MORE
COMMUNITY VOICES

Adventist Health
Tehachapi Valley

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-AHTV-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
Food Security

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: **Climate & Natural Environment, Community Safety, Health Conditions, Health Risk Behaviors, Housing, and Mental Health** – 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: Expanding 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 2027 at Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley 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 and economic advancement pipeline.

Strengthen Community Partnerships:
Support local partners including local health plans and community-based organizations by collaborating on initiatives that promote financial assistance programs and insurance enrollment 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 Health Systems
- Tehachapi School District
- Kern Community College District

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PRIORITY NEED

Food Security

Population(s)

Total Population – focused on those with food insecurity

Root Cause(s) of High Need:

- *Low wages or unemployment.*
- *Job loss or inconsistent work hours.*
- *Rising cost of living.*
- *Chronic illness or disability affecting ability to work or shop.*

OBJECTIVE: *To reduce food insecurity among community members by increasing access to nutritious food, strengthening referral pathways to food assistance programs, and partnering with local organizations to support long-term food stability.*

ACTIONS:

Enhance and implement routine food insecurity screening in clinical and community settings (e.g. validated two-question screen).

Implement a Food is Medicine program in partnership with Stanford University to promote healthier eating habits and reduce preventable health risks through nutrition education. The PLANT (Physician Learning About Nutrition Together) program is a 4-week training that equips healthcare providers with the knowledge and tools to deliver clinical nutrition guidance. SEED is a community-based program that provides nutrition education and food support for referred patients with diet-related risks, emphasizing sustainable dietary changes.

Work collaboratively with the Central California Hospital Council and community benefit representatives from regional healthcare systems to coordinate with community agencies, reduce duplication and gaps in services, and advocate for policies that expand food assistance access.

Strengthen local food systems and infrastructure—such as community gardens and food distribution efforts—while creating and maintaining a food access resource guide to ensure patients identified with food insecurity are connected to available community resources.

Aim Statement: *Increase food insecurity screening to 90% of patients, ensure 100% referral to food assistance resources for those identified as food insecure, and partner with at least three community organizations to support improved health outcomes.*

PROGRAM:

SDoH Screening Initiative

Community Partnerships

Community Garden Initiatives

Existing Initiatives/Projects

SDoH Screenings (including food access) in hospital and ambulatory care settings.

Enhanced partnerships with CBOs expanding food access in community.

Internal Partners

- Social Services
- Front line clinical team
- Community Integration Team
- Registered Dieticians

External Partners

- Hospital Council of Southern and Central California
- Community Based Organizations
- Food Access Support Services

Data Source:

of Patients screened for food insecurity
# of Providers trained in PLANT/SEED – Food is Medicine program

Available Resources

- Community Action Partnership of Kern County
- Kern County Public Health
- Kern County Department Human Services

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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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