



2025-2027

Community Health Needs
Implementation Strategy

SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee

1102 West MacArthur St. Shawnee, OK 74804

Message to our community

St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee, a member of SSM Health, has delivered exceptional, compassionate care to Pottawatomie County for over 55 years. Inspired by our founding Franciscan Sisters of Mary and guided by our Mission – *Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God* – we cherish the sacredness and dignity of each person as demonstrated through our Values of compassion, respect, excellence, stewardship, and community.

Our sustained community commitment can be seen through our collaborative partnerships with residents and organizations. We rely on these relationships to help us identify and develop plans to address high-priority community health needs. We are grateful for our partners in this, including Pottawatomie Go, Avedis Foundation, Community Renewal of Pottawatomie County, Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Gateway to Prevention and Recovery, and the Pottawatomie County Health Department – a group we collectively refer to as the Pottawatomie County Community Health Improvement Task Force.

Over the last 12 months, in collaboration with our community partners, we have developed a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to address priority health issues identified in our most recent Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This plan is informed by data from sources such as the Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), County Health Rankings, and the State of the State's Health Report (issued by the Oklahoma State Board of Health). Additionally, we have engaged key community leaders and gathered input from residents to ensure that this plan reflects the most pressing health concerns and opportunities for collective impact.

With the integration of St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee's Seminole Campus, our ministry's primary service area now includes Seminole County. Recognizing the importance of addressing health needs across the entire service area, we have included a Seminole County Appendix within our CHNA. This appendix provides key community health data and insights to help guide strategic efforts to improve health outcomes in Pottawatomie and Seminole counties. Through continued collaboration and a shared vision for health equity, we remain committed to implementing sustainable solutions that enhance the well-being of the communities we serve.

The primary priorities we will address over the next three years are:

Primary Priorities:

- Food Access and Nutrition
- Behavioral Health

Secondary Priorities:

- Neighborhood and Built Environment
- Social Connection and Belonging

During this time, St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee will continue to develop its community partnerships and deliver an exceptional experience through high-quality, accessible, and affordable care to all residents. Please visit our website at ssmhealth.com to learn more about how we will continue to make a difference in our community.

Sincerely,

Angi Mohr

President

SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee



Executive summary

Background

In 2024, St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee completed a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) comprised of two parts: the collaborative Pottawatomie County CHNA and an appendix with community health data for Seminole County. The CHNA involved reviewing both quantitative and qualitative data to attain the full scope of the community's needs related to health with a focus on the economically poor and underserved populations.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt hospitals to conduct a CHNA every three years and adopt a strategic implementation plan for addressing identified needs.



Priorities

As a result of the 2024 CHNA, St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee determined two primary priorities and two secondary priorities for the 2025-2027 Community Health Needs Implementation Strategy:

Primary Priorities:

- Food Access and Nutrition
- Behavioral Health

Secondary Priorities:

- Neighborhood and Built Environment
- Social Connection and Belonging

Strategies

Our **Food Access & Nutrition** strategies focuses on expanding food pharmacy programs, increasing fresh produce consumption through Veggie Rx, and supporting community food pantries to reduce food insecurity.

Behavioral Health initiatives aim to enhance access to mental health services, integrate virtual behavioral health in primary care, and implementing harm reduction strategies like Narcan vending machines.

Neighborhood & Built Environment; Social Connection & Belonging, we prioritize improving access to transportation, increasing healthcare services for uninsured individuals, and restoring green spaces to promote community well-being.

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About SSM Health and St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee

SSM Health

SSM Health is a Catholic, not-for-profit, fully integrated health system working to advance health equity and empower all people to achieve their full potential.

With care delivery sites in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin, SSM Health provides convenient access to high-quality community-based

services as well as world-class academic medicine, clinical trials, and research studies. The organization's footprint includes hospitals, physician offices, outpatient and virtual care services, senior care, comprehensive home care and hospice services, a fully transparent pharmacy benefit company, a health

insurance company, and an accountable care organization. As one of the largest employers in every community it serves, the organization's 40,000 team members and 13,900+ providers are dedicated to fulfilling SSM Health's Mission.

Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.

St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee

Highlight of services

We offer more than 8 medical specialty areas:

- Emergency Services
- Women's Health
- Surgical Services
- Cancer Care
- Pulmonology
- Cardiology
- Orthopedics
- Endocrinology

Community partnerships

We are proud to be part of community projects that work to improve health outcomes in the areas we serve:

- Shawnee Family YMCA: LiveStrong Program
- Drug Drop Boxes & Take-Back Days
- Shawnee Bridges out of Poverty: Getting Ahead program

Community benefit

In 2023, St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee provided \$16,526,747 in community benefits, comprised of \$16,078,709 in charity care and \$448,038 in community services.

Examples of our community benefit programs include:

- VeggieRx
- Food insecurity screenings
- Staff education on food insecurity
- Community Health Improvement grants
- Support for County Free Clinic

Additional affiliations and partnerships

- Pott. County Nonprofit Roundtable
- Pottawatomie Alliance Toward Community Health (PATCH)
- United Way

Hospital at a glance

Admissions | **4,455**

Outpatient visits | **84,767**

ER visits | **47,783**

Births | **803**

Beds | **128**

Employees | **921**

Medical staff | **108**

Volunteers | **50+**

Charity care | **\$16.5M**

Community partners and roles

We are grateful to the Pottawatomie County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Task Force for their partnership and leadership in achieving this significant milestone. As a proud member of the task force, SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee collaborated alongside Pottawatomie Go, Avedis Foundation, Community Renewal of Pottawatomie County, Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Gateway to Prevention and Recovery, and the Pottawatomie County Health Department. Together, in partnership with the University of Oklahoma Hudson College of Public Health, the task force co-developed and implemented a community-led CHNA, providing a comprehensive understanding of health behaviors, clinical health outcomes, social and economic factors, and quality of life experiences in Pottawatomie County.

We look forward to working with these and other county partners to address the prioritized health needs in our 2022-2024 strategy.



Our progress since 2021

Our last community health needs assessment was conducted in 2021. Below are the health needs we identified, the strategies we implemented to address them, and the progress that has been made.

Priority 1: Food Insecurity

VEGGIE RX

In 2020, SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee piloted a program called “Veggie Rx” in partnership with Blue Zones of Pottawatomie County and with support from an external grant. Veggie Rx is a 12-week healthy eating and wellness program that doctors can “prescribe” to patients struggling with diet-related diseases and/or food insecurity. During the program, these prescriptions can be filled at partnering grocery stores free of charge. An SSM Health dietitian and physician teach classes on how nutrition affects health, offering guidance on cooking, identifying, and shopping for healthy foods. At the end of the two-year pilot period in 2022, St. Anthony Shawnee committed to investing in the long-term sustainability of the program. At that point, the hospital assumed full responsibility for the operations and funding of Veggie Rx and developed a Veggie Rx Program Manual to support other community organizations in launching their own Veggie Rx programs. A local Native American clinic and the Oklahoma Food is Medicine Coalition have received a copy of the manual as they evaluate the possibility of replicating the program.

From 2022 to mid-2024, 268 community members participated in Veggie Rx, including clients from

Community Market of Pottawatomie County:

- 79% reported an average increase of 3 servings of vegetables or fruits daily.
- 72% of participants reported a decrease in their family’s food insecurity.
- 63% of participants experienced weight loss ranging between 2 to 8 pounds during the program.

FOOD PHARMACY PROGRAM

St. Anthony Shawnee partnered with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma to establish two food pharmacy locations. This program involves clinical staff screening patients for food insecurity. When patients with a need are identified, staff responds to their immediate need with a box of nonperishable food. The program began at the hospital and then expanded to the SSM Health Medical Group Pediatrics Clinic on the hospital campus.

- The hospital’s care management team assists 75% of patients identified as food insecure.
- Since the program’s implementation in March 2022:
 - 95% of food insecure patients were offered a food box.
 - 78 inpatients received a food box.

The Medical Group Pediatric Clinic implemented a food pharmacy program in March 2023 to screen patients for food insecurity and provide immediate food assistance. Since the program’s implementation:

- 77% of the clinic patients were screened for food insecurity.
- Over 1,500 patients received a food box.

Our progress since 2021 (cont.)

HUNGER FREE OKLAHOMA

St. Anthony Shawnee engaged with Hunger Free Oklahoma and Pottawatomie Go to assess the possibility of establishing “Double Up Oklahoma” produce assistance programs in the Shawnee area. After the initial assessment, St. Anthony decided to invest its efforts elsewhere but is open to revisiting this opportunity in the future if community food vendors express an interest.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

St. Anthony Shawnee provided community health improvement grants to the following community-based organizations addressing food insecurity in Pottawatomie County:

- Interfaith Social Ministries received \$5,000 to expand access to food in Seminole County due to growing demand
- Glad Tidings received \$5,000 to continue providing access to services at their food pantry

Priority 2: Behavioral Health

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESOURCE INTEGRATION IN PRIMARY CARE

SSM Health made significant progress integrating virtual behavioral telehealth into its primary care settings across its four-state system. This resource is now integrated into all SSM Health Medical Group primary care locations in Pottawatomie and Seminole Counties. This behavioral telehealthcare is offered at no cost to patients.

COMMUNITY COALITION TO IDENTIFY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS

St. Anthony Shawnee is grateful to our partners at Pottawatomie Go for their leadership in helping the community understand the county’s specific needs regarding behavioral health providers. We hope the 2024 CHNA will provide the impetus for continued investment in bringing these providers to the community.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

St. Anthony Shawnee provided community health improvement grants to the following community-based organizations addressing access to behavioral health services in Pottawatomie County:

- Legacy Parenting Center: \$5,000 for client support operations, helping families access health and wellbeing services for infants and parents
- Uplifting Mentoring: \$5,000 for a school mentoring program aligned with behavioral health and wellbeing for children
- Project: SAFE: \$5,000 for behavioral health services for domestic violence victims
- Shawnee Bridges out of Poverty: \$10,000 for the Getting Ahead program, focusing on educating and helping people out of poverty to prevent mental health issues
- Worrel’s Haven: \$5,000 to support services for women experiencing homelessness and substance abuse
- Youth and Family Services: \$5,000 for the Partners in Caring program, which provides behavioral, social, and physical services to school children
- Seminole State College: \$10,000 to expand behavioral health programs for students and staff
- Mabee Gerrer Museum of Art: \$5,000 for art therapy addressing mental health needs

Our progress since 2021 (cont.)

Priority 3: Primary Care Access

PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER RECRUITMENT

SSM Health Medical Group welcomed two five primary care providers to the community in 2023 and 2024. Additionally, in 2022, St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency, allowing free transportation services for medical appointments through the Central Oklahoma Transit System and facilitating over 1,600 rides.

IN-KIND SUPPORT

From 2022 to 2024, St. Anthony Shawnee donated over \$15,000 in in-kind lab and radiology services to Pottawatomie County Free Clinic patients. In 2024, St. Anthony Shawnee and Engage Free Medical Clinics will explore potential partnerships to continue offering health services to the uninsured in Pottawatomie and Seminole County.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

St. Anthony Shawnee provided community health improvement grants to the following community-based organizations increasing access to primary care in Pottawatomie County:

- Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency: \$5,000 to expand transportation services and access to primary care and mental health services
- Shawnee Family YMCA: \$5,000 to provide access to physical activity and the LiveStrong cancer support program



The health needs of our community

During the CHNA, primary/qualitative data was gathered from residents of Pottawatomie County through three methodologies:

- Community Survey
- Focus Groups
- Secondary Data Collection Analysis

Each of these data collection tools was designed with our focus on health equity in mind. This was done to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable members of the community and the voices of those who care for them were heard in the primary data collection process.

Primary data collection instruments were also designed to help identify assets in the community that are making a positive impact on the health of the community. This health asset data was used to help our community partners and the hospital's leadership team prioritize the health needs identified in the 2024 assessment. It was also used in the creation of the 2025-2027 Community Health Improvement Plan.



The health of our community

Priority 1: Food Access and Nutrition

19%

of Pott. County experiences food insecurity.
(2024 Pottawatomie County CHNA, p. 3)

CHNA Survey results indicate that roughly 26% of Pottawatomie County residents may be at risk of experiencing food insecurity.
(2024 Pottawatomie County CHNA, p. 38-40)

Food insecurity affects 20% of Seminole County residents, with disparities evident across racial and ethnic groups.
(2024 Seminole County appendix CHNA, p. 17)

Most survey respondents (94%) shop at grocery stores for food, while 31% also purchase food at dollar stores and 15% at Community Market.
(2024 Pottawatomie County CHNA, p. 32)

Priority 2: Behavioral Health

37%

of respondents prioritized
expanding mental health treatment access.

CHNA Community Survey results indicate the top reasons Pottawatomie County residents struggle with behavioral health access are:

Limited availability of providers – High demand and a shortage of mental health professionals create access challenges.

Financial constraints – Many residents struggle with the cost of care, including insurance coverage and out-of-pocket expenses.

Transportation issues – Lack of personal vehicles and limited public transit make it difficult for individuals to reach services.

(2024 Pottawatomie County CHNA, p. 38-40)

Secondary Priorities: Neighborhood and Built Environment and Social Connection and Belonging

Survey and focus group data identified gaps in Neighborhood and Built Environment and Social Connection and Belonging, both key Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). Neighborhoods and Built Environments affect health through housing and proximity to healthcare, while Social Connection and Belonging influence mental well-being and healthcare utilization. Closing these gaps can enhance healthcare access and overall health outcomes, fostering healthier communities.

Community assets

A community asset is any resource that enhances community members' quality of life and health. These assets are diverse, ranging from physical structures in the community like parks, schools, and healthcare facilities to organizations across all sectors, such as local businesses, non-profits, churches and faith-based groups, community coalitions, and sovereign Tribal Nations.

The following list of community assets (listed in alphabetical order) was assembled through community survey efforts, focus groups, and task force discussions. We are grateful for the ongoing efforts of all organizations and community members, and we encourage the continued growth of these collaborations.

AARP	Project Safe
Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority	Red Rock Behavioral Health Services
Absentee Shawnee Tribe	Sac & Fox Housing Authority
Absentee Shawnee Tribe Health System	Shawnee Beauty College
Asher Public Schools	Shawnee Bridges
Avedis Foundation	Shawnee Dental
BancFirst	Shawnee Family YMCA
Bethel Public Schools	Shawnee Forward
BHHS- Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices	Shawnee Housing Authority
Brent Morris Edward Jones	Shawnee Milling
Chick-fil-a of Shawnee	Shawnee Outlook
Citizen Potawatomi Nation	Shawnee Public Library
City of Asher	Shawnee Public Schools
City of McLoud	Shawnee Recreation Center
City of Tecumseh	Shawnee Senior Center
City of Shawnee	South Central Industries
comma	Sovereign Bank
Community Market of Pottawatomie County	Shawnee Homeless Center
Community Renewal of Pottawatomie County	Stuart & Clover Attorneys at Law
Cornerstone Dental	Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce
Emmanuel Episcopal Church	Tecumseh Public Library
Faith Co Church	Tecumseh Public Schools
Finley & Cook	The Salvation Army
Firelake Discount Foods	Laser Focus Health & Wellness
First United Bank – Shawnee & Tecumseh	Legacy Parenting Center
Gateway to Prevention and Recovery	Life Church Shawnee
Georg Fischer	Living Word Church
Gordon Cooper Technology Center	Mabee-Gerrer Museum
Growthlines, LLC	McLoud Public Library
Heritage Church	McLoud Public Schools
HTeaO	The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences,
Kemp Clinic MFT	Hudson College of Public Health
Kickapoo Tribal Health Center	United Way of Pottawatomie County
Oklahoma Baptist University	Victory Family Church
Oklahoma State Health Department District 6	Vision Bank
OSU Extension	Youth & Family Resource Center
PATCH	
Pottawatomie County Young Professionals	
Pottawatomie Go	

Strategic implementation plan

Using the data collected in the CHNA, the Community Health team worked with community partners and hospital leadership to identify the health priorities for the implementation strategy. This process included an evaluation of the assets and programs already present in the community, a determination of which needs SSM Health is best equipped to address, and the selection of evidence-based interventions that SSM Health can support to make a measurable impact in the chosen health priorities.



Priority 1

Food Access and Nutrition



Priority 2

Behavioral Health



Secondary Priorities

- Neighborhood and Built Environment
- Social Connection and Belonging



Priority 1:

Food Access and Nutrition

Background

Over 19% of Pottawatomie County residents experience food insecurity, with an additional 7% at risk, and financial constraints remain a major barrier to accessing healthy foods. Addressing food insecurity is critical to improving health outcomes, especially for the 40% of at-risk individuals who also face physical limitations due to disability or chronic illness.



Action plan

- Partner with **Pottawatomie County Free Health Clinic** to Establish a Food Pharmacy Program
 - Screen for food insecurity among clinic patients.
 - Join Unite Us to connect patients with food resources and other social services.
 - Provide funding to purchase the food boxes from Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.
- Collaborate with **Community Market of Pottawatomie County** and Seminole County Stakeholders
 - Explore establishing a permanent Community Market site in the city of Seminole
 - Organize employee volunteer events to support food access initiatives in Seminole County
- Expand and Sustain **the Veggie Rx Program**
 - Continue the program with a focus on South Shawnee residents.
 - Strengthen partnerships with community-based organizations to maintain high enrollment (88% of 2024 participants enrolled through these partnerships).
 - Enhance impact measurement, building on the 73% of participants who reported decreased food insecurity.
- Expand and continue **Food Pharmacy Sites** (in collaboration with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma)
 - Maintain and enhance existing Food Pharmacy programs at the Pediatric Clinic, OB Clinic (Kethley Rd.), Inpatient Case Management, and Tecumseh Clinic.
 - Track the number of food boxes distributed at each site and assess the program's impact on food insecurity.
 - Establish a Food Pharmacy program at Chandler Clinic.
 - Explore launching a Food Pharmacy site at Seminole Clinic.
- **Community Health Improvement Grants**
 - Continue supporting initiatives that address food insecurity and nutrition access.
 - Encourage collaboration with community-based organizations to enhance impact.
 - Measure program success through grant outcomes.

Priority 1:

Food Access and Nutrition

Community partners

Community Market of Pottawatomie County
Firelake Discount Foods
Pottawatomie County OSU Extension
Seminole County Community Alliance

Supporting resources

SSM Health Medical Group
Hospital Case Management Team

Evidence-based interventions

- Findings from the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences Food Pharmacy program serving primarily low-income individuals with chronic conditions may be a promising solution for [improving fruit and vegetable intake and overall diet](#).
- A 2023 study by the American Heart Association found that produce prescriptions were associated with [significant improvements](#) in fruit and vegetable intake, food security, and overall health status for adults.

Health goal(s)

- Reduce food insecurity in Pottawatomie County to align with state (15%) and national (10.5%) rates.
 - Comparative Benchmark: Food insecurity affects 10.5% of U.S. households, 15% of Oklahoma residents, and 19% of Pottawatomie County residents (2024 Pottawatomie County CHNA).
- Increase fresh produce consumption among residents to improve overall nutrition.
 - Comparative Benchmark: Only 12.3% of U.S. adults meet fruit intake recommendations, and 10% meet vegetable intake recommendations, with Oklahoma ranking among the lowest nationally (2024 Pottawatomie County CHNA).

Objective(s) with performance measures

- Expand the Food Pharmacy program to at least two additional sites (e.g., Chandler and Seminole Clinics) by 2025.
- Increase food insecurity screenings at Food Pharmacy sites by 25% by 2026 to ensure at-risk patients are identified and referred to resources.
- Increase fresh produce consumption among Veggie Rx participants by 15% by 2027, measured through follow-up communication.
- Increase enrollment in Veggie Rx by 10% by 2027, ensuring continued collaboration with community-based organizations.



Priority 2: Behavioral Health

Background

Access to mental health and substance use services is a critical need, with 37% of respondents prioritizing mental health treatment, and 25% identifying substance abuse as a top concern. Behavioral health services are among the most difficult to access.



Action plan

- Expand community-based behavioral health support with Higher Ground Church & Amor Telehealth.
 - Establish care coordination for vulnerable populations in South Shawnee.
 - Provide funding opportunities with Higher Ground Church & Amor Telehealth.
- Increase harm reduction & substance use prevention by implementing **Narcan vending machines** in partnership with a local community-based organization.
 - Measure the number of Narcan units dispensed, education efforts, and provider engagement.
- Offer integrated **virtual behavioral health** in all SSM Health Medical Group primary care practices in Pottawatomie and Seminole Counties.
- **Community Health Improvement Grants**
 - Continue supporting initiatives that address food insecurity and nutrition access.
 - Encourage collaboration with community-based organizations to enhance impact.
 - Measure program success through grant outcomes.

Community partners

Higher Ground Church

Pottawatomie Go

Gateway to Prevention and Recovery

Pottawatomie Alliance Toward Community Health (PATCH)

Avedis Foundation

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Supporting resources

SSM Health Medical Group

SSM Health Pharmacy

Hospital Case Management Team

Priority 2:

Behavioral Health (cont.)

Evidence-based interventions

- Studies indicate faith-based nurses who provide case management [improve health](#) outcomes and service utilization in low-income and underserved populations (Journal of Community Health, 2022).
- The introduction of naloxone vending machines was associated with a [15% reduction](#) in overdose fatalities in the first year.
- Virtual behavioral health programs [reduce transportation barriers](#) by eliminating travel needs, lowering costs, and increasing access to care, especially for underserved populations.

Health goal(s)

- Improve access to mental health services and reduce the prevalence of poor mental health days in Pottawatomie County.
 - Comparative Benchmark: 37% of U.S. adults with a mental illness receive no treatment (NAMI, 2023), while 20% of Pottawatomie County residents report experiencing 11 or more poor mental health days per month (CHNA Survey Data, 2024).
- Expand harm reduction efforts to reduce overdose deaths and increase access to substance use treatment.
 - Comparative Benchmark: Over 100,000 drug overdose deaths occurred in the U.S. in 2021, with opioids accounting for 75%, while Oklahoma reports over 700 opioid-related deaths annually.

Objective(s) with performance measures

- Reduce the percentage of residents experiencing 11+ poor mental health days from 20% to 15% by 2027 through expanded behavioral health access.
- Implement at least three Narcan vending machines in high-risk areas by 2027 and track the number of units dispensed.
- Number of Narcan vending machine training sessions conducted and number of participants educated.

Secondary Priorities:

Neighborhood and Built Environment and Social Connection and Belonging

Background

Access to transportation and healthcare services remains a significant barrier for many residents, impacting their ability to connect with safe environments, social networks, and essential resources. Addressing these challenges through transportation expansion and healthcare accessibility is vital to improving health outcomes and fostering stronger, more connected community.

Action plan

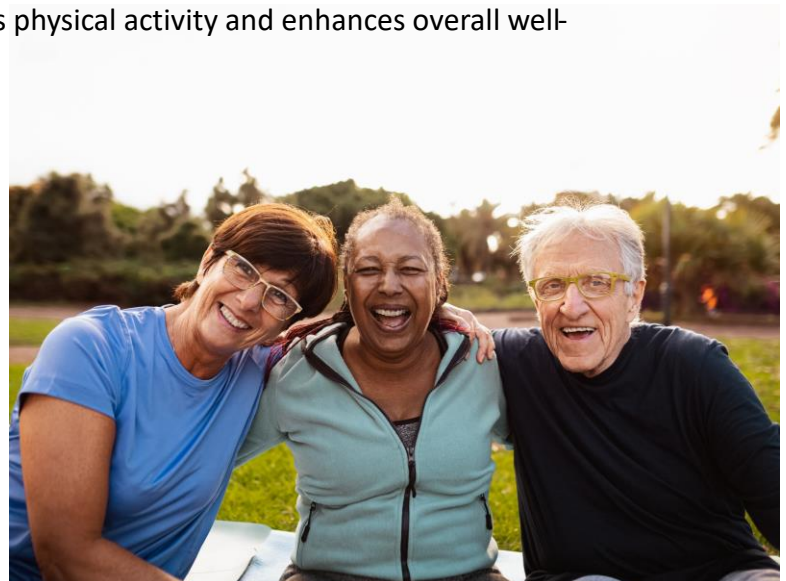
- Explore **transportation access** solutions in partnership with the Central Oklahoma Community Transit System - COTS by producing and seeking funding opportunities to for extended service hours.
- Partner with **Oklahoma Project Woman** to enhance breast cancer screening efforts by providing:
 - In-kind imaging services to uninsured women.
 - Offer grant funding for transportation and diagnostic services to support continuity of care for patients with abnormal results.
- Partner with **Amor Telehealth** to expand access to health services in south Shawnee at Higher Ground Church for underinsured and uninsured residents.
 - St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee will collaborate with the clinic to provide in-kind lab and imaging services.
 - Providing funding for a Faith Community Nurse in partnership with Higher Ground Church and seeking additional funding sources to support expanded healthcare access.
- St. Anthony Hospital-Shawnee will explore opportunities to partner with **Shawnee Parks & Recreation** to restore public parks by providing funding and staff support for a volunteer initiative. Expanding and revitalizing green spaces encourages physical activity and enhances overall well-being.

Community partners

Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency
Oklahoma Project Woman
Amor Telehealth
Shawnee Parks & Recreation
Avedis Foundation
Higher Grounds Church

Supporting resources

SSM Health Imaging Department
SSM Health Pharmacy



Secondary Priorities:

Neighborhood and Built Environment and Social Connection and Belonging (Cont.)

Evidence-based interventions

- The UCF College of Medicine has shown free medical clinics to [improve the health](#) of those who are underinsured and uninsured.
- Faith community nurses focus on health promotion, injury prevention, and also function as patient navigators and advocates, as listed as an evidence-based [public health intervention](#) in County Health Rankings & Roadmaps.

Health goal(s)

- Improve Access to Public Transportation to Reduce Barriers to Healthcare, Employment, and Essential Services in Pottawatomie County.
- Increase preventive healthcare access for uninsured individuals by increasing flu vaccine, lab, and imaging to improve early disease detection.
 - In Oklahoma, 42% of residents received an annual flu vaccine, compared to 45% in Pottawatomie County in 2021 (County Health Rankings).

Objective(s) with performance measures

- Baselines and performance measures to be identified in 2025.

Overarching priorities

Social determinants of health (SDoH)

The social determinants of health are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. Examples of these factors include safe and affordable housing, access to quality education, public safety, availability of healthy foods, accessible health care services, and positive social support systems.

Research shows that the SDoH can be more important than healthcare or lifestyle choices in influencing health. For example, numerous studies suggest that SDoH accounts for between 30-55% of health outcomes. In addition, estimates show that the contribution of sectors outside health to community health outcomes exceeds the contribution from the healthcare sector. By applying what we know about SDoH, we can not only improve individual and community health but also advance health equity.

The primary data collection tools used in the CHNA were rooted in questions regarding SDoH. This health equity lens was used when prioritizing health needs and informed the development of this implementation strategy.

Health Equity

Equity is defined as “the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically” (World Health Organization, 2016). As a Catholic health ministry, we believe healthcare is a fundamental human right. Interventions to address health disparities need to be effective and sustainable, focused on empowering those experiencing inequities.

A characteristic common to groups that experience health inequities – such as poor and marginalized persons, racial and ethnic minorities, and women – is a lack of political, social, or economic power. Research indicates a strong relationship between self-reported racism and discrimination with negative mental health outcomes and negative health-related behaviors.

Research also indicates that chronic stress from experiencing discrimination, such as racism, throughout the lifespan can lead to negative health outcomes. Those outcomes are seen even after controlling for differences such as socioeconomic status and access to adequate healthcare. The effects can include:

- Higher blood pressure
- Lower immune function
- Lower rates of exercise and social support
- Higher rates of infant mortality