

Lutheran Hospital

Community Benefit Annual Report



As part of our commitment to metro Denver and Colorado, Lutheran Hospital addresses the most critical needs of the communities we serve with a mission of helping people live the healthiest lives possible. We were founded in 1961 to address health needs, and through strong community collaborations and thoughtful assessment of needs, we continue that work today.

Getting Upstream to Improve Behavioral Health

During Lutheran Hospital's most recent Community Health Needs Assessment, behavioral health was identified as a significant health need, particularly mental health, suicide prevention, and substance misuse.

Intermountain Health is committed to addressing these health needs and nothing is more upstream than focusing on the health of children and youth. With that objective, Lutheran developed a collaboration with Jefferson Center for Mental Health that provides access to therapy within Jefferson County Schools. The funding supports behavioral health clinicians at four Title I schools, which have a higher percentage of students from low-income families. By offering students mental health services on-site, it removes financial and transportation barriers for families to access care.

"This work wouldn't happen without Intermountain's support," said Nick Buchholtz, manager of School-Based Services at Jefferson Center. "This is a phenomenal program because it ensures the clinicians put safety plans in place to prevent suicide and support substance misuse." Colorado's suicide rate among youth has declined over the past two decades but remains above the national average.

Nick added that the program reduces absenteeism and ensures a continuity of care since therapists are still available during school holidays and summer break.



2025-2027 Significant Health Needs

Every three years Lutheran Hospital works with public health stakeholders, community members, and other healthcare providers to understand and assess the most important local health needs.

Based on the most recent assessment, the hospital identified the following significant health needs that are the focus of the Implementation Strategy and community benefit programs:



**Improve
Behavioral
Health**



**Achieve
Greater
Economic
Stability**



**Increase
Access to
Care**



**Improve Child
and Family
Well-Being**

Community Collaborators - 2024 by the Numbers



21 organizations participated in the Community Health Needs Assessment.



632 individuals provided input on the community's health needs.



11 organizations collaborated on strategies to address community health needs.

What is Community Benefit?

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has federal requirements for not-for-profit hospitals to report their investments in Community Benefit activities, which provide treatment and/or promote health and healing as a response to community needs:

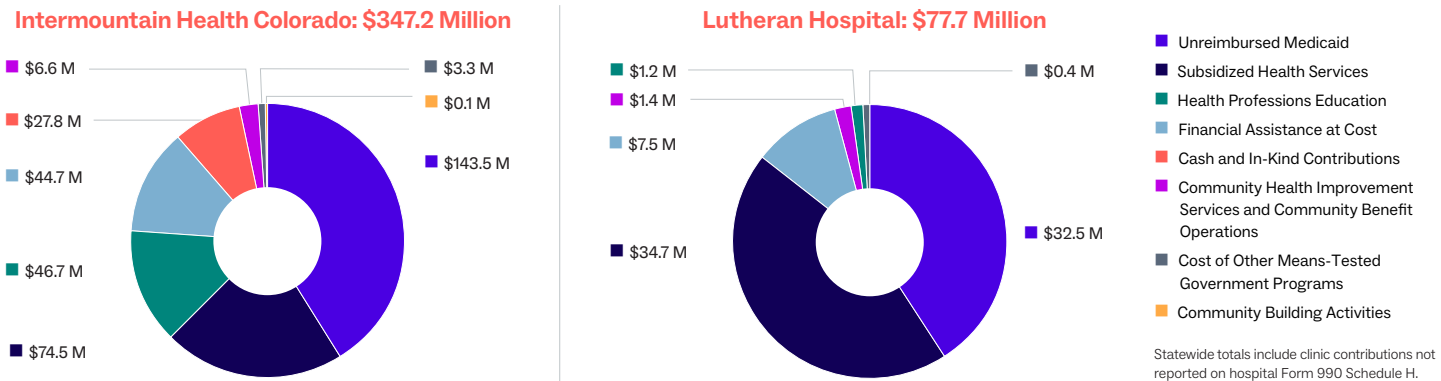
- Improve access to care
- Enhance the health of a community
- Advance medical or health knowledge
- Reduce the burden of health care on local, state, federal government, or other community efforts

When reporting to the IRS, Community Benefit investments are organized into the following general categories:

- Unreimbursed costs for care provided to Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Charity care and financial assistance for patients who are unable to pay for care.
- Cash and in-kind contributions to support identified community health needs.

- Health professions education, including clinical training for nursing, pharmacy, and other health professions.
- Subsidized health services, which are services provided at a loss but without which the community's access to care would suffer.
- Means-tested government programs, which includes the unreimbursed care under means-tested programs like the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+).
- Community building activities, including participating in community coalitions to advance health and physician recruitment to maintain health care access.
- Research, including studies or investigations that increase knowledge made available to the public. (Note: No Research investments were reported in 2024.)

2024 Community Benefit Investments



Addressing Health Needs - 2024 by the Numbers

2,700

gunlocks distributed in Colorado, including **775** in Jefferson County to support suicide and injury prevention.

344

individuals served by Food for Health, a program that provides weekly food delivery, in collaboration with the Food Bank of the Rockies.

30

individuals experiencing homelessness who benefited from a medical respite program in collaboration with Recovery Works.