



# Community Benefit Report 2023

Connecting with Heart to Build  
a Healthier Community

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## Mission Statement

We deliver  
outstanding care,  
inspire health and  
connect with heart.

## Our Values

- TRUST
- RESPECT
- INTEGRITY
- COMPASSION

Beacon Health System complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Beacon Health System cumple con las leyes federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo.

Find us on social media



# Greetings

At Beacon Health System, our mission is not just a statement; it's a guiding principle that shapes everything we do. We believe in delivering outstanding care, inspiring health, and connecting with heart. This mission is the heartbeat of our organization, pulsating through every interaction, program, and initiative we undertake.

As we reflect on our journey, we are reminded of the profound impact had on the lives of those we serve. With over 160 locations spanning Indiana and Michigan, we stand as a beacon of hope, delivering exceptional care that is easily accessible and close to home. Our commitment to outstanding care is unwavering, driving us to go above and beyond to meet the diverse needs of our community.

But outstanding care is more than just medical treatment; it's about inspiring health in every individual we encounter. From prevention education to promoting healthier lifestyle choices, we strive to empower our community to take control of their well-being. Through education, resources, and support, we aim to ignite a spark of wellness in every heart we touch.

Yet, our mission extends beyond the walls of our facilities. It's about connecting with heart – forging deep and meaningful relationships with our community. We recognize that true healing happens when we come together, united in our mission to support one another. By nurturing strong partnerships and collaborating with local organizations, we amplify our impact and create a ripple effect of positive change throughout our community.

As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our commitment to our mission. Whether it's through funding nonprofit organizations, establishing working relationships with local health departments, or launching innovative programs to address community needs, we will continue to deliver outstanding care, inspire health, and connect with heart.

Thank you for entrusting us with your care. Together, we will continue to shine as a beacon of hope, lighting the path to a healthier, more vibrant future for us all.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Kimberly Green Reeves, MPA  
*Executive Director*  
*Community Impact*  
*Beacon Health System*



As we reflect on our journey, we are reminded of the profound impact had on the lives of those we serve.

# Beacon Health System: Caring for our Community



Beacon Health System provides exceptional care that is easily accessible and close to home. With over 160 locations in Indiana and Michigan, we offer a comprehensive range of services that address the diverse needs of our community. As the only locally owned, governed and operated health system in our region, we are able to extend our care to every member of the community, regardless of their ability to pay.

We are more than just brick and mortar buildings – Beacon is a family of dedicated health care professionals committed to the health and well-being of our neighbors here in Indiana and Michigan.

We work collaboratively with multiple organizations in a health network using data-driven, evidence-based, and transparent practices to chart progress and measure health impact, ensuring we are responsive to needs identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).

By nurturing strong partnerships with community organizations and residents, we are able to work together to increase our impact as we provide the best possible care and support to those who need it most.



## **Impact highlight**

### Who we serve

Beacon's core service area comprises the following counties in Indiana and Michigan.

**Indiana:** St. Joseph County, Elkhart County, Marshall County, LaPorte County

**Michigan:** St. Joseph County

For certain services, such as trauma care and pediatrics, Beacon's reach is much wider.

**We have a steadfast commitment to improving health in our communities. To achieve this, we offer a range of services and programs to help people stay well, including:**

- Providing prevention education on important health topics.
- Offering tools and resources to promote healthier lifestyle choices.
- Removing barriers to adequate health care access by meeting people where they are.

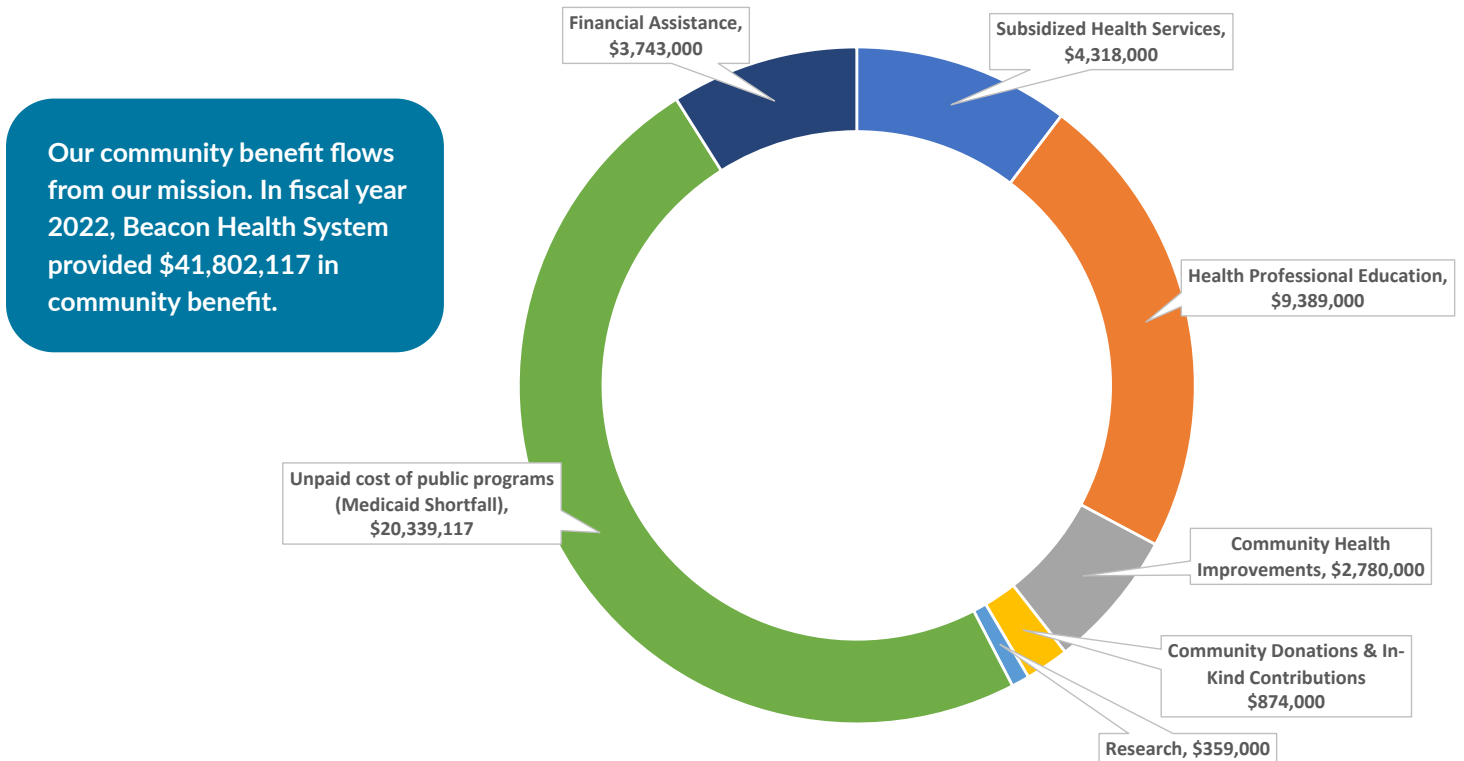
**We work toward our goals by:**

- Providing funding for nonprofit organizations that help create change in a Community Health Needs Assessment priority area.
- Working with organizations, businesses and other groups to build the capacity of our community to respond to its top health needs.
- Directly delivering educational and clinical programming and case management services to address community health needs in our service area.



## Community Benefit Numbers

Changing Lives in Our Communities



Through Beacon Community Impact, Beacon Health System was awarded over **\$3.8 million in external grant funds** to prevent child abuse, help people stop smoking, improve the health of mothers and babies, increase access to COVID-19 vaccination and much more.

After seeing the impact of food insecurity on patients, a **Beacon Family Medicine Resident** dedicated her service project to addressing this need. Now more than 50 bags of food are given to families and individuals in our community every month.

Beacon Health System welcomed Three Rivers Health in Three Rivers, Michigan, to the Beacon family in September 2021. In 2023, Community Impact established a working relationship with the local health department, **Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency**, to address the top needs in the community.

For a patient with diabetes who does not have health insurance, controlling their disease would cost in excess of \$15,000 per year. **The Center for Healing and Hope** is able to cut that cost down to about \$350 per year by offering affordable office visits, education and better medication access.



**The Center for Healing and Hope**

# Highlights from 2023 *Continued*



Individuals experiencing homelessness often have poor access to medical care, for a variety of reasons that range from costs to transportation to social barriers. The **Street Medicine South Bend** program established by Beacon Memorial Family Medicine Residency program a year ago, has enabled physician volunteers to begin building trust and meeting these individuals where they are. So far, the physicians have seen more than 120 individuals experiencing homelessness.

The **St. Joseph County (Ind.) WIC program** continues to promote breastfeeding, once again putting it in the top five WIC agencies in Indiana – and ensuring that more women can successfully breastfeed their infants, giving them a healthier start in life.

A diagnosis of cancer comes with mental and emotional strains alongside the physical impact. **Ribbon of Hope** provides emotional and spiritual support to cancer patients, their families, and caregivers. They provided care and services to over 700 patients in Elkhart County and traveled more than 7800 miles connecting with patients in their homes in 2023. These miles included helping with transportation appointments, delivering goods and services, and making time to sit with a patient who felt alone and needed a friend.

Beacon Health System-funded **Self-Healing Communities of Greater Michiana** is building resilience to trauma and adversity by teaching people to care for themselves and each other, creating learning communities and establishing a website to share neuroscience-based resources.

Beacon's Community Health Services team promotes prevention through **community health educators** whose outreach efforts include middle and high schools in all three Indiana counties that comprise Beacon's core service area.

In June 2023, Beacon Health System hosted a **Gun Violence Symposium** with support from the Helen S. Lit Trust, Beacon Community Impact, IU School of Medicine South Bend, and the Pulte Institute for Global Development at the University of Notre Dame. Donald Zimmer, an Emergency Department physician at Memorial Hospital of South Bend, lead the initiative as a priority for Beacon

and our community. "Over the last decade we have seen a general rising trend of gun violence in our community and in the Emergency Departments," he said. Over 125 people from across the area attended, representing over 35 different stakeholder groups and organizations. The major takeaway from the symposium was a concerted will from all stakeholders to collaborate across the community to reduce the current levels of gun violence.



**Street Medicine South Bend**



**The St. Joseph County (Ind.) WIC program**

# Addressing the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)



Beacon Health System completed a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in 2021 to better understand and prioritize the health needs of the communities we serve in Indiana (Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall and St. Joseph counties). The CHNA process included secondary data collection, a key informant survey and focus groups throughout Beacon’s core service area in Indiana.

Beacon staff analyzed the data and identified the top community health needs as mental health, chronic disease and health care access. Our executive leaders approved **mental health** and **health care access** as the top priorities.

Three Rivers Health, which serves St. Joseph County in Michigan, joined the Beacon family after the completion of the 2021 CHNA. They participated in their local health department’s CHNA, which found mental health and resource accessibility to be among the top three health needs, which aligns with our priority areas and implementation strategy.

Beacon Community Impact works with the Hillsdale-Branch-St. Joseph Health Department to address mental health and maternal and infant health initiatives through their implementation strategy.

## Our 2022–2024 implementation strategy

Beacon’s implementation strategy aligns with our mission and values by enhancing the skills of patients, practitioners and the community; improving equitable access to health and wellness services; and improving and strengthening local social and health care systems.

### Mental health strategy

Mental illness, especially depression, increases the risk for many types of adverse physical health outcomes, particularly long-lasting conditions like stroke, type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Similarly, the presence of chronic conditions can increase the risk for mental illness. Robert Wood Johnson’s County Health Rankings model examines quality of life

and tells us a lot about how people perceive their health – whether they feel healthy and satisfied. When communities have higher rates of those who do not feel healthy, it can influence other factors of health, including mortality rates, unemployment and poverty.

### Mental health metrics

% of population with frequent mental health distress

% of the population with at least one caring and competent adult connection

### Health care access strategy

Increasing health care access, quality and equity addresses all major social, economic, environmental and behavioral factors that enable individuals and communities to make healthy choices and enjoy a long, healthy life. Additionally, our 2021 CHNA research indicated that individuals with low health literacy were significantly more likely than individuals with adequate health literacy to delay or forgo needed care or to report difficulty finding a provider.

### Health care access metrics

% of population with health insurance (adults < 65 and children)

% of adults who reported their health care providers always involved them in decisions about their care, as much as they wanted.



## Our Approach

Within Beacon Health System, the Beacon Community Impact Department leads efforts impacting our priority areas of mental health and health care access using a combination of internal programs and collaborative partnerships. Our implementation strategy incorporates a three-pronged approach:

### We provide direct services to clients through Beacon's Early Childhood Services and Community Health Services teams.

Early Childhood Services include the St. Joseph County (Ind.) WIC program, two sickle cell programs and our Family & Infants Support Program. These programs focus on the health status of women, infants and young families, particularly the most vulnerable in Beacon's service area. Our Community Health Services team focuses on prevention through community health educators with school curricula delivered throughout middle and high schools in the three Indiana counties we serve. Summer programming shifts to health-related day camps and participation at community health fairs. Though it may not be their primary focus, these community health teams screen for and provide referrals for clients experiencing mental health challenges. Likewise, they emphasize the importance of trusted adults as protective factors for youth.

### We fund local community organizations with expertise in their service areas.

These organizations are community nonprofits with boots-on-the-ground services in the most vulnerable neighborhoods and more diverse populations. Each of the funded partners addresses the top two health priorities and reports on the number of participants and on an outcome metric for either mental health or health care access. In addition, Beacon partnered with the local health department in Three Rivers, MI, to support building out their Community Health Worker Program to increase services addressing health care access and mental health.

### Beacon administers state and federal grants as the fiscal agent to deliver direct programming funded by the grants and to build out the data infrastructure in Beacon communities.

In 2023, we completed the final year of the COVID grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the U. S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. These grants funded two programs to provide COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine education. This was also the final year of administering Project HOPE and the second year for Supported and Safe, also funded by HRSA,

which established a coalition of organizations to address opioid use in Marshall County. In the fall of 2023, we were awarded the Indiana Safety Pin – FIMR grant for St. Joseph County, IN, to re-establish the fetal infant mortality review (FIMR) program. Beacon Community Impact also provides services and collaborates with outside organizations with funding from a State of Indiana Safety Pin grant. Finally, Beacon functions as the fiscal agent for programming run by local outpatient mental health provider Oaklawn, to build crisis response teams.



## Acknowledgment

Beacon's work in the community would not be possible without the support and effort of our community partners. We truly value the opportunity to continue to build relationships with them and would like to thank them for all that they do to improve health in the community.



# Beacon Community Impact Initiatives



Within Beacon Health System, the Beacon Community Impact Department leads efforts impacting our priority areas of mental health and health care access using a combination of internal programs and collaborative partnerships.

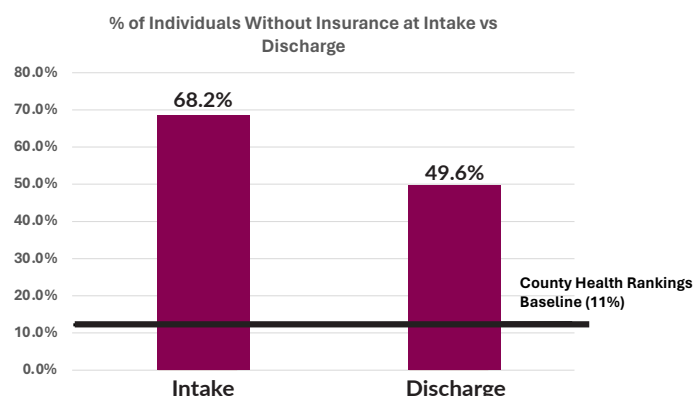
## Health care access initiatives



### Goals

#### Healthcare Access: Insurance Metric

Decrease the # of individuals without insurance



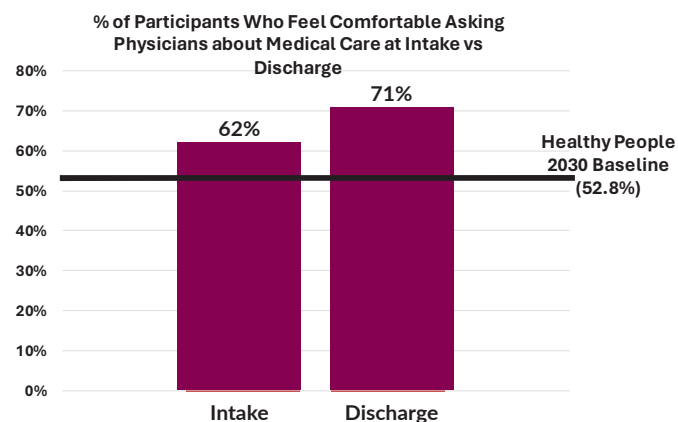
#### Implementation Strategy Target:

% of population without health insurance is 11%

\*Target pulled from County Health Rankings

#### Healthcare Access: PCP Involvement Metric

Increase the # of participants who feel comfortable/confident asking their physician questions about medical care



#### Implementation Strategy Target:

52.8% of participants report physicians always involved them in decisions about healthcare as much as they wanted

\*Target pulled from Healthy People 2030

## Participating organizations

### Community partners

- Center for Healing and Hope
- Child and Parent Services, Inc. (CAPS)
- Health Beginnings (Elkhart County Health Department)
- Mental Health Awareness of Michiana (MHAM)
- United Health Services

### Beacon Community Impact programs

- Beacon Health Navigator
- COVID Outreach
- COVID Vaccinations
- Family and Infant Support Program (FISP)
- Sickle Cell – Infant Screening
- Sickle Cell Broadscope
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)



## Center for Healing and Hope

Patients without health insurance are particularly at risk when they have a chronic disease like diabetes, because the cost to control their disease could exceed \$15,000 per year. By offering affordable office visits, access to specialized medication and education, The Center for Healing and Hope is able to cut that cost down to about \$350 per year, enabling these patients to live a healthier life and use their limited resources in ways that support their overall wellbeing. Furthermore, most of the Center's patients speak Spanish as their primary language. Being able to see providers and an educator who speak Spanish means patients are more likely to understand and retain the information they receive about their disease. Access and appropriate education are key to achieving positive outcomes, extending life and to improving quality of life for community members who are uninsured and low-income.

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# Beacon Community Impact Initiatives

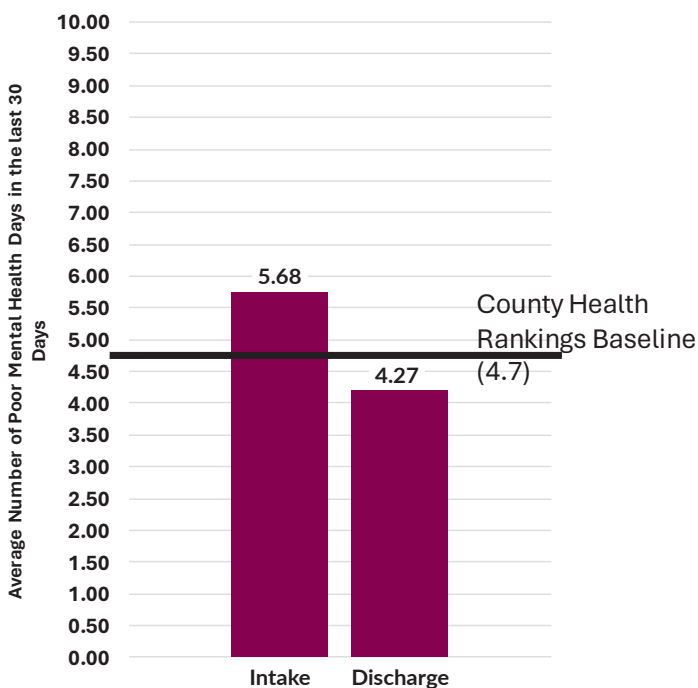


## Mental health initiatives

### Mental Health: Poor Mental Health Days Metric



Decrease the # of mentally unhealthy days



# of adults asked at intake: 2,447  
# of adults asked at discharge: 1,479

### Implementation Strategy Target:

Average # of unhealthy days within the past 30 days is 4.7

\*Target pulled from RWJF's County Health Rankings

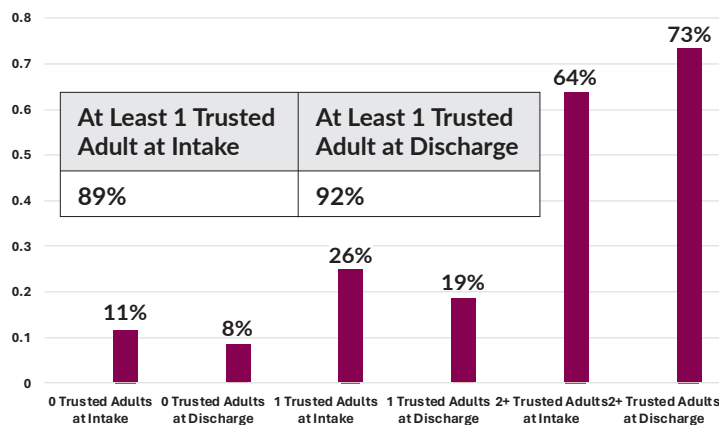


### Mental Health: Poor Mental Health Days Metric



Increase the # of participants with an adult to reach out to  
Goal for adults: Increase the # of adults with social support

% of Respondents With Trusted Adults at Intake vs Discharge



\*data includes all ages

### Implementation Strategy Target:

92.5% of children have an adult to reach out to 86.9% of adults have a social support system

\*Target pulled from Indiana's National Survey of Children's Health and Healthy People 2030

## Participating organizations

### Community Partners

- Child and Parent Services, Inc. (CAPS)
- Gentlemen and Scholars Inc.
- Horizon Education Alliance (HEA)
- Imani Unidad
- Mental Health Awareness of Michiana (MHAM)
- United Health Services

### Beacon Community Impact Programs

- Beacon Health Navigator
- COVID Outreach
- COVID Vaccinations
- Family and Infant Support Program (FISP)
- Sickle Cell - Infant Screening
- Sickle Cell Broadscope
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)



## Mental Health Awareness of Michiana

Client feedback illustrates the dramatic impact a strong mental health program can achieve. “Sue” was referred to **Mental Health Awareness of Michiana** upon release from a long incarceration. She identified her number of bad mental health days in the past month as “30” at the time of her intake. She had one trusted adult in her life. She identified “relationships, transitions and grief” as the areas she wanted to work on with her therapist. Sue received the full number of sessions (12) with an experienced clinician. By the end of therapy, her number of bad mental days had dropped by 10, and her number of trusted adults increased to two or more. She felt satisfied with her progress and felt very strongly that she would refer family or friends to the program. In her words, “(Therapist) was amazing, very helpful, very knowledgeable, and just really helped me look at things in a different light. I was given techniques and things that were very useful. The therapy was extremely helpful. It gave me a release.”

This year, the program included more master’s level interns and found rates of improvements and satisfaction. One of the interns provided care to another client leaving incarceration in 2023. This client shared, “(Therapist) was amazing and not like a lot of therapist I know of...I was very comfortable speaking with her and never felt like I had to speak or forced to...we worked at my pace and she helped me feel like there might actually not be something wrong with me. I hate that the sessions are over and I would recommend her to anyone. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this program.”



Mental Health Awareness of Michiana



## Sickle Cell Broadscope

A staff member from **Sickle Cell Broadscope** shared their experience as a caregiver: “As a community health worker, it is my job to help families cross barriers and to provide support where I can. As I get to know each family individually, I learn more about sickle cell, amongst other battles these families face every day. We find out more about these challenges with our social determinants of health survey. Many of our families travel long distances just to access care with our specialists here through Beacon. For families traveling far, if there is a need, we are able to provide gas cards to help with travel expenses. Many of the children I’ve built trustful relationships with have asked me to join them at their appointments, where we will talk, paint, play games and more, while they are getting treatment. I have seen with a family that was not always making their children’s appointments, make a strong come back on being consistently present to their monthly transfusion appointments. I can only hope they leave their appointments – where I sit with them

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through the journey – feeling positive about being the brave sickle cell warriors that they are. That hope was confirmed today when a patient painted ‘life is good’ during the transfusion. Although at first anxious and hesitant to talk to yet another person at the hospital, we have tackled these not-so-fun transfusion appointments and focus on the positive. Mothers have reached out to me and been honest with their experiences and challenges after first being hesitant as well. The families teach me so much about mental strength and perseverance as we walk through the battles of sickle cell disease together.”

community health workers, peer recovery coaches and community health navigators. The Coalition’s primary goal for 2023 was to launch a website to increase regional awareness of the Coalition’s role and facilitate communication among its members.

A representative from the Shaw Center states, “We continue to get positive feedback from our members on how our meetings help keep them aware of what is happening in our community. In 2023, the coalition hosted speakers and panels on the topics of: Navigating the mental health care system, end of life issues, preparing for changes in Medicaid coverage, volunteer lawyer network and tenant’s issues, financial literacy, supports for immigrant families, and perinatal health. With the completion of our website [because of Beacon Health System funding], all of this information will be accessible to our members.”

## Initiatives supporting both health care access and mental health



### Goals

Build capacity to serve our communities in the priority areas to address social determinants of health.



Scan QR Code for more information



## Michiana Community Health Coalition

In 2022, the University of Notre Dame Shaw Center for Children and Families collaborated with Beacon Community Impact to address improving the capacity to meet community need by helping create the **Michiana Community Health Coalition**. The Coalition builds bridges between the community and health resources to advance research, provide student education opportunities and improve public health in Michiana. More specifically, it connects mental health agencies, health care systems, local health departments and social service agencies with



## Project Hope

The Health Resources and Services Administration awarded Beacon Community Impact \$1 million to provide a coordinated approach to accessing resources for prevention, treatment and recovery services for substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder in Marshall County. The grant enabled Beacon to create a continuum of services that establishes **SUD prevention** as the cornerstone of a healthy society, creates a robust safety net of treatment options and supports successful recovery for any individual or family

in need. Collaboration with the Bowen Center, Community Hospital of Bremen, David's Courage, Dustin's Place, Naxos Neighbors and Serenity House have been key to this effort.

Between Bowen Center and David's Courage, a local recovery home, Marshall County HOPE supported treatment and recovery coordinators and five Peer Recovery Coach (PRC) positions. PRCs have experience with SUD and work side-by-side with recoverees to create their own recovery plans and support them on their individual recovery paths. The support that PRCs provide is unique to each recoveree. Dawn Brauneker, manager of Serenity House Women's Recovery Home, shared that several recent graduates of Serenity House "very highly benefitted from working with the Recovery Coaches provided" through the program. Gregg Erickson, President of David's Courage Men's Recovery Home, shared the following: "We have had nine men complete the 12-month recovery program successfully. We have three men coming back into David's Courage to share their success stories with men in the program and are teaching SMART Recovery, AA meetings and other programs to help them be successful. All nine men have stayed within our community, have long-term jobs and are actively engaged in other community organizations."

In December 2023, Beacon Community Impact transferred the coordination of Marshall County HOPE to our partners. With a sustainability plan and the support of Opioid Settlement Funds pledged from local government, recovery services will continue to grow in Marshall County.



Build resilience to trauma and adversity by creating a self-healing community in north central Indiana to address

the ongoing impact of adverse childhood experiences, community violence and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The need for such an effort was underscored by U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, who released an Advisory in May 2023 about the epidemic of loneliness and isolation. He stated, "Given the significant health consequences of loneliness and isolation, we must prioritize building social connection the same way we have prioritized other critical public health issues such as tobacco, obesity, and substance use disorders. Together, we can build a country that's healthier, more resilient, less lonely, and more connected."



## Self Healing Communities of Greater Michiana

Beacon Health System funds the newly formed **Self-Healing Communities of Greater Michiana**, whose mission is to "nurture personal and community well-being through the neuroscience of human resilience and the celebration of our collective strengths." With United Way of St. Joseph County as their fiscal agent, they are building awareness of the importance of adults serving as protective factors for our youth, creating learning communities and developing a portal for the neuroscience-based resources that provide the basis for community change.

Through this shared ownership model, the work to drive down adversity and build resilience in our community continued successfully in 2023. Self-Healing Communities defined its vision to increase protective factors throughout the region, and their goal is to teach everyone in our community to care for themselves and each other in a way that prioritizes the nervous system. They also launched their website to provide resources digitally to the

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community and established a steering committee to broaden their work across the region.



Scan QR Code for more information

The training included a pre-post of the ARTIC Scale, an assessment created by the Traumatic Stress Institute, to measure professionals' and paraprofessionals' attitudes about trauma-informed care (TIC). Table 1 shows the final results from all the cohort trainings comparing the pre- and post-ARTIC scores and ARTIC subscale scores. Overall, the post-ARTIC scores were significantly higher than the pre-ARTIC scores. Similarly, scores for the subscales Underlying Causes, Responses, On The Job Behavior, Self-Efficacy and Reactions showed a significant increase from pre to post checks. Although the post-ARTIC test averages were higher than pre-ARTIC test averages for Personal Support and System Support, they were not significantly higher.



## Goal

Study a method of training change agents to implement a trauma-informed approach to care within their organizations.



## Trauma Informed Care Workshops

In 2023, Beacon Community Impact, in partnership with the **University of Notre Dame's Neuroscience and Behavior program** completed a project that began in 2021, when we received funding from the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute to study a method of training change agents to implement a trauma-informed approach to care within their organizations. In 2022, we conducted three cohorts of two-part workshops in which 87 participants from 45 organizations, including multiple departments from Beacon Health System, learned the neuroscience behind the six principles of a trauma-informed approach. They then created their own roadmap to implement trauma-informed care based on a theory of change specific to their organization. In 2023, we conducted a final cohort of 40 people from organizations across Elkhart and St. Joseph counties in Indiana.

ARTIC Scale and Subscale differences Pre-post

Subscale	Pre Mean	Post Mean	t	p-Value
<b>Overall ARTIC</b>	5.70	5.98	-3.52	0.001
<b>Underlying Causes</b>	5.52	5.88	-3.75	0.000
<b>Responses</b>	5.52	5.88	-3.75	0.000
<b>On the job Behavior</b>	5.52	5.88	-3.75	0.000
<b>Self Efficacy</b>	5.52	5.88	-3.75	0.000
<b>Reactions</b>	5.52	5.88	-3.75	0.000
<b>Personal Support</b>	5.52	5.88	-3.75	0.000
<b>System Support</b>	5.52	5.88	-3.75	0.000

This project is supported by the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, funded in part by grant # UL1TR002529 from the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. It is also supported by the Indiana State Department of Health.

## The power of partnerships, across county lines

What is community, and how can we leverage community strength? When working closely with partners across several counties, each with a unique perspective, a shared vision of community is key. The Community Impact staff led our funded Community Partners through an activity asking what community means to them. The following responses from a Triple P leader illustrate the inspiring power of aligning organizations and networking to achieve shared goals.

“At the start of the grant, [**Health Education Alliance**] and **Triple P Elkhart County** had been very interested in the growing work of **Self-Healing Communities**, and it was wonderful that we were able to participate in the trauma-informed organization training as a grant recipient. We then took these new tools and worked with some other partners who are focused on developing trauma-informed workers who work with young children, and we were able to set some new goals and standards around all the engagement opportunities we have with children when parents come to workshops. Our Beacon Community Impact gatherings led to me being invited to participate on their [**Self-Healing Communities**] steering team.

“I also met [a representative of **Mental Health Awareness of Michiana**] and participated last year in the Elkhart Mental Health Summit on Resilience planning... It was a lovely event that highlighted how we as a community could support kids and families with their mental health. This event was also well promoted by BCI. I think because we had the opportunity to be together and get to know each other more through BCI events, this only helped grow our connection. I would also add that Lisa later reached out to me and asked if we could meet and possibly make some connections with the director of the Pro Bono Counseling Project in Elkhart County. Triple P welcomed her to share a table with us at an event where she was able to meet many school counselors in Elkhart County and then later was able to have a private meeting with all the school counselors through the CCCEC (another HEA initiative).

“We were able to hold Triple P workshops at the **Beacon Health System’s Aquatic Center in Elkhart**, and this wouldn’t

have likely happened if we had not been grant recipients, as we could not afford the rental fee for the space otherwise. This has provided more visibility to the work of Triple P and supports our mission that parent support is for ALL parents! As a bonus, we have now developed a relationship with the staff there and have been able to encourage other partners to reach out and “rent” the space and to build more offerings there. It matters when you have a good working relationship and can make recommendations and know that others will be treated well.

“While Triple P had a previous relationship with the **SPA Women’s Ministries** (a funded partner), events took a backseat during the pandemic. Seeing their executive director at BCI meetings helped reignite that relationship. We have resumed that connection and have been providing Triple P workshops for the past two years at the SPA!

“The **Transformation Ministries** reached out to me in November to learn more about Triple P and see if there was an opportunity to build that into some of their growing programming. While the Ministries knew about us from our work with **Concord Schools**, seeing us as grant partners with BCI gave us another opportunity to connect. This is a big potential win for us, as we have sought a partner in St. Joseph County, Indiana, for some time and the timing seems to be coming together to make them our first **St. Joseph County Triple P** partner.

“In just the past two weeks, as we are working on the launch of Triple P for **Baby online**, we wondered if we could explore being a BABE coupon provider. As it turns out, our new bilingual Triple P for Baby Team leader dropped in to meet a Beacon employee involved with the **BABE Store** (a Beacon Community Impact program) when she was already there for her appointment. She hadn’t heard of Triple P before and was very enthusiastic to learn more and find ways to partner. We ran into her at another meeting, and we learned many things about BABE and we are so excited to work together, as there seems to be some great opportunity to offer some virtual workshops across counties that she would be happy to promote! This couldn’t align better with the timing and direction Triple P is moving and with the goals of our [Beacon] grant this year!!”

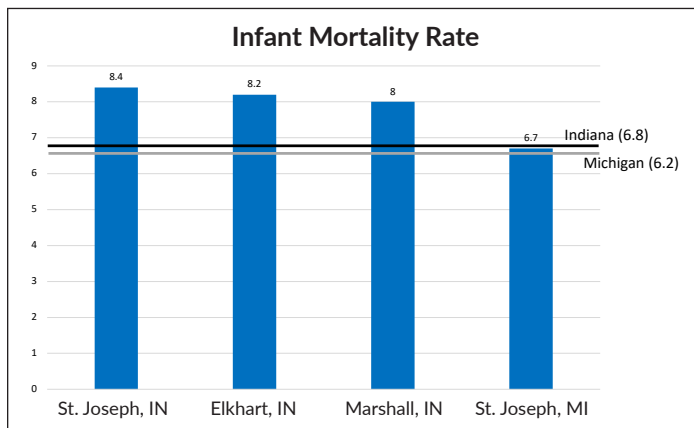
# Other Health System Efforts



## Promoting maternal and infant health

Both of our top health priorities impact the maternal and infant health populations

in Beacon's core service areas. The infant mortality rate is a measure that reflects the social, economic and environmental conditions in which children and families live, including their health care, and Beacon Health System made maternal and infant health a system strategic priority in 2023 with a goal to improve maternal health in the community. The data below represent the infant mortality for the counties Beacon represents and show how each county's infant mortality rate is greater than the respective state's infant mortality. The three Indiana counties are in the 10 highest infant mortality rates for the state (IDOH, 2023).



Beacon's strategic priority to address maternal and infant health focuses on care coordination between clinical providers and Community Impact programs. The care coordination addresses perinatal medical conditions such as hypertension, depression and social needs. Care coordination occurs across the hospitals, outpatient offices (BMG offices) and community. This program walks alongside an expecting mother prior to birth and 12 months following delivery to ensure a healthy outcome. Mothers are linked to this program through our hospitals and BMG offices. The program has a care team that includes a doula, community health worker, registered nurse and social worker, along with the clinical team that coordinates patient services and resource navigation. The activities include:

1. A continuum of care unique to patients' needs.
2. Pregnancy, labor and delivery education and training.
3. Providing mothers with navigator and cognitive behavioral health services.
4. Linking mothers to resources identified through a social determinants of health screening.



## Support for mothers and infants

Elkhart County's Healthy Beginnings offers programs aimed at prevention, education and early intervention to enhance the health and lives of infants, young children, and pregnant and/or breastfeeding women. BABE is a program that promotes responsible parenting by offering incentives to expectant parents, who earn coupons that can be redeemed at a BABE store for infant-related merchandise such as diapers, clothing, strollers and cribs.



## Healthy Babies at Elkhart County Health Department

A client came to Beacon in mid-pregnancy. Her prenatal care coordinator was able to enroll her in Medicaid for "Package E" coverage and help her apply for Beacon financial assistance. She delivered premature twins, and the care coordination team helped her get WIC and lactation services, as well as health coverage for the twins. This mom was able to receive two Pack 'n Play cribs through our Safe Sleep services and car seats through BABE. Her care coordinator has "held her hand" throughout this time in her family's life.





## Nutritional support for Women, Infants and Children

WIC was established as a permanent program in 1974 to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk. This mission is carried out by providing nutritious foods to supplement their diets, nutrition education (including breastfeeding promotion and support) and referrals to health and other social services. St. Joseph County (Indiana) serves approximately 11,500 participants throughout the area; it was recently noted that 53% of all infants born in the United States are on the WIC program.



## Improving access to care for individuals experiencing homelessness

The Beacon Memorial Family Medicine Residency program launched the Street Medicine South Bend (SMSB) program in December 2022. This program is based on an emerging field of medicine that began in 1992 in Pittsburgh, PA, and has now reached over 85 communities that have established their own street medicine programs. This approach aims to address the health needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and meet them where they are to provide care.

SMSB's goal is to improve the health care of individuals experiencing homelessness by understanding their realities, building trust, minimizing barriers to accessing medical care and reducing these individuals' cost of care (as well as the overall cost of health care delivery in the South Bend community). In collaboration with the Beacon Health System Foundation, SMSB travels to the Knights Inn in South Bend, where Motels4Now is providing shelter to those experiencing homelessness. SMSB provides on-site evaluation, diagnostic testing and treatment, and volunteer providers connect patients to long-term primary care through one of the local federally qualified health centers, HealthLinc.

### St. Joseph County WIC

The breastfeeding initiation rate for the St. Joseph County WIC has maintained a rate of 80%, putting it in the top five of 36 WIC agencies in Indiana. For the past three years, St. Joseph County WIC has hosted a World Breastfeeding Event at the South Bend Cubs Stadium with great success. In 2023, 31 vendors provided education and referrals to managed health care organizations with over 475 attendees. This event helps some of our vendors achieve a larger outreach in the community.

### Street Medicine South Bend

Since its inception, SMSB providers have seen 122 unique patients and had more than 220 total patient encounters. Presently, research is being pursued to see what impact SMSB has had on emergency department utilization in St. Joseph County.

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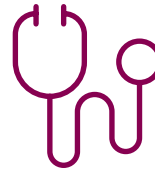
## Fighting hunger

The Food Pantry at Family Medicine Residency Clinic was started in the summer of 2022 by Deb Pavey, one of the Memorial Family Medicine Residency residents who has since graduated. She saw the impact food insecurity had on our patients and dedicated her longitudinal service project for the residency's Care of the Underserved curriculum to meet this need.



## Food Pantry and Family Medicine Residency Clinic

An average of about 50 bags of food are given to families and individuals experiencing food insecurity each month. This number is expanding, with 70 bags given from our pantry in February. The pantry is now even more accessible, especially to our patients with transportation issues, through a food delivery program made possible by volunteers from the University of Notre Dame. Patients are able to receive regular deliveries every other week. Our food pantry and the signage in clinic advertising it have decreased barriers to accessing food assistance. Patients are very appreciative of this program and many patients use our pantry more than once.



## Addressing the nursing shortage

In 2022 Beacon Health System and Ivy Tech Community College South

Bend-Elkhart partnered to create the Beacon School of Nursing and the Beacon Scholar Program to help address the nursing shortage our community is facing. This initiative also supports equitable economic prosperity in underrepresented communities and minorities. The Beacon Scholar program and partnership with Ivy Tech is two-tiered. First, Beacon supports nursing education by helping Ivy Tech cover the cost of faculty to assist in maintaining state-required faculty-student ratios and expand the program's capacity by 60% over the next five years. Second, Beacon covers the cost of students' tuition, fees and books and provides them with a living stipend. Students graduate from the program as registered nurses and have a job awaiting them at one of Beacon's hospitals. The aim of this program is to increase access to education for lower-income, underrepresented groups to ensure our workforce is reflective of the communities we serve.



## BEACON SCHOLAR

## Beacon Scholars

102 Beacon Scholars enrolled in Fall 2023 – a 55% increase over 2022

- 10% increase in minority students
- 41% first in family to attend college
- 36% come from vulnerable ZIP codes



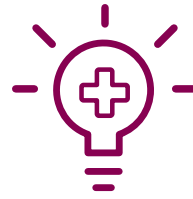
## Encouraging associates to volunteer

Beacon recognizes that volunteering enriches the lives of the community and the workforce. Community service through “Beacon’s Helping Hands” encourages Beacon associates to participate in area activities aligned with Beacon’s Mission and Values. To support community involvement, associates who volunteer with a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose activities align with the Mission and Values of Beacon Health System may be compensated for their community service: up to four hours a year for full-time associates and up to two hours a year for part-time associates.



## Beacon Volunteer Hours

In 2023, Beacon associates collectively logged 332.75 hours of helping charitable organizations in their community and living the Beacon mission of connecting with heart.



## Educating clinicians

Beacon Health System’s Medical Education Committee looks to provide the system’s medical professionals with timely and relevant educational sessions for which providers can earn continuing education credits. Beacon is accredited by the Indiana State Medical Association and can provide these sessions free of charge. In addition, Memorial Hospital of South Bend and Elkhart General Hospital each host two educational sessions every month where attendance is free and open to the public. Topics addressed include disease and condition management; diversity, equity and inclusion considerations for patient care; updates on new studies; discussions of social determinants of health and more.

Through partnerships with the St. Joseph and Elkhart counties’ health departments, Grand Round discussions include education around the opioid crisis and gun violence, with the goal to improve community wellness. Also, Beacon actively helps educate doctors in training at the Indiana University School of Medicine and the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine. These efforts help physician recruitment efforts, which ultimately improves access to care.

## Grand Rounds

Grand Rounds sessions can be attended in person, or live online, or on demand via recordings.

Throughout 2023, the number of individuals who participated was 1,256.

# Grants Awarded to Beacon



In 2023, Beacon Community Impact secured over \$3.8 million in external grant funds. Beacon is committed to responsible stewardship and continues to seek out grant opportunities to fund projects that align with our priorities to create a healthier community.

## Program

## Community Impact

Roofsit Carseats Grant	Distributed over 300 car seats to families in need.
Roofsit Pack & Play Grant	Provided nearly 100 Pack n Plays to support client care.
Roofsit Performance Grant	Benefited clients with essential infant care items.
Roofsit WIC Cards	Empowered families to purchase healthy food for their babies.
Tobacco Cessation	Reduced smoking rates across the region.
Building Trauma-Informed Communities	Increased community awareness and resources for trauma survivors.
Indiana My Healthy Baby Quality Improvement Learning Collaborative	Supported best practices for maternal health.
My Healthy Baby	Strengthened family and infant support services in the community.
Local community-based workforce to increase COVID-19 vaccine access	Bolstered local COVID-19 response efforts.
Local community-based workforce to increase COVID-19 vaccinations in underserved communities	Provided critical resources to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
Health navigator serving FISP clients	Enhanced access to health insurance for clients.
Health navigator serving FISP clients	Enhanced access to health insurance for clients.
Sickle Cell IHTC, newborn screening	Improved newborn screening and early diagnosis of sickle cell disease.
Broadscope Sickle Cell	Advanced lifelong care and support for individuals with sickle cell disease.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Sum of New Awards in 2023</b>	<b>St. Joseph County, IN</b>	<b>St. Joseph County, MI</b>	<b>Elkhart County, IN</b>	<b>Marshall County, IN</b>	<b>LaPorte County, IN</b>
High Blood Pressure Remote Patient Monitoring	\$100,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
BABE Store Pack n Play	\$5,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
FISP Programming	\$1,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
High Blood Pressure Remote Patient Monitoring	\$20,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Family & Infant Support Program (Training)	\$25,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Family & Infant Support Program (Training)	\$25,000.00			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Women, Infants & Children	\$1,764,041.47	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Michiana Mobile Opioid Recovery/Response Plan with Oaklawn	\$589,071.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Newborn Screening	\$162,500.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sickle Cell Lifelong Care	\$87,500.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FISP Staffing	\$107,587.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fetal Infant Mortality Review Committee	\$375,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Family & Infant Support Program (Training)	\$14,530.25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Maternal Care: HTN Remote Patient Monitoring	\$83,750.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Family & Infant Support Program	\$466,582.95	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,826,562.67</b>					

# Our Reach



## Counties and associated hospitals

Community Hospital of Bremen • Elkhart General Hospital • Memorial Hospital of South Bend



Program Count			
	Community Partners	Beacon	Grand Total
Elkhart	12	10	22
Marshall	6	9	15
St. Joseph	13	11	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>28</b>

Total Unique Individuals and Participants Served By County	
Total Served by County (IN)	
Elkhart	9,245
Marshall	2,485
St. Joseph	39,638
Other Counties	1,426
<b>Total Served</b>	<b>52,794</b>

WIC Unique Individuals	
Elkhart	135
Marshall	43
St. Joseph	10,025
Other Counties	56
<b>Total Served</b>	<b>10,259</b>

Age Groups	Total
0-4	31%
5-17	28%
18-64	32%
65 and older	3%
Preferred not to answer	0.4%
Unknown	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

*This is the first full year of metrics for internal programs and external funded community partners.  
\*Age, race, ethnicity and gender displays the outstanding reach into the communities.*

Race Groups	Total
American Indian / Alaska Native	1%
Asian	1%
Black / African American	32%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.2%
White	38%
Multiracial	9%
Preferred not to answer	1%
Unknown	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Gender Groups	Total
Females	55%
Males	39%
Non-Binary	0.3%
Other	0.3%
Preferred not to answer	5%
Unknown	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Ethnicity Groups	Total
Hispanic	25%
Non-Hispanic	63%
Preferred not to answer	0.4%
Unknown	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

# To the Future and Beyond!



**Now:** We are in the final year of the three-year cycle for the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Implementation Strategy and preparing for the 2024 CHNA to identify health priorities in Beacon's core service area in Indiana and Michigan. This CHNA will lay the foundation for the next three years for all Beacon hospitals. We are engaging community partners and stakeholders at the beginning of the 2024 process to ensure the next CHNA will be community-owned while Beacon supported.

**Near:** We plan to leverage the expertise, tools and resources of Beacon Health System, as well as our community partners, to deliver a continuum of care with improved health outcomes. This includes responding to chronic toxic stress and multiple forms of trauma and decreasing health disparities in our communities.

**Far:** Ultimately, we are working toward achieving health equity throughout Beacon's service area.





[beaconhealthsystem.org/community-impact](http://beaconhealthsystem.org/community-impact)