

HOSPITALS Serve Our Communities

Connecticut’s hospitals are there when we need them – caring for everyone who walks through their doors. But the positive impact of hospitals on our communities extends far beyond the essential medical care they provide within their four walls.

Connecticut hospitals provide community outreach and support services for cancer, diabetes, asthma, and other chronic conditions, as well as healthy lifestyle education programs and essential services to the homeless, seasonal workers, and many other at-risk populations. Hospitals provide financial assistance to the uninsured, mobile vans and free clinics that deliver primary, preventive, and behavioral health services, crisis intervention services, and many other programs targeted to meet specific community needs.

Other examples include:

- **General health services:** Blood pressure screenings, pain management, dialysis, immunizations, coverage enrollment assistance, community service referrals, hotlines, poison control centers, and healthcare-related transportation.
- **Trauma services:** Emergency medical services (EMS) oversight and training, air ambulances, neonatal intensive care units, and burn care.
- **Public safety:** Emergency preparedness and response, providers of coordination and shelter for the public in times of emergencies.
- **Community health education services:** Baby-sitting courses, caregiver training for friends and family, medical libraries, health fairs, health promotion and wellness programs, public education on health issues, public service messages (including web-based consumer health information), support groups, and self-help programs.
- **Health professions educational services:** Internships, externships, fellowships, residencies, vocational training, scholarships, in-services, job shadowing, and specialty training.
- **Clinical and community-based research:** Evaluation and study of therapeutic protocols, innovative treatments and delivery models, staff-published medical journal articles and papers, and studies on vulnerable patient populations and community health issues.
- **Financial contributions:** Cash donations, grants, in-kind donations (meeting space for community events/programs, emergency care at local community events, parking vouchers to patients/families, food donations, etc.), and community needs-driven fundraising activities.
- **Health advocacy:** Coalition building and community health improvement efforts.

Community Benefit by the Numbers

In 2014, Connecticut’s hospitals benefitted their communities in many ways.

\$710.5 million Unpaid government-sponsored healthcare - Medicaid

\$471.6 million Unpaid government-sponsored healthcare - Medicare

\$247.6 million Uncompensated care: Charity care/bad debt to provide services for those who cannot pay

\$39.6 million Community services to improve the health of the community

\$18.9 million Research and other programs to advance healthcare for patients and the community

\$9.2 million Donations to help support community organizations

\$8.0 million Community building to create stronger, healthier communities

\$4.4 million Subsidized health services* to provide care needed by the community



* Most subsidized health services funds are reflected in the “unpaid costs of government programs” numbers

\$1.5 billion

Total community benefit provided by Connecticut Hospitals in 2014



Hospitals work to make their communities healthier through community outreach programs, education efforts, health screenings, and wellness and prevention activities.

CHA's Role Supporting Hospital Community Benefit Programs

CHA and its member hospitals were among the first in the nation to implement a statewide system to inventory, quantify, and publicly report on Connecticut hospitals' community benefit programs. This information is published annually in the CHA Community Benefit Report, available on the CHA website.

Building on many years of community health engagement, and in accordance with the requirements of the Affordable Care Act, Connecticut hospitals conduct community health needs assessments and pursue strategies to meet emergent community health needs. Additionally, to increase health improvement across the continuum, CHA and hospitals collaborated with the Connecticut Department of Public Health, local health departments, federally qualified health centers, and other healthcare sector providers and associations

to create and release Guidelines for Conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). These guidelines offer a common framework for community health assessment and implementation planning.

How Legislators Can Help

- Support hospitals as providers of charity care.
- Fund Medicaid at a level sufficient to cover the costs of care.
- Repeal taxes on hospitals and healthcare services.
- Repeal the local property tax on hospitals that was enacted in 2015.

For additional information, please contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.