

# **GUNDERSEN**

## **PALMER LUTHERAN HOSPITAL AND CLINICS**

### **Health Improvement Plan**



**2023-2025**

<https://www.gundersenhealth.org/community-assessment>

# Introduction and Purpose

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The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires non-profit healthcare organizations to perform a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years and adopt an implementation strategy, known as a Health Improvement Plan (HIP), to meet the outstanding community health needs and to continue to qualify for federal tax exemption.

Gundersen Palmer Lutheran Hospital and Clinics (referred to as Gundersen Palmer) began its Community Health Needs Assessment process in mid-2022, with a target completion date for the plan of December 31, 2022. The Health Improvement Plan will then be implemented during Gundersen Palmer's fiscal years 2023-2025 with a yearly reporting update.

The CHNA-HIP process does three things:

- Describes the health state of a local population;
- Enables the identification of the major risk factors and causes of ill health, and;
- Enables the creation of actions needed to address these factors.

Gundersen Palmer's Community Health Needs Assessment identified numerous areas of concern with three significant need categories on which to focus:

- 1. Prevention**
- 2. Access to Healthcare (with focus on mental health)**
- 3. Nutrition**

# Implementation Strategy & Methodology

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This implementation strategy was developed in partnership with the community, focus groups, advisory boards, and other entities and will focus on specific populations and geographies most impacted by the needs being addressed. Racial equity principles were used throughout the development of this plan and will continue to be used during the implementation. The strategies implemented will mostly focus on policy, systems, and population health change as these systems changes are needed to dismantle racism and promote health and wellbeing for all members of the communities we serve.

This implementation strategy specifies community health needs that the hospital, in collaboration with community partners, has determined to address over the next three years. The hospital reserves the right to amend this implementation strategy as circumstances

warrant. During these three years, other organizations in the community may decide to address certain needs, directing the hospital to reprioritize and refocus its limited resources to best serve the community

### Significant Health Needs That Will Not Be Addressed

Gundersen Palmer acknowledges the wide range of priority health issues that emerged from the community health needs assessment process and determined that it could effectively focus on only those health needs which are the most pressing and within its ability to influence. Gundersen Palmer, does not intend to address the following health needs as they will be better addressed by those who specialize in these areas:

- Social and economic factors related to employment opportunities, unemployment, income inequity, poverty, crime, and death rates.
- Physical Environment, such as air pollution, sanitation, emergency preparedness, housing, and transportation.

## Health Improvement Priority Strategies

Community Health Need & Goals	Strategies
<p><b>NEED:</b> Prevention</p> <p><b>GOAL:</b> Reduce disparities in prevention by addressing social determinates of health.</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE #1:</b> Identify patients with health-related needs and provide education and resources to align with prevention goals while supporting patients in navigating community resources and public assistance programs.</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE #2:</b> Increase awareness of community resources and programs available in Fayette County.</p>	<p><b>Objective #1:</b> Offer at least 4 wellness events in FY23, FY24, FY25, such as community lunch &amp; learns, trainings, fairs, and classes, on topics related to fitness, healthy diets, stress, and other wellness topics.</p> <p>Hire additional patient access specialists/prior authorization specialists in FY23 to support patients in addressing health-related needs. Re-evaluate the need to hire additional specialists in FY24 and FY25.</p> <p><b>Objective #2:</b> Partner with various entities (Helping Services, Parent Share and Support, Public Health, Chamber boards, local schools, etc.) to track prevention and health-related trends and unmet needs in FY23. Implement services and resources in FY24 and FY25 based on data collected.</p> <p>Serve as a board member on Healthy Fayette County Executive Board and have Prevention</p>

<p><b>NEED:</b> Access to Healthcare (with focus on mental health)</p> <p><b>GOAL:</b> Increase primary care, specialists, and mental health provider access.</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE #1:</b> Expand primary and specialty care and mental health access.</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE #2:</b> Reduce stigma around mental health in the community.</p>	<p>workgroup representation working with local organizations on partnerships and services.</p> <p><b>Objective #1:</b> Hire a mental health provider to increase mental health access in primary clinic settings in FY23. Re-evaluate the need to hire additional mental health providers and expand services in FY24 and FY25.</p> <p>Continue to work with Gundersen Health System Administration on recruitment efforts for rural primary care and specialist locally during FY23-FY25.</p> <p>Offer enhanced digital healthcare options to our community allowing increased access to health providers during FY23-FY25.</p> <p>Increase telemedicine services offered locally during FY23-FY25.</p> <p><b>Objective #2:</b> Partner with local entities (County Social Services, law enforcement, court system, inpatient facilities, and other agencies) to track mental health trends, unmet needs, and current processes in FY23. Implement services and resources in FY24 and FY25 based on data collected.</p> <p>Serve as a board member on Healthy Fayette County Executive Board and have Mental Health workgroup representation working with local organizations on partnerships and services.</p>
<p><b>NEED:</b> Nutrition</p> <p><b>GOAL:</b> Make food and healthy choices more accessible.</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE #1:</b> Bring new programming and education to the community to make purchasing healthy food more affordable.</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE #2:</b> Increase public awareness of resources available to address food insecurity.</p>	<p><b>Objective #1:</b> Work directly with local food banks, school systems, Fayette County Public Health, ISU Extension, and other entities to track nutrition and food insecurity trends and unmet needs in FY23. Implement services and resources in FY24 and FY25 based on data collected to broaden education and programming on healthy food options and access.</p> <p><b>Objective #2:</b> Serve as a board member on Healthy Fayette</p>

	County Executive Board and have Nutrition workgroup representation working with local organizations on partnerships and services.
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On an annual basis, through the course of the 3-year period, Gundersen Palmer plans to assess the impact by re-measuring perceptions of the problems identified in the 2023-2025 Community Health Needs Assessment.

## Adopting the Community Health Needs Assessment & Health Improvement Plan

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Gundersen Palmer Lutheran Hospital and Clinics completed a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) that was adopted by the Board of Directors December 2022. Gundersen Palmer performed the CHNA in adherence with applicable federal requirements for not-for profit hospitals set forth in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The assessment considered a comprehensive review of secondary data analysis of patient outcomes, community health status, and social determinants of health, as well as primary data collection, including input from representatives of the community, community members, and various community organizations.

## Dissemination of the CHNA-HIP Results

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Gundersen Palmer will make its Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Implementation Plan available by request without charge at Gundersen Palmer Lutheran Hospital and Clinics website or by making arrangements through the Population Health Department.