

ADVOCATE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — OAK LAWN 2024 COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRESS REPORT

A PROGRESS REPORT ON OUR 2023-2025 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Every three years, Advocate Children's Hospital—Oak Lawn completes a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). For the 2022 CHNA cycle, Advocate Children's Hospital—Oak Lawn convened a Community Health Council (CHC) with Advocate Christ Medical Center to review the significant health issues impacting the primary service area (PSA). In addition, Advocate Children's Hospital—Oak Lawn worked in alignment with local community leaders, hospital leaders and the Cook County Department of Public Health to select the top health priorities and develop the 2023-2025 Implementation Plan.

The 2024 Community Health Progress Report is a reference to the hospital's Community Health Implementation Strategies; this 2024 progress report summarizes the selected priorities, annual program outcomes and additional accomplishments for Advocate Children's Hospital.

Priority: Access to Care

Program Outcomes for 2024



Partners Involved: Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana

- For children and families without access to medical care, our Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (RMCM) program provides a fully equipped medical clinic on wheels that delivers free care directly to under-served, school-aged children right in their own neighborhoods.
- Two RMCMs currently serve children in north and south Chicago. In partnership with Advocate Children's Hospital, the RMCM offers initial health screenings, physicals and immunizations, primary care treatment, and referral/follow-up appointments.
- In 2024, these mobile units saw 1409 patients and provided nearly 3020 immunizations and over 687 physicals. Approximately 898 were on Medicaid and 522 had no insurance.
- As our new Advocate Children's Hospital Dental Program grows, there are plans to also serve Care Mobile patients at partner schools where dental care for the most vulnerable is difficult to find.

Priority: Behavioral Health

Program Outcomes for 2024



Partners Involved: Partnered Schools in PSA, Sertoma Centre, NAMI.

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reports significant increases in the number of children diagnosed with mental health conditions. Local data collected for the CHNA confirms this and the significant shortage of mental health resources is adding to this issue.
- Advocate Children’s Hospital– Oak Lawn has partnered with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) South Suburbs of Chicago and the Sertoma Centre to implement a series of Mental Health First Aid Trainings. The Mental Health First Aid Class teaches attendees the risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.
- For program implementation, Advocate Children’s Hospital– Oak Lawn will be connecting with several elementary and middle schools in the primary service area with high identified mental health needs, and register teachers and nurses in these schools to complete the mental health first aid training. Our goal is to have close to 100 certified teachers and nurses trained through the program.

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Accomplishments in 2024

Program: Food Pantry Program

- In 2022, Advocate Children’s Hospital launched an emergency food bag distribution program. The program was implemented in Outpatient clinic settings for our pediatric patients and their families. The clinic staff screens patients for food insecurity and families who screen positive are offered a bag of food with a day’s worth of shelf stable items for their family.
- The clinic locations include Advocate Children’s Medical Group in Oak Lawn and Evergreen Park, as well as Gurnee. In 2024, across all sites, 936 bags were distributed to families.



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Accomplishments in 2024

Mobile Dental Van

- A dental office on wheels, the dental van provides quality, comprehensive and affordable dental care to underserved adults and children throughout the Chicago metro area.
- In April 2021, a program was established in partnership with the Advocate Health Dental Program at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. The fully staffed and equipped pediatric mobile dental van covers Chicagoland and spends two days a week at the main campuses of Advocate Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn and Park Ridge.
- The dental health van provides on-site, comprehensive dental care including exams, X-rays, cleanings and fillings to all children regardless of insurance status from birth to 17 years of age.
- In 2024, the Dental Van provided 1,232 services to 1,074 patients, of which 523 patients were on Medicaid and 83 were uninsured.



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ADVOCATE HOSPITAL NAME

2024 COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRESS REPORT

A FORECAST INTO ADVOCATE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL-OAK LAWN 2025 PROGRAM PLANS

Advocate hospitals in Illinois reserve the right to redirect resources to address emerging public health threats and issues as needed, which may impact the timeline for implementing key priorities identified through the CHNA process. The community health team remains committed to advancing these priorities but recognizes that capacity may change throughout the cycle based on evolving public health needs. The team will continue to focus on prevention efforts and programs that address critical health issues while adapting to changing circumstances. Advocate Children's Hospital- Oak Lawn is working in alignment with the Advocate Aurora Health Community Strategy. The AAH Community Strategy includes, but not limited to, the following six focus areas: access to primary medical homes, access to behavioral health services, workforce development, community safety, housing and food security.

Access to Care

Year: 2025

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will continue to serve as a mobile clinic to partner schools and events to address access to care issues in vulnerable communities. The pediatric dental van will also continue to serve children experiencing limited to no access to dental services.

Behavioral Health

Year: 2025

Advocate Children's Hospital hopes to work with local agencies to implement mental health trainings and workshops for the community and school partners. We will also research expanding services of our Ronald McDonald Care Mobile to include assistance with Behavioral Health concerns. Advocate Children's Hospital behavioral health specialists will provide education to community partners on topical issues around mental health.

Food Insecurity

Year: 2025

In 2023, Advocate Children's Hospital established an emergency food distribution program for our pediatric inpatient families who screen positive for food insecurity. Through this partnership, our team is able to distribute a full day's worth of emergency food to families in need. This program has expanded to include three Advocate Children's Hospital outpatient clinics serving our most vulnerable children.

Families who screen positive for food insecurity will also be given a day's supply of food along with information for state and federal food assistance programs, as well as access to our Community Resource tool where they can find a local food pantry for sustainable food access.

In 2024, these three sites combined distributed nearly 5000 pounds of food to 771 families. Another location will be added in 2025.

We Help People Live Well.