MORE
COMMUNITY VOICES

Adventist Health
Delano

Adventist Health

Adventist Health is a faith-based, nonprofit, integrated health system serving more than 100 communities on the West Coast and Hawai'i, with over 440 sites of care, including 27 acute care facilities. Founded on Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care agencies, hospice agencies and joint-venture retirement centers in both rural and urban communities. Our compassionate and talented team of more than 38,000 includes employees, physicians, allied health professionals and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope. Guided by our mission, Adventist Health supports purposeful work to address the social drivers of health, with a special focus on underserved members of the communities in which we operate. Together, we are transforming the healthcare experience of our communities with a whole-person focus on physical, mental, spiritual and social healing to support well-being.

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2026 Community Health Implementation Strategy

Building upon the communities' voices, stories, and priority areas shared in the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), in the following pages you will find the 2026 Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS).

This CHIS is a long-term community health improvement plan that strategically implements programs to address the high priority health needs identified in the CHNA.

We welcome collaboration with all local partners and community members, empowering our community to own the potential of healthy living for all.

Scan QR code or visit https://www.adventisthealth.org/documents/community-beneft/2025-AHDL-CHNA.pdf to read about the latest findings and high priority needs identified in the 2025 CHNA.

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High Priority Health Needs That Will Be Addressed

After conducting our CHNA, we identified priority areas where our resources, expertise, and partnerships can make a meaningful impact.

In partnership with community stakeholders, our hospital has strategically prioritized efforts to address:

Access to Care
Financial Stability
Mental Health

Needs Hospital Plans Not To Address

Concentrating our resources on the above health needs will strengthen our ability to deliver effective interventions that are aligned with our operational capacity. The remaining lower identified health needs: **Food Security, Health Conditions, Health Risk Behaviors, and Housing** – will not be addressed but are expected to benefit from the existing community partnerships and organizations who are currently addressing the need.

Scan QR code to learn more about our collaborative approach for selecting our high needs for the 2025 CHNA:

Section V. Process And Methods To Conduct The CHNA

H. Criteria & Process Used for Identification & Prioritization of Health Needs

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PRIORITY NEED

Access to Care

Population(s)

Total population in underserved areas.

Root Cause(s) of High Need:

- *Fewer community providers in primary care and specialties than CA average.*
- *Recruitment challenges due to rural/agricultural area.*
- *Reliable transportation barriers for patients.*
- *Lack of affordable health insurance.*

OBJECTIVE: *Improve timely access to care by increasing the availability of physicians and allied health professionals in our communities.*

ACTIONS:

Physician Recruitment: As a medically underserved area, Adventist Health strives to recruit medical providers to meet the needs of the communities we serve.
As a result, strategic programming will target needed primary and specialty care providers, (e.g. family practice, OB/GYN, urology, orthopedics) on driving recruitment strategies.

Ambulatory Clinic Expansion: Developing women's health and specialty care services through provider recruitment and medical residency programs across the Central California Network.

Physician and Health Professional Development: Expanding current Graduate Medical Education (GME) programing.

Transportation Task Force: Developing ways to ease community transportation barriers through expanded partnership exploration.

Expand Community Health Workers (CHWs) within the ambulatory setting to help navigate healthcare insurance process and enrollment.

Aim Statement: *Over the next three years improve the overall health of our communities through workforce development expansion and equitable access to healthcare.*

PROGRAM:

GME Residency Program

Specialty Care Services

Existing Initiatives/Projects

- Network wide transportation task force
- Mobile Care Clinic Programs

Partners

Internal

- Physician Recruitment
- Care Coordination
- Education
- Workforce Development
- GME Department

External

- School Districts & Colleges
- City/County Transportation Departments
- Superintendent of Schools
- Health Plans

Data Source:

of Providers Recruited
# of GME Classes
# of Students enrolled in LAUNCH

Champions:

Dr. Raul Ayala
Trista Campos
Valeria Guerrero
Matt Cauthron

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PRIORITY NEED

Financial Stability

Population(s)

Total Population

Root Cause(s) of High Need:

- *Gaps in community based financial support programs.*
- *Lack of awareness of financial assistance programs in community.*

OBJECTIVE: *To promote financial stability for the community by reducing financial barriers to healthcare, strengthening access to affordable services, and supporting the long-term sustainability of essential community health resources.*

ACTIONS:

Launch Workforce Development Program (LAUNCH)

Implement the LAUNCH Workforce Program in 2028 at Adventist Health Delano to expand opportunities and introduce individuals to careers in healthcare. The program will partner with academic institutions to provide career exploration, workplace learning experiences, and pathways into healthcare professions, helping strengthen the regional healthcare talent pipeline.

Strengthen Community Partnerships

Support local partners including United Way, academic institutions, and community-based organizations by collaborating on initiatives that promote financial literacy, workforce development, and economic mobility within the community.

Coordinate Access to Community Resources

Collaborate with local organizations, social service agencies, and healthcare payers to align resources that improve financial well-being and increase community access to healthcare services.

Aim Statement: *To strengthen community financial stability over the next three years by connecting patients and families to affordable care options, insurance coverage, workforce development initiatives and community-based financial supports..*

PROGRAM:

LAUNCH Program

Financial Assistance Program

Clinical Education Partnerships

Existing Initiatives/Projects

- Workforce Development Initiatives (Nursing Residency, LAUNCH Program, Pharmacy Residency, etc)
- Financial Assistance Program
- Enhanced Care Management

Internal Partners:

- Clinical Education
- Workforce Development Leadership
- Social Services

External Partners:

- Academic Partners
- Community Based Organizations

Data Source:

of Students enrolled in LAUNCH
# of Students provided with clinical rotations at Adventist Health

Available Resources

- Kern County Superintendent of Schools
- Kern Community College District
- Kern Health Systems
- Delano Union School District

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PRIORITY NEED

Mental Health

Population(s)

Total population

Root Cause(s) of High Need:

- Lack of access to mental health providers.
- *Substance use disorders increase, affecting unhoused and underserved.*
- *Stress & Trauma factors in high unemployment and violent crimes rates.*
- *Increased suicide mortality in young adults.*

OBJECTIVE: *Increase awareness and access to mental health resources in our communities.*

ACTIONS:

Maintain team of substance use navigators, enhanced care managers and housing support specialists through CalAIM programs to provide support for patients/residents that are experiencing challenges due to mental health issues and other social determinants of health.

Expand suicide prevention support groups across Adventist Health Central California Network. Currently providing weekly support group in Hanford led by Hanford Chaplain and a community member. Will expand into Tulare by end of 2026.

Collaborate with local mental health providers and community organizations, including Mind Drivers, public health department and other community benefit organizations to conduct outreach and education efforts that increase awareness of available mental health resources.

Aim Statement: *Increase community awareness and utilization of mental health resources by collaborating with local organizations to conduct at least six community education and outreach events annually, reaching a minimum of 200 community members, and providing referrals to appropriate mental health services for individuals identified as needing support.*

PROGRAM:

Enhanced Care Management

Housing Support Services

Substance Use Navigation

Existing Initiatives/Projects

- Hanford Suicide Prevention Support Group
- Kings County Homelessness Collaborative Meetings
- City of Tulare Suicide prevention event

Partners

Internal

- Behavioral Health Clinics
- Adventist Health Emergency Services
- Care Coordination Team

External

- County Behavioral
- Health Departments
- Community Based Organizations
- Health Plans
- United Way

Data Source:

of Outreach/education events
# of individuals reached

Available Resources

- Kern County Behavioral Health Services
- Kern Health Systems
- Kern County Public Health
- Delano Union School District

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APPROVAL PAGE

2026 CHIS Approval

In response to the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment, this Community Health Implementation Strategy was reviewed and approved by our Hospital Board as well as the Adventist Health System Board on April 23, 2026.

The entire report is published online and available in print form by contacting community.benefit@ah.org.

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