

# Mercy Fort Smith Community Benefit Report

## Mercy Fort Smith Addresses Community Needs

Community Benefit - YTD  
**\$6,889,000**



Provisions in the Affordable Care Act require a tax-exempt hospital facility to:

- Conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment Plan (CHNA) every three years.
- Consider input from people who represent the broad interests of the community.
- Take into account input from people with special knowledge of or expertise in public health.
- Make the CHNA widely available to the public.

Mercy Fort Smith started the 2019 CHNA process in July 2018 by sending out a survey to the Fort Smith community as well as all rural areas where Mercy has critical access hospitals: Mercy Paris, Mercy Booneville, Mercy Waldron and Mercy Ozark.

In addition to the survey and asking communities their specific needs, focus groups were hosted in each location for

the Hispanic and Vietnamese communities in the Fort Smith area.

All CHNAs identified the top three needs in each community: 1) access to care, 2) nutrition and 3) behavioral health.

After being approved by both the Mercy Fort Smith board of directors and the Mercy Rural board of directors in May 2019, Community Health Implementation Plans (CHIPs) were adopted to meet the community health needs identified through the assessment process.

Once the CHIPs are approved by both boards, the reporting process will begin by identifying the needs from the CHNAs.

Mercy Community Health & Access will track these developments over the next three years in serving our communities well. To see the discussed documents above please visit:

<https://www.mercy.net/forms/community-benefits/>

### Charity Care

Includes the actual cost of providing free or discounted care to persons who cannot afford to pay and who are not eligible for public programs. Charity care does not include bad debt.

Benefit: \$1,872,000

### Community Outreach Services

Includes activities carried out to improve community health and services that are subsidized because they are needed in the community. Examples: education, support groups, health screenings, and immunizations.

Benefit: \$238,000

### Health Professionals

#### Education and Research

Includes the cost of providing clinical placement for physicians, nurses and other health professionals plus the costs of the nursing anesthesia, EMS and radiology schools.

Benefit: \$11,000

### Cash, In-Kind Donations, Workforce Enhancement and Fundraising

Includes cash, in-kind donations, fundraising costs, food & supplies to shelters, use of Mercy rooms and facilities, donated office space and recruitment of health professionals in medically underserved areas.

Benefit: \$29,000

### Medicaid Subsidies

Includes the actual unpaid cost of providing care to Medicaid patients and represents the shortfall between cost of care and the payments received by the government.

Benefit: \$4,739,000