the available resources, and opportunities to access care.
- The utilization of available mental health and substance use services will increase.
- Wait times from referral to initial appointment will decrease.
- Carle Health will continue to collaborate with community stakeholders—including health departments, hospital system partners, schools, and community organizations—to promote evidence-based behavioral health best practices that align with organizational values and support positive trends in suicide prevention and access to care.

Programs and resources the hospital plans to commit to address the health need:

- Carle Hooperston Regional Health Center and Carle Health Behavioral Health leadership staff
- Primary Care Medical staff
- Carle Community Health Initiatives
- Human Resources and HR Recruitment
- Carle Hooperston Regional Health Center senior leadership

Planned collaboration between the hospital and other facilities or other organizations:

- Vermilion County Public Health Department
- Vermilion County Mental Health Board
- Vermilion County Behavioral Health Working Committee
- Carle Health resources for providers and educational resources

Measuring Our Impact:

- Number of net new behavioral health providers employed by Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center and Carle Health on an annualized basis.
- Number of Mental Health First Aid Trainings provided by Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center and Carle Health.
- Number of Narcan trainings provided to our communities.
- Number of psychiatric residents trained through Carle's Psychiatry Residency, and retained by Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center and Carle Health.
- Visits by the Behavioral Health Harm Reduction Van in Vermilion County.

Priority 2: Income/Poverty

Actions the hospital intends to take to address the health need:

- Offer healthcare career/job fairs for high school students in Vermilion County.
- Carle Hoopeston 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 Hoopeston region.
- Assist seniors in remaining independent and relieving stresses associated with budgeting on a limited income with the Money Management Program through CRIS Healthy Aging.
- Provide assistance to seniors through Senior Information Services program, including, Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), Senior Health Assistance Program (SHAP), Medicare Savings Program (MSP)Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, (SNAP), Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), Medicaid Benefits & Spousal Impoverishment, License Plate Discount, Referral Assistance (Home Utility & Food Support), Free Bus Pass , GAP Funding (Utilities, Appliances & Weatherization), and Long-term Care Options offered through CRIS Healthy Aging.
- Provide Emergency Senior Services secure GAP funding to assist seniors with limited resources with unexpected emergencies and expenses to maintain their independence through CRIS Healthy Aging.
- Provide nutrition assistance through Home Delivered Meals and Congregate Meals through partnership with CRIS Healthy Aging.
- Provide low-cost food access through Carle's Mobile Market.
- Provide Community Health Worker services for people who are low-income and at-risk who have high blood pressure and/or diabetes.
- Provide Healthy Beginnings maternal/child nurse home visiting services for people who are pregnant (and until child is two years of age), low-income and at risk.
- 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.
- Evaluate expansion of the Population Health care model in Vermilion County based on the successes in the Champaign County region.
- Continue to provide leadership time in-kind on the Income/Poverty workgroup through StepUp Vermilion County.

Indicators that support this as a priority:

According to 2025 County Health Rankings, 29% of children in Vermilion County live in poverty. Also according to 2025 County Health Rankings, 14% of the population lives with food insecurity, which is higher than the state average and equal to the national average. According to recent Census data, over 18% percent of Vermilion County residents live in poverty, and 13% of Vermilion County residents are expected to experience food insecurity.

From 2025 CHNA Community Survey:

- Income level was correlated to several key healthcare-related variables in the CHNA survey. Specifically, low income correlates with the following:
- More likely to use the emergency department as a primary source of healthcare
- More likely to depend on Medicaid
- More likely to go hungry
- More likely to use marijuana
- More likely to have a negative self-assessment of both physical and mental well-being
- Less likely to have commercial/employer insurance
- Less likely to have access to prescription medications, dental care and counseling
- Less likely to have a personal physician
- Less likely to get breast screening
- Less likely to get cervical screening
- Less likely to consume fruits and vegetables

Programs and resources the hospital plans to commit to address the health need:

- Carle Hooperston Regional Health Center Senior Leadership
- Primary Care Medical staff
- Carle Community Health Initiatives
- Human Resources and HR Recruitment

Planned collaboration between the hospital and other facilities or other organizations:

- CRIS Healthy Aging
- Vermilion County School Districts
- Vermilion County Public Health Department

Measuring Our Impact:

- Number of career fairs hosted in Danville and Vermilion County.
- Number of Mobile Market, Mobile Health Clinic visits in Danville and Vermilion County.
- Impact from investments in job creating activities and economic development bringing opportunities to the communities we serve.

Priority 3 Access to Healthcare:

Actions the hospital intends to take to address the health need:

- Continue commitment to the provision of rural health care as a Critical Access Hospital, without which the community would have no healthcare.
- Expand telehealth operations, increasing access to services in rural communities.
- Utilize Carle Mobile Health Clinic to significantly increase access, bringing healthcare to the communities we serve, as well as social workers on site, and the ability to all patients regardless of insurance.
- Recruit healthcare workers into positions across the health system, increasing access and lowering wait times for healthcare services.
- Offer a charity care program, and communicate the availability of the charity care program.
- Donate to existing community health programs.
- Promote prescription affordability as a 340B provider.
- Continue access to care through subsidized services.
- Increase access to healthcare and social interactions for homebound and isolated clients who are 60+ by enrolling in CRIS Health Aging's Community Care program to ensure safety and support independence at home.

Indicators the support this as a priority:

According to 2025 County Health Rankings, primary care physicians are 2,580:1, which is significantly lower state and national averages. The population of uninsured adults is 7%, which is lower than state and federal average, and the population of uninsured children is 3%, which is the same as the state average and a little lower than national average.

From the 2025 CHNA Community Survey:

- Of respondents, 60% identified clinic/doctor's office as the primary source of care and 24% of respondents identified urgent care as the primary source of care, 6% identified the emergency department as a primary source of healthcare and 10% of respondents indicated they do not seek healthcare when needed.
- Of respondents, 16% did not have access to medical care when needed; 18% of the population did not have access to prescription medications when needed; 29% of the population did not have access to dental care when needed; and 13% of the population did not have access to counseling when needed.

Programs and resources the hospital plans to commit to address the health need:

- Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center and Carle Health Senior Leadership
- Carle Health Charitable Assistance teams
- Carle Health Pharmacy, 340B teams
- Carle Health HR, Workforce Recruitment

Planned collaboration between the hospital and other facilities or other organizations:

- CRIS Healthy Aging
- Local Community Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers

Measuring Our Impact:

- The total dollar amount of financial assistance provided by Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center annually based on actual cost of care.
- Continued participation in the 340B program.
- Number of new providers brought on by Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center and Carle Health's East Region.

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, Carle Health'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 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment was adopted and approved by Carle Health's East Region Board of Directors on September 11, 2025. The 2026-2028 Community Benefit Implementation Plan was adopted and approved by the Carle Health East Region Board of Trustees on 12/11/2025.