



2026 McLAREN CENTRAL MICHIGAN

**COMMUNITY HEALTH
NEEDS ASSESSMENT
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGY**

BACKGROUND

This plan outlines how the organization will respond to the priority health needs identified through the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for the next three years.

REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Priority identification and implementation plan was developed based on key findings in the Community Health Needs Assessment.

- 1. Mental Health**
- 2. Access to Health Care**
- 3. Obesity**
4. Economic Security
5. Education
- 6. Housing**
7. Safety & Wellbeing
8. Environment/Infrastructure
9. Broadband

The hospital developed an implementation plan including community health improvement goals and strategies to address the identified priority areas. The hospital is pursuing these internally as well as working with community organizations to achieve the greatest community impact on our actions.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Mental Health

Goal: Improve mental health by ensuring access to appropriate, quality services and support.

Strategies:

- Continuously educate and train primary care and emergency department providers on mental health screening, intervention, treatment, and resources.
- In compliance with the Joint Commission, follow all evidence-based best practice recommendations for mental health screening and environment of care while patients are in the hospital.
- Collaborate with community partners* to promote community awareness and education of mental health resources.

- Support organizations* providing mental health services.
- Identify and collaborate on advocacy opportunities to increase access to behavioral health services.

**Community partners, organizations, and resources may include:*

- **Community Mental Health for Central Michigan** - Offers individual, group and family counseling, therapy groups and other mental health services for residents of Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland and Osceola Counties living with developmental disabilities and or serious mental illness receiving Medicaid or are eligible for services.
- **Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Behavioral Health** – Provides culturally grounded substance use and mental health treatment primarily for tribal members.
- **National Alliance on Mental Health Michigan** – provides information to the public and local public health departments regarding mental illness and advocacy.
- **211** – A free, confidential, 24/7 helpline and online service offering information and referrals to community resources.
- **The Listening Ear Crisis Hotline** – Provides 24/7 crisis support to residents of Isabella and Clare Counties.
- **Central Michigan University Counseling Center** – Offers support to any CMU student, or any individual concerned about a CMU student.
- **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** – available 24/7/365.
- **Crisis Text Line** – Individuals can text HOME to 741741 to connect to a live volunteer Crisis Counselor.
- **CMU Sexual Aggression Peer Advocates (SAPA)** - Sexual Aggression Peer Advocates (SAPA) is a survivor-centered and trauma-informed, paraprofessional student organization that serves those affected by sexual aggression through 24/7 services during fall and spring semesters, including a confidential support line and direct, in-person services.
- **RISE (Recovery, Independence, Safety, & Empowerment)** – Provides intimate partner and sexual assault support services in Clare, Isabella, and Gratiot Counties.
- **Trevor Project** – 24/7 immediate crisis support from trained counselors who understand challenges LGBTQ+ people face.
- **Trans Lifeline** – Connecting trans people to needed support and resources.
- **Veterans Crisis Line** – 24/7 confidential support for Veterans and service members.

Access to Health Care

Goal: Increase access to health care services and reduce health risks for chronic diseases.

Strategies:

- Provide and promote same day access to primary care services through McLaren Medical Group providers.
- Provide and promote walk-in, urgent care services through McLaren ReadyCare.
- Promote remote care through internet-based service (McLarenNow).
- Partner with McLaren Medical Group and independent primary care providers to ensure adequate succession planning for providers transitioning into retirement or leaving the area.
- Continue to recruit and retain top quality providers in all primary care and specialty areas.
- Support recruitment and retention by enhancing opportunities for employee well-being.
- Offer evening and weekend access to diagnostic imaging services.
- Continue to work on decreasing wait-times for appointments for all services.
- Collaborate with Michigan Health and Hospital Association to advance best practices addressing social determinants of health to reduce barriers to health care.
- Continue to offer free and/or low-cost health screenings including diabetes, cancer and heart health.
- Continue to participate in health fairs and expos distributing free information and education on reducing health risks.
- Partner with local employer groups to offer preventative health education information as well as available healthcare services.
- Contribute information on the services and health and wellness offerings we provide to the 211-information database.
- Offer provider-led presentations on prevention of chronic disease throughout the community.
- Continue to host support groups and education for those with chronic disease.

Obesity

Goal: To improve obesity rates which can impact chronic disease including diabetes and heart disease as well as improve chronic pain and physical inactivity.

Strategies:

- Connect patients with no medical home to a primary care provider.
- Deliver provider or clinician led education programs to the community to promote wellness.
- Continue to participate in health fairs and expos providing free information and education on reducing health risks.
- Collaborate and support regional partners* on community-based interventions that promote healthy eating and physical activity to reduce obesity.
- Promote and support community gardens and farmers' markets* to encourage both healthy eating and physical activity through gardening.

**Community partners and resources may include:*

- **Mt. Pleasant Farmers' Market** – Offering fresh produce, organic plants, cooking demonstrations during May through October.
- **Isabella Community Soup Kitchen** – Community supported, non-profit organization to provide free meals to anyone.
- **Community Compassion Network, Nutrition Club, & Infant Pantry** – Food pantry and community garden project.
- **Compassion Counts Food Pantry** - Harrison
- **Clare County Food Pantry** - Clare

Housing

Goal: Safe, affordable and accessible housing options within the communities we serve.

Strategies:

- Endorse policies and projects around safe and affordable housing with community partners*.
- Increase referrals to community resources* for support accessing basic needs, including housing.
- Work with community partners* and legislative representatives to advocate and support affordable housing in our communities.
- Interact with housing boards and coalitions to be a voice for our community.

**Community partners and resources may include:*

- **Mt. Pleasant Housing Commission** – Dedicated to help Isabella County citizens to secure safe, sanitary, and affordable housing.
- **Isabella County Restoration House – Homeless Shelter** – Providing temporary shelter to homeless individuals and families in Isabella County with a pathway to self-sufficiency.
- **Eightcap Community Services** – Works with private, government, and community organizations to deliver programs for individuals to become self-sufficient.
- **Clare County Community Development** – Provides low-interest loans and grants to assist Clare County homeowners with repairs or home improvements.

The implementation plan will be monitored to track outcomes of success and areas for improvement. The plan and program metrics will be monitored and updated annually. The hospital reserves the right to amend this implementation strategy as circumstances warrant. For example, certain needs may become more pronounced and require enhancements. During the three-year period other organizations in the community may decide to address certain needs, indicating that the Hospital then should refocus on its limited resources to best serve the community.

STRATEGIC ISSUES THAT WILL NOT BE TARGETED AND WHY

Due to relative lack of expertise, McLaren Central Michigan will not be directly addressing the following needs identified in the CHNA:

- Economic Security
- Education
- Safety & Wellbeing
- Environment/Infrastructure
- Broadband