

OWENSBORO HEALTH REGIONAL HOSPITAL

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

TAX YEAR 2024

INTRODUCTION:

The Owensboro Health Regional Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was conducted and developed by Blueprint Kentucky (formerly the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK)) and was approved on May 29th, 2025 by the Owensboro Health Board of Directors. In addition to the CHNA, and in accordance with requirements of Sec. 501(r) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, all nonprofit hospitals must also adopt an implementation strategy which describes how the hospital plans to address the identified health need(s) contained within the CHNA. According to the final guidelines issued by the IRS, hospital facilities have an additional four and a half months to adopt the implementation strategy, specifically requiring an authorized body of the hospital facility to adopt an implementation strategy to meet the health needs identified through a CHNA on or before the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the taxable year in which the hospital facility finishes conducting the CHNA.

BACKGROUND:

Owensboro Health Regional Hospital (OHRH) conducted its first Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in conjunction with multiple community partners and Healthy Communities Institute and subsequently Xerox Health Solutions for tax years 2012 and 2015. Since that time, Owensboro Health has partnered with Blueprint Kentucky (formerly known as CEDIK)) to conduct its community health needs assessment.

For purposes of the CHNA and this document, the defined community is Daviess County, Kentucky. However it must be noted that Owensboro Health assists communities and engages in collaborative partnerships throughout its 18-county service area to address the community priority health needs and social determinants defined by local health needs assessments in their specific counties.

Owensboro Health Regional Hospital conducted its fifth CHNA in tax year 2024 which was approved on May 2025 and in partnership, as described above. The process by which the CHNA was conducted is thoroughly described in the CHNA and the Executive Summary posted on the Owensboro Health website at

https://www.owensborohealth.org/sites/default/files/documents/final_ohrh_chna_2024.pdf.

Since the initial implementation strategy was drafted and approved, much has been learned and achieved in addressing community health needs. Annual updates regarding the strategy are included in the hospital's tax returns on Form 990, Schedule H. Moreover, the additional requirement added to the CHNA is the inclusion of an impact statement, that is, a description of progress made in meeting priority health needs as named in the previous CHNA. Utilizing the findings of the impact statement/ update since the last CHNA, the most recent CHNA, the hospital's current strategic priorities, and, efforts and activities in progress, we offer the implementation strategy as a component of Owensboro Health's efforts to address priority community health needs and social determinants of health.

AREAS OF NEED IDENTIFIED BY COMMUNITY:

The Owensboro Health Regional Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was conducted by Blueprint Kentucky (formerly Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK)) and approved by the hospital's Board of Directors in May 2025. The methodologies used by Blueprint Kentucky are fully described in the Owensboro Health Regional Hospital tax year 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) found at https://www.owensborohealth.org/sites/default/files/documents/final_ohrh_chna_2024.pdf.

Based on over 900 survey results, eight focus groups and key informant interview results, in addition to a review and analysis of secondary data, five priority areas were identified. Existing local, state and national priorities were considered. The following priorities and social determinants of health were identified as areas of need to address in the next three years:

- Lifestyle behaviors (associated with obesity, chronic disease, cancer)
- Mental health
- Addiction (legal and illegal substance use, electronics, gambling)
- Housing
- Food insecurity

Since the Owensboro Health Regional Hospital's first CHNA and Implementation Strategies were developed, internal priority focus teams were formed and their strategic efforts continue with much success.

Based on findings from the CHNA, population data, readmission findings, strengths of community resources, and realization of tools that could be used to directly impact health, wellbeing and healing both in the hospital and community settings, the following focus area teams had previously been formed: Older Adults and Aging, Tobacco and Related Diseases, and

Arts in Healing. Additional teams, Obesity and Related Diseases and Substance Use, have been created. Many of the successes addressing priority health issues impact can be attributed to this team-based approach.

Owensboro Health team members continue to serve on, and in some cases, co-facilitate local community health coalition subcommittees that were formed from previous health department GRDHD Community Health Improvement Plans. By serving on strategic internal and external teams working to impact identified community health areas, Owensboro Health can better identify, implement, refine and track its population health efforts to truly impact the lives of not only the members of the community in which it resides but also the multiple counties and region it serves.

- **Tax year 2024-2027 Implementation Plan Strategies:**
 - **General strategy**
 - Reserve time in annual hospital Town Hall meeting to share hospital's implementation strategy
 - **Lifestyle behaviors (associated with obesity, chronic disease, cancer)**
 - Create a system-wide diabetes advisory committee.
 - OH will join the Food is Health Alliance at the University of Kentucky.
 - OHRH will implement a community paramedicine program.
 - OH will seek to make medications more affordable in partnership with Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program (KPAP).
 - Provide education to the nursing team regarding assessing tobacco use history and available appropriate tobacco treatment resources and protocol.
 - Increase the volume of tobacco treatment specialist (TTS) visits in the clinical outpatient setting.
 - Implement wellness platform to employee populations and provide targeted applicable education.
 - Increase the total number of visits for diabetes education and outpatient nutrition counseling by 2%.
 - Increase the number of referrals annually for medical fitness programs for referrals to Exercise as Medicine and the scholarship program.
 - Develop and implement walking initiative called Walk Owensboro with community partners and have five established groups by May 2026.

- **Mental Health**
 - Add CredibleMind resource information on after visit summary (AVS).
 - Increase education and knowledge of available resources to pregnant and postpartum women.
 - Increase usage of CredibleMind in all population age ranges for those ages 13+.
 - Implement education through different mediums to highlight the importance of healthy sleep habits.
- **Addiction (legal and illegal substance use, electronics, gambling)**
 - OH will surpass the state benchmark or improve from baseline by 10% or more in opioid prescribing for co-prescribing and noncomplicated vaginal deliveries (calendar year 2025) and all vaginal deliveries (calendar year 2026).
 - Develop commitment pledge to refrain from distracted driving for OH team members and community at large and provide education as needed.
 - Develop commitment pledge to establish appropriate limits of social media usage and education as needed.
- **Housing**
 - OH will continue to facilitate the Green River Area Housing Collaborative to increase the number of affordable housing units.
 - OH team members will partner with Habitat for Humanity to provide needed support in building Habitat neighborhood communities.
- **Food Insecurity**
 - Explore partnership opportunities related to food access.
 - OH will provide financial investment in the creation of the Green River Community Food Warehouse.
 - OH will commit no less than two team members to provide technical assistance to the newly established Food Insecurity Council.

While there is great overlap in many of the identified health issues, Owensboro Health recognizes its leadership role in being a catalyst for innovative thinking in addressing these community priority areas. We will continue to facilitate internal teams and their strategies and partner with other individuals and organizations in the community on their current and developing efforts to address each of the named community priority areas. As we focus on

the health system's strategic plan and imperatives and findings from the community health needs assessments, we will remain focused and determined in addressing the health of our population.

Reviewed by the Owensboro Health Community Engagement Committee on September 10, 2025 and approved by the Owensboro Health Board of Directors on September 22, 2025.