ADVENTIST HEALTH Bakersfield &
Specialty Bakersfield

2025

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
Year Three Update, FY 2025
January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025

Adventist Health
Bakersfield

Adventist Health
Specialty
Bakersfield

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Purpose & Summary

Non-profit health systems, community-based organizations, and public health agencies across the country all share a similar calling: to provide public service to help improve the lives of their community. To live out this calling and responsibility, Adventist Health Bakersfield conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years, with our most recent report completed in 2022. Now that our communities' voices, stories, and priority areas are reflected in the CHNA, our next step was to complete a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), or as we refer to it, a Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS).

The CHIS consists of a long-term community health improvement plan that strategically implements solutions and programs to address our health needs identified in the CHNA. Together with the Adventist Health Well-Being team, local public health officials, community-based organizations, medical providers, students, parents, and members of selected underserved, low-income, and minority populations, Adventist Health Bakersfield (AHBD) intentionally developed a strategic plan to address the needs of our community. In this Implementation Strategy, Year Three Update FY 2025 also called the Community Health Plan Update, FY 2025 you will find strategies, tactics, and partnerships that address the following health needs identified in the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment.

Access to Care

Financial Stability

Mental Health

Adventist Health Specialty Bakersfield joined the Adventist Health System in February 2023 and is considered consolidated within the strategy and corresponding community benefit reporting for Adventist Health Bakersfield per licensing structure. As such this strategy and health plan update for the 2025 CHIS are inclusive for both facilities.

Blue Zones Project Bakersfield

Across the globe lie blue zones areas – places where people are living vibrant, active lives well into their hundreds at an astonishing rate—and with higher rates of well-being. Attaining optimal well-being means that our physical, emotional, and social health is thriving. Blue Zones Project works with communities to make sustainable changes to their environment, policies, and social networks to support healthy behaviors. Instead of a focus on individual behavior change, it is an upstream solution focused on making healthy options easy in all the places people spend most of their time. Blue Zones Project is committed to measurably improving the well-being of community residents and through their proven programs, tools and resources, utilizes rigorous metrics to inform strategies and track progress throughout the life of the project. This includes well-being data, community-wide metrics, sector-level progress and outcome metrics, transforming community well-being by making changes to environment, policy, worksites and social networks that create healthy and equitable opportunities for all.

Adventist Health Bakersfield proudly sponsors Blue Zones Project Bakersfield (BZPB). The BZPB team wakes up each morning focused on partnering and collaborating with community leaders and organizations active in the sectors of built environment, education, economic and workforce development, mental and physical well-being, policy and public health. Together the BZPB team and sector leaders develop a community Blueprint that strategically aligns and leverages the actions and resources of the sectors where we live, learn, work and play to help advance the efforts around the community's biggest Social Determinant of Health challenges while connecting them to Health-Related Social Needs organizations.

Equity is a strategic priority woven throughout the Blueprint and programs. Policies and initiatives are developed in a way that honors the local culture that is focused on reaching out to all populations. Each year BZPB sector leads come together to evaluate and update the Blueprint to ensure community alignment.

To learn more about Blue Zones Project Bakersfield and how to get involved visit: bakersfield.bluezonesproject.com

Who We Serve

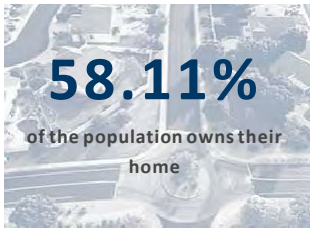
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

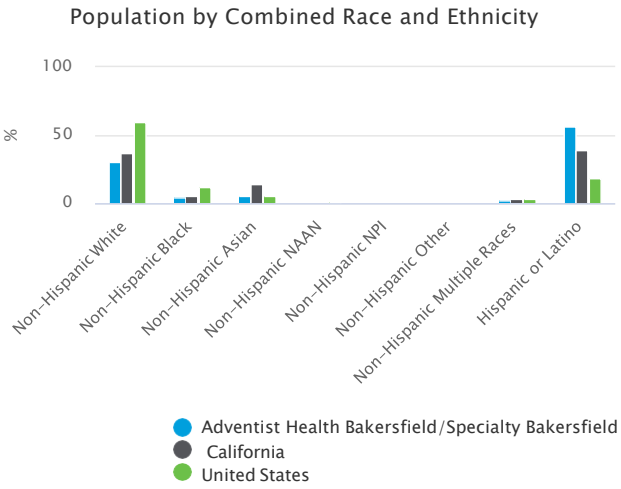
The following zip codes represent Adventist Health Bakersfield/Specialty Bakersfield's primary service area (PSA), accounting for 75% of hospital discharges. Additionally, we took a collaborative approach and expanded our PSA by inviting Steering Committee members to include the zip codes of those they serve.

The Adventist Health Bakersfield and more recently Adventist Health Specialty Bakersfield market has a total population of 779,739 (based on the 2020 Decennial Census). The largest city in the service area is Bakersfield, with a population of 347,609. The service area is comprised of the following zip codes: 93203, 93561, 93241, 93307, 93306, 93314, 93311, 93263, 93280, 93312, 93313, 93301, 93309, 93215, 93308, 93305, 93304, 93268.

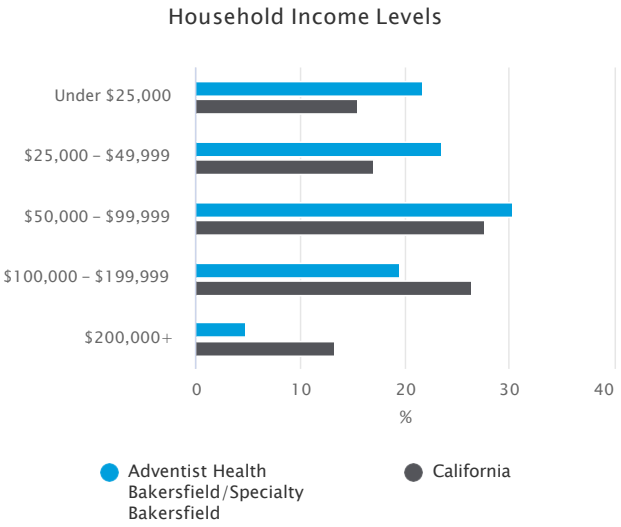
Total Population

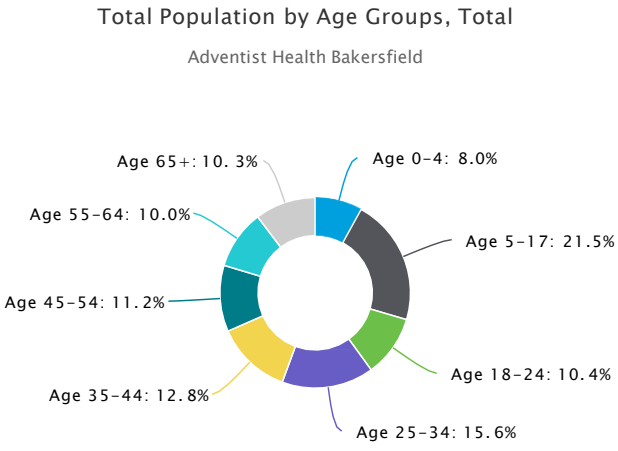
779,739





Note: NAAN = Native American or Alaska Native, NPI = Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.





About Us

Adventist Health Bakersfield & Specialty Bakersfield

Adventist Health Bakersfield is a 254-bed hospital in Bakersfield that serves the residents across Kern County, California. Ensuring the community has the best health care possible has been the guiding spirit of Adventist Health Bakersfield throughout its history. This vision inspired the medical center's founders more than a century ago, and this same commitment remains embedded in the medical center's mission today as expanded services include a comprehensive Heart Institute, a nationally-certified stroke center, and AIS Cancer Center. Adventist Health Specialty Bakersfield joined the Adventist Health system in February 2023. This 47-bed facility provides the community with access to advanced technology and surgical techniques in a hospital specially designed for their treatment and recovery.

Adventist Health

Adventist Health is a faith-inspired, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii.

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 34,000 includes associates, medical staff physicians, allied health professionals and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope. Together, we are transforming the American healthcare experience with an innovative, yet timeless, whole-person focus on physical, mental, spiritual and social healing to support community well-being.

Adventist Health's Approach to CHNA & CHIS

Adventist Health prioritizes well-being in the communities we serve across our system. We use an intentional, community centered approach when creating our hospital CHNA's to understand the health needs of each community. After the completion of the community assessment process, we address health needs such as mental health, access to care, health risk behaviors, and others through the creation and execution of a Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS) for each of our hospitals and their communities.

The following pages highlight the key findings the Adventist Health Bakersfield CHNA Steering Committee identified as their top priority health needs, or as we refer to them in this report, their 'High Priority Needs'. The High Priority Needs are addressed in the Community Health Implementation Strategy and are reported on a yearly basis through the Implementation Strategy Annual Update. This is year three, of a three-year strategy to improve the health of our community. We invite you to learn about the actions, activities and programs that have been implemented in 2025.

Action Plan for Addressing High Priority Needs

The following pages reflect the goals, strategies, actions, and resources that Adventist Health Bakersfield and Adventist Health Specialty Bakersfield provided in 2025 to address each selected High Priority Need.

ADDRESSING HIGH PRIORITY: ACCESS TO CARE

GOAL	Collaborate with partners to connect community members with basic healthcare services.
Strategy 1:	Advance primary care mobile health units to connect underserved populations with healthcare
Strategy 2:	Immunize children in need via mobile health clinics to increase immunization rates.
Strategy 3:	Reduce tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure through targeted activities and policy change.
FY 2025 YEAR Three: Actions: Program/Activity	

COMMUNITY IMPACT SUMMARY/ALL STRATEGIES

In 2025, Adventist Health Bakersfield (AHBD) partnered with local community-based organizations to provide mobile health events serving vulnerable populations and organizations. Partnering organizations included the Tejon Indian Tribe, Chevron Corporation, Children's First Organization, California Farmworkers Foundation, Bakersfield City School District, Arvin School District among others, to provide basic health screenings, education, and services with the goal of connecting community members with a healthcare medical home. In total, several hundred community members were served through local outreach events.

Through mobile health initiatives, Adventist Health Bakersfield successfully participated in numerous community events, providing over 600 immunizations to vulnerable populations in the community. In partnership with First 5 of Kern County, the mobile health team was able to participate in over 150 free clinic opportunities, expanded access to school-based immunizations, and removed barriers for vulnerable populations in Kern County. The mobile health team was able to go to the most vulnerable individuals and provide necessary preventative services while reducing their barriers to care.

In addition, access to care was improved through the provision of two free Adventist Health AIS Cancer Center breast cancer screening events open to the community in 2025. Through the free breast screening events, 72 women were provided with screenings.

Adventist Health also provided free sports physicals to 150 students at Bakersfield Christian High School to ensure equitable access to healthcare.

The AIS Cancer Center provided monthly Cancer Support Groups, providing resources to the local community for patients and families to receive support during or after cancer diagnoses and treatments. The monthly Cancer Support groups are free and open to the community. Support groups included Caregiver support, survivor support, as well as Breast and Lung Cancer education series through the Bakersfield Women's Business Conference, Kern County Cancer Foundation and Links for Life Kern County.

The Cancer Center provided assistance to the most vulnerable patients and families in the form of gas cards, bus passes, transportation vouchers, and medical transport in order to remove transportation barriers and ensure access to critical cancer treatment. Food assistance and lodging were also provided.

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ADDRESSING HIGH PRIORITY: FINANCIAL STABILITY

GOAL	Advocate for and collaborate with internal and external partners to connect community members to resources that improve financial literacy, lessen financial burden, and/or promote economic development.

Strategy 1:	Leverage pipeline programs for healthcare careers to develop clinical workforce.
Strategy 2:	Partner with and drive the Better Bakersfield & Boundless Kern initiative in order to promote economic prosperity in our service area.
Strategy 3:	Drive economic and job development by creating a widespread workplace culture and environment that supports and optimizes improved wellbeing and reduces chronic work absenteeism related to illness or wellness.
FY 2025 YEAR THREE Actions: Program/Activity	

COMMUNITY IMPACT SUMMARY/ALL STRATEGIES

In 2025, Adventist Health Bakersfield strengthened its collaboration with local public and private educational institutions to offer clinical placements for nursing and allied health students. By making training opportunities available locally, the organization helped students continue their education while reducing common barriers such as travel and relocation. Regional education partners included Bakersfield College, California State University Bakersfield, Taft College, University of the Pacific, Kern County Superintendent of Schools, among others.

The hospital remained an important regional hub for students pursuing careers in healthcare. In 2025, Adventist Health finalized its partnership with COPE Health Scholars building a school-to-work pipeline connecting local high school and college students with hands-on experience in a hospital setting. Through this program, students gained direct exposure to clinical environments and a clearer pathway into healthcare professions.

More than 150 students participated in the COPE Health Scholars program in 2025, strengthening the pipeline of future healthcare workers within the community.

Additionally, Adventist Health Bakersfield continued its partnership with Garden Pathways to provide free tattoo removal services. This initiative supports individuals such as former inmates, former gang members, survivors of human trafficking, and others seeking to remove tattoos that may present barriers to employment, helping them pursue new opportunities and improve their quality of life.

STRATEGY THAT CHANGED DURING THE YEAR:

In 2025, Adventist Health Bakersfield concluded its partnership with COPE Health Solutions and introduced a new in-house workforce development initiative, Learning and Understanding Careers in Healthcare (LAUNCH). This enhanced, internally developed program is designed to better align with the organization's evolving needs and support the continued growth of the healthcare workforce in the future.

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ADDRESSING HIGH PRIORITY: MENTAL HEALTH

GOAL	Improve population-level mental health in service area as a quality-of-life measure.
Strategy 1:	Connect community members with substance misuse disorders to substance use navigators.
Strategy 2:	Create school environments for students, staff and parents that transform their physical and mental health.

FY 2025 YEAR THREE Actions: Program/Activity

COMMUNITY IMPACT SUMMARY/ALL STRATEGIES

In 2025, Adventist Health Bakersfield expanded the use of Substance Use Navigators (SUNs) in its emergency department to better support individuals experiencing substance use or mental health challenges. These navigators play a key role in bridging the gap between hospital care and community-based services, helping patients access ongoing support beyond their immediate visit.

Over the course of the year, the SUN program assisted more than 1,300 individuals by providing guidance, referrals, and connections to behavioral health and addiction counseling services. This referral-based approach helped ensure that people received continued care tailored to their needs outside the hospital setting.

In addition to direct patient support, SUNs were active in the community, participating in over 15 local events. These outreach efforts helped raise awareness of available services and made it easier for residents to find and access support. By meeting people where they are - both in the hospital and in the community. The program strengthened access to critical resources and contributed to improved public health outcomes.

For the fifth year, Adventist Health Bakersfield has been recognized for its leadership in advancing care for patients with substance use disorders (SUD). The hospital is among only 33 hospitals statewide to achieve superior performance for two or more consecutive years, according to Cal Hospital Compare's Healthcare Organizations Leading SUD Care Honor Roll.

The Honor Roll designation highlights Adventist Health Bakersfield's commitment to providing compassionate, evidence-based care for individuals impacted by substance use, including opioid and alcohol use disorders. Since 2021, Adventist Health Bakersfield has been among the California hospitals acknowledged for efforts to reduce overdose deaths, increase access to treatment, expand harm reduction strategies, and eliminate stigma as a barrier to care.

In 2025, substance use navigators at Adventist Health Bakersfield connected with nearly 1,300 patients, administering medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to more than 300 patients and completing referrals for more than 600 patients.

MAT is a comprehensive approach to treating substance use disorders, particularly opioid addiction. FDA-approved medications such as methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone are administered, and Adventist Health refers patients to counseling and behavioral therapies to enhance recovery outcomes.

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Adventist Health Bakersfield Additional Narrative:

Other programs/activities not included in the 2023 CHIS Strategic Plan that support community impact

In 2025, Adventist Health Bakersfield facilitated more than 12 support groups focused on cancer care and smoking cessation for the local community. Through these efforts, over 90 community members received guidance and support from clinical teams to promote long-term health and wellness.

Through local collaborations, the organization also expanded education on heart and cardiovascular health by offering clinical nutrition programming. In partnership with Edible Schoolyard Kern County and local community gardens, residents were provided with both education and improved access to fresh, healthy produce.

In 2025, Adventist Health Bakersfield further strengthened its prevention efforts by partnering with the American Heart Association to deliver CPR education and training to local school districts. This initiative helped increase awareness of cardiovascular disease and empowered community members with lifesaving skills and preventative knowledge.

Adventist Health Bakersfield Blue Zones Project Summary 2025

In 2025, Blue Zones Project Bakersfield strategically focused on strengthening the foundation required to launch several transformative Year Four initiatives across Policy, Places, and People. Rather than emphasizing rapid implementation, this year prioritized research, planning, partnership development, and capacity-building—ensuring future efforts are community-driven, aligned with existing priorities, and positioned for long-term sustainability throughout Bakersfield.

Policy

Foundational policy work centered on built environment, food systems, and tobacco prevention. In the built environment, Blue Zones Project Bakersfield invested heavily in relationship-building and community-informed planning to prepare for major initiatives such as Safe Routes to School and a downtown marquee public gathering space. Through walk audits, workshops, stakeholder interviews, and the successful Designing a More Connected Bakersfield workshop—engaging over 40 civic and community leaders—we laid the groundwork for projects that will advance safety, connection, and active living in Year Four.

Food policy efforts strengthened the local food system while investing in future generations. Key accomplishments included supporting the development and approval of the Kern County Food Policy Council Strategic Plan, advancing Farm to School planning set to launch in 2026, and preparing for the rollout of Charlie Cart at the Library, an innovative hands-on nutrition education initiative. Data-driven analysis of community food skills further refined priorities, ensuring future programming meets demonstrated local needs.

Tobacco policy efforts focused on alignment, youth leadership, and data collection. Strategic partnership with the Tobacco Free Coalition of Kern County sharpened focus on Bakersfield-specific policy advancement, while the second annual Youth Against Commercial Tobacco Summit empowered students with advocacy and media skills. Community survey data collected this year will directly inform evidence-based tobacco policy efforts in the coming years.

Places

Project Year Three marked significant momentum across all PLACES sectors. Schools exceeded approval goals and embedded movement, attendance incentives, and family engagement into daily routines. Restaurants and grocery stores expanded access to healthy, culturally relevant food options, building trust with local businesses and reaching diverse communities. Worksites surpassed annual targets, highlighted by policy-level leadership and the approval of the City of Bakersfield as a Blue Zones Project–approved city, alongside Kern County Aging and Adult Services. Together, these efforts strengthened everyday environments that make healthy choices easier.

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People

Community engagement remained at the heart of the work. Through volunteerism, natural movement, healthy eating, and purpose-driven programming, thousands of residents participated in events that fostered connection, joy, and service. From Volunteer Big Kern and Live Well Give Well Community Cookout to movement-based events, purpose workshops, and culturally relevant cooking demonstrations, the People strategy reinforced that small, consistent actions—taken together—create powerful ripple effects for community well-being.

Collectively, 2025 was a year of intentional groundwork and meaningful progress. By investing in partnerships, data, and community leadership, Blue Zones Project Bakersfield is positioned to launch bold, high-impact initiatives in Year 4 that will deliver lasting improvements in health, connection, and quality of life across the community.

POLICY:

In 2025, Blue Zones Project Bakersfield focused intentionally on building the strong foundation needed to successfully launch several major Year 4 initiatives, including Safe Routes to School, our downtown marquee project, expanded Farm to School efforts, Charlie Cart the Library, and upcoming tobacco policy advancements in Bakersfield. This year centered on strengthening infrastructure through strategic planning, research, community engagement, and thoughtful capacity-building to ensure long-term success. By aligning with existing community priorities and fostering cross-sector collaboration, we positioned these initiatives to be community-driven, sustainable, and impactful.

While much of 2025 was dedicated to foundational work, we also celebrated meaningful accomplishments, including high-impact events such as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day and our second Youth Against Commercial Tobacco Summit, along with several other notable achievements that advanced health and well-being in Bakersfield.

Built Environment Policy:

This year, BZP Bakersfield focused on building a strong foundation for larger projects like Safe Routes to School and for our marquee project. These projects rely heavily on strong partnerships from community members, school administrators, community stakeholders, and with city partners. Through various initiatives, the project has set up the foundation for the projects that will come to fruition in the project's year 4. These efforts from the beginning included feedback, research, and partnerships to ensure sustainability, a vital part of the built environment for Blue Zones Project.

This year, Blue Zones Project Bakersfield concentrated on strengthening the foundation necessary to successfully advance larger-scale initiatives such as Safe Routes to School and our marquee project, a downtown public gathering space. Recognizing that transformational, built-environment work requires deep collaboration, we prioritized cultivating strong partnerships with community members, school administrators, local stakeholders, and city leaders to ensure alignment and shared ownership from the very beginning.

In addition to relationship-building, we implemented several capacity-building initiatives designed to equip partners with the tools, knowledge, and confidence needed to support long-term success. We worked intentionally to identify key areas of opportunity, focusing on efforts that would integrate seamlessly with existing plans, policies, and community priorities. Rather than introducing parallel or duplicative efforts, our approach centered on accelerating and strengthening initiatives that were already important to the community.

As a result, we have established a strong, sustainable foundation for projects that will come to fruition in Year 4. By grounding our work in collaboration, capacity-building, and community-informed planning, we are helping ensure that these initiatives not only launch successfully, but also create lasting, measurable impact within the built environment.

Highlights:

- Designing a More Connected Bakersfield Workshop: Blue Zones Project Bakersfield has collaborated with key partners to generate interest and momentum around a proposed downtown social gathering space. This effort included coordination with our Built Environment Committee and engaging with city, county, and community stakeholders to better understand both the opportunities and challenges associated with various potential locations. Each street considered presented unique strengths and limitations, making it difficult to immediately identify a single optimal site. To spark ideas and encourage collaboration, we hosted a webinar inviting partners to

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begin thinking creatively about potential project concepts. Following the webinar, participants were invited to submit mini grant proposals, which would be further explored and vetted during the in-person workshop. We received over 25 submissions, many of which aligned closely with the vision of our marquee project—emphasizing the need for more public spaces where people can gather, connect, and socialize. To further support this process, Blue Zones Project Bakersfield partnered with Street Plans to design and facilitate a workshop aimed at deepening dialogue and exploring possibilities for the project. We successfully engaged over 40 participants in the March 27, 2025 workshop, including city council members, city staff, and other critical partners. In addition to the workshop, we conducted several in-depth interviews with key stakeholders to gather further insights. The event was a significant success, energizing the community and laying a strong foundation for the launch of our upcoming marquee project in downtown Bakersfield.

- Williams Elementary Walk Audit: Blue Zones Project planned and coordinated the first walk audit to prepare for the upcoming Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. Our team brought together Blue Zones Project staff, including our Schools Lead, coordinated with school site staff, and engaged city staff and community partners such as Children First to conduct the audit. The goal was to better understand walking behaviors, travel patterns, and safety concerns affecting students and families who walk to school. Using a data collection tool provided by the City, participants completed a comprehensive assessment of existing conditions. The data collected informed the development of safe walking routes for the various Walking School Bus routes planned for Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. In addition, the team offered recommendations to improve safety for the event. While discussions with the City determined that these recommendations could not be implemented as part of a quick-build demonstration project, the data continues to support efforts to advocate for permanent infrastructure improvements to enhance student safety. The second walk audit, conducted in the evening, was planned by City staff and focused on the area surrounding the school and nearby residential neighborhoods. Participants assessed safety concerns such as crosswalk visibility, inadequate lighting, and incomplete sidewalks or curb ramps. The findings from this audit were summarized and documented by City staff.

- Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day at Williams Elementary School: In partnership with the City of Bakersfield and local nonprofit Children First, BZP Bakersfield applied for the Ruby Bridges Walk to School mini-grant. Although the grant was not awarded, the team's commitment never wavered, and together they brought the event to life at Williams Elementary. Our work in this project included walk audits, interviews with parents, staff, and crossing guards to understand safety risks in order to create a safe routes map for students to use the day of. Even with chilly 40-degree weather on the dat if the event, community volunteers, from multiple sectors, showed up to support students through several Walking School Buses routes. Over 50 volunteers were recruited for the event from multiple organizations to ensure students walked to school safely. This event showcased the power of collaboration across People, Places, and Policy, and generated 6 media stories, helping build momentum for future walking events. This successful event, months in the making—highlights what is possible when community partners come together with a shared vision.

<u>Food Policy</u>:
Blue Zones Project Bakersfield led several impactful initiatives to address critical gaps in our community. These efforts relied heavily on strong community partnerships and strategic collaboration to strengthen our local food system, benefiting not only Bakersfield residents but also our agricultural community through expanded Farm to School initiatives that are set to start in 2026.

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In addition to this work, we are investing in the next generation by helping young Bakersfield residents build essential food skills. Through new partnerships with Kern County Library and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, we launched Charlie Cart @ the Library, an innovative component of our food system marquee project that brings hands-on nutrition and cooking education directly to families that will start in 2026.
We also proudly supported the Kern County Food Policy Council in the development and approval of its strategic plan. This plan provides a clear roadmap for the Council's priorities and long-term goals, positioning it for sustained success and meaningful community impact.

Highlights

- Kern County Food Policy Council Strategic Plan: Blue Zones Project Bakersfield worked closely with Dr. Margaret Adamek (Maggi) to review both Bakersfield's Food System Discovery Report and Kern County's Food Insecurity Assessment. These documents provided critical insights that helped identify gaps and priority areas for the Kern County Food Policy Council (KCFPC) to address through its strategic plan. Dr. Adamek prepared an initial draft of the strategic plan for Council review. The KCFPC discussed and refined the strategic plan during its regular general meetings in May and July 2025 and formally approved the plan on July 7, 2025. While several revisions were made to the proposed strategies, the overarching goals remained unchanged. These goals include:

Goal 1: Increase the availability of locally grown, healthy food within organizations that serve meals to community members.
Goal 2: Expand access to healthy, low-cost, and free food.
Goal 3: Strengthen residents' food skills through community-wide initiatives that support growing, selecting, preparing, and consuming healthy, culturally appropriate, and affordable meals.

- Charlie Cart @ Library Planning: Started conversations and planning for the launch of Charlie Cart @ Library for a 6 week pilot program that launched January 2026. This is one of the Charlie carts that is out in the community as a part of our food marquee project.
- Farm to School for Vineland Elementary School District Planning: Connected the school district with local partners to help in implementing Farm to School for the district with local farmers. The new procurement is set to start in 2026.
- Food Skills Inventory Analysis: In July 2024, Blue Zones Project Bakersfield began reaching out to partner organizations to gather insights into their food skill initiatives through a SurveyMonkey survey. Over a two-month period, from July to September 2024, the project successfully collected 27 completed surveys. Following the data collection, Blue Zones Project partnered with national food systems expert Dr. Margaret Adamek to analyze the responses. This analysis provided valuable insights into the community's priority needs, revealing a significant demand for food skill programs targeting preschool-aged children. Based on the findings, Blue Zones Project Bakersfield presented the data to the project's steering committee, which collectively agreed to focus on supporting food skill opportunities for preschool-aged children, as highlighted in the analysis.

<u>Tobacco Policy:</u>
Blue Zones Project Bakersfield partnered with the Tobacco Free Coalition of Kern County to shift its target focus to Bakersfield. This strategic alignment strengthens our work locally, allowing both the Coalition and Kern County Public Health to more directly support initiatives within our specific geographic area.
We also continued to deepen our partnership with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools and Kern County Public Health to create meaningful opportunities for students to build advocacy skills related to

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tobacco prevention. By empowering youth as informed advocates, we are helping cultivate the next generation of community leaders.
In addition, our team played a key role in collecting and analyzing data that will inform strong, evidence-based talking points, positioning us to effectively advance tobacco prevention policies over the next two years.

Highlights

- 2nd Annual Youth Against Commercial Tobacco: In April 2024, Blue Zones Project, in partnership with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Kern County Public Health, and Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT), launched the Youth Against Commercial Tobacco Summit. In April 2025, we hosted our second event which provided 8th to 11th graders from Bakersfield schools and in Kern County with essential education and advocacy skills. As part of the summit, Blue Zones Project Bakersfield provided training on media and advocacy to help prepare the students for a mock press conference that allowed them to advocate against commercial tobacco. Both summits proved to be a success, laying the foundation for sustainable programming and securing funding to make this event an annual initiative.
- Public Opinion Surveys: Blue Zones Project Bakersfield supported the Tobacco Free Coalition of Kern County, assisting with the collection of public opinion surveys throughout Bakersfield. Staff was trained by Kern County Public Health staff to ensure we were prepared to explain questions if any needed clarification. Surveys were administered digitally using Survey Pocket on iPads and staff personal devices. The questionnaire gathered community perspectives on support for or opposition to tobacco retail policies and smoke-free outdoor spaces. Survey outreach targeted Bakersfield residents aged 18+. Blue Zones Project staff collected responses at community events, including Blue Zones–hosted activities to ensure broad community representation.

Places:

Project Year Three marked strong momentum across the PLACES sectors, with notable growth in schools, restaurants, grocery stores, and worksites throughout Bakersfield. Schools accelerated approvals and implementation, embedding movement, attendance incentives, and family engagement to reinforce healthy habits early in life. Restaurants and grocery stores expanded access to nutritious, culturally relevant food options, reflecting increased trust and collaboration with local business leaders. Worksites exceeded annual goals, highlighted by policy-level commitments and community-wide leadership, including approval of the City of Bakersfield and Kern County Aging and Adult Services. Collectively, these efforts strengthened environments that make healthy choices easier and positioned PLACES for continued growth and impact in the next project year.

<u>Schools</u>: Following an internal restructuring of our Places sector leads, the schools sector gained strong momentum in both approvals and implementation. Schools embraced Blue Zones strategies that promote physical activity, attendance, and family engagement, reinforcing healthy habits early in life.

Highlights:

- Met the big annual goal of 16 approved schools, with one month remaining in the project year
- Expanded Walking School Bus initiatives throughout Bakersfield to encourage natural movement and connection before the school day
- Pauly Elementary incentivized perfect attendance by engaging students and parents in a pre-school walking event

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- Creative programming in the form of on campus morning meet and moves emphasized walking as safe, social, and enjoyable

Restaurants: The restaurant sector continued to grow in Project Year 3, increasing access to healthier dining options across Bakersfield. Local restaurant leaders demonstrated a strong commitment to community health by offering nutritious menu items for adults and children alike.

Highlights:

- Approved 9 restaurants this year
- Included a local favorite, Flame & Skewers, with five local locations
- Approved the first sushi restaurant in the program: Umi Sushi & Sake
- Restaurant leadership emphasized healthy options for families and children

Grocery Stores: Project Year 3 marked a significant breakthrough for the grocery sector within Blue Zones Project Bakersfield. After facing challenges in previous years, we gained strong momentum by building trust with local retailers and demonstrating the value of Blue Zones principles in diverse communities. This progress has positioned the sector for continued growth moving into the next project year.

Highlights:

- Approved 4 grocery stores, with 1 additional store nearing approval
- Expanded reach into culturally diverse communities through Blue Fig Farms a specialized international Mediterranean market
- Hosted plant-based cooking demonstrations in partnership with the store owners to engage shoppers and promote healthy, culturally relevant meals
- Forecasting 7 approved grocery stores by the end of Project Year 3

Worksites: The worksite sector exceeded expectations in Project Year 3, demonstrating strong employer engagement and leadership commitment to employee well-being. Strategic partnerships and policy-level changes allowed organizations to create environments that support movement, healthy eating, and overall well-being during the workday.

Highlights:

- Approved 16 worksites, surpassing the annual goal of 13
- Approval of the City of Bakersfield, making it only the second Blue Zones Project–approved city in the U.S.
- Approved Kern County Aging and Adult Services, implementing employee walking paths and on-site hydrogardens growing fresh fruits and vegetables
- Hosted a first of its kind in Bakersfield worksite wellness summit gathering employers across industries

PEOPLE:

Over the past year, the People's Team at Blue Zones Project Bakersfield has deepened its commitment to building a healthier, more connected community through quality engagement, volunteerism, natural movement and healthy eating. Volunteerism remained at the heart of our mission — from the 800+ volunteers who turned out for Volunteer Big Kern to the 150 who served 600 hot meals at our Live Well Give Well Community Cookout, Bakersfield residents consistently showed that service is woven into the

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fabric of this community. Events like Shelf Help, Planting Thanks and Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day reinforced that even simple acts create ripple effects that strengthen the people and neighborhoods around us.

We also found creative ways to get our community moving and eating well — together. Over 250 people beat the Bakersfield heat at Skate into Summer, 175 women and girls hit the pavement for the Girls Run Moai, and hundreds of young athletes crossed the finish line at the inaugural Blue Zones Project Kids Race. On the healthy eating side, cooking demonstrations with partners like Comprehensive Blood and Cancer Center and Mango Haus, the Chopped Challenge at the Kern County Fair and our Tastings & Teachings Moai series gave community members hands-on experiences with nourishing food that felt less like a lecture and more like a shared meal.

None of this would be possible without the partnerships and sponsorships that fuel our work. The following includes details, events, programs and milestones that made this year one of our most impactful yet.

Highlights:

- When our team partnered with the Kern Community Foundation and asked hundreds of people to support local nonprofits for the first-ever Volunteer Big Kern event, our community showed up by the hundreds. From packing food boxes to painting murals and fences to cleaning up hiking trails and parks, more than 800 volunteers came out on January 10 to make an incredible impact for Kern County nonprofits. Not only did participating nonprofits connect with a new volunteer base, volunteers also made a positive impact on their own health and well-being. Volunteer Big Kern is part of our project's long-term goal to increase voluntarism in our community. See a recap reel here.
- Local pastors, faith leaders and community members gathered to explore what it truly means to live a long, healthy and fulfilling life at our Faith, Community & Longevity panel discussion on January 23. Held at the Church of God, this event explored how the Blue Zones Power 9 principles, like purpose, connection and belonging, are connected to faith and whole-person well-being. Connecting more to local faith-based communities is a goal of our team this year, and we're excited to introduce more events like this to Bakersfield. See a recap reel here.
- Beautiful things happen when our community comes together. In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a National Day of Service, our team helped bring together Kaiser Permanente, Kern County Black Farmers Association, California's Women for Ag, NAACP, Bakersfield Senior Center and local churches to host a clean up event at Lowell Park. See a recap reel here.
- At our recent Sisterhood Sit Down, women gathered over a meal of Rasta Pasta by Mya Smith of Raw Roots to discuss faith, community and well-being. Through guided conversation, the group explored how sisterhood supports longevity, the traditions that shape a full life, and ways to overcome health barriers in our neighborhoods. Rooted in Blue Zones Power 9 principles, the discussion highlighted the importance of moving naturally, finding purpose, eating wisely, and strengthening community bonds. Together, they identified opportunities for sustainable change and committed to small, meaningful actions to improve well-being. The group looks forward to continuing this conversation and building lasting impact at this group's next meeting in March.
- BZP recently collaborated with the Kaiser Permanente Kern County at their Lifestyle Medicine Workshop at its Ming location during Haggin Oaks Farmers Market. Dr. Benjamin Ha and Kiyoshi Tomono led an engaging discussion on "Lessons for Living Longer Better" that centered on educating attendees on the Blue Zones Power 9 principles and how they tie into longevity.
- The Bakersfield Marathon always brings runners, volunteers, spectators and the community together for a spectator weekend. This year, our team hosted the first Blue Zones Project Kids Race

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on March 29 to kick off the weekend's festivities. Hundreds of young athletes descended on the Kern County Museum to take on one of two courses - the 200-yard Diaper Dash or the 1K race - to walk or run to the finish line. This event was the perfect chance to get kids moving, have fun as a family and make some unforgettable memories. In addition to the race, we hosted stations centered around the core Blue Zones principles of Connect (coloring pages/making signs to cheer on runners), Eat Wisely (smoothie bike/handing out healthy Gatorade), Move Naturally (pre-race stretch) and Right Outlook (custom affirmation stickers).

- As Mental Health Awareness Month, May is a perfect time to discuss the importance of taking care of both our physical and mental health. Our team once again partnered with the Church of God Bakersfield to host Mental Health & Ministry: A Panel of Hope to provide an open dialogue around emotional well-being within Bakersfield's spiritual communities. The event's panelists - Edward Robinson, deacon at Church of God and president/founder of the Kern County Veteran's Chamber of Commerce; Belinda Vieyra, administrator, Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services; Sharon Woolfolk, president, NAMI Kern County; and Marasha Miller, founder, A Place of Preservation - explored how faith, connection and purpose can help break down stigma, strengthen support systems and guide us through life's challenges with resilience and hope.
- Beautiful things happen when a neighborhood comes together to take care of each other. Plymouth Hall at First Congregational Church of Bakersfield was transformed into a warm and welcoming space on May 15, where volunteers greeted and served meals to anyone who came through the doors. This new event is a partnership between our team and First Congregational Church to help serve warm meals at their inaugural Neighborhood Café. This series will be hosted the third Thursday of each month.
- Our Tastings & Teachings Moai series launched on June 17 to a full house, providing an unforgettable night of learning and connection. Over five weeks at Imbibe Wine and Spirits, this Moai will bring in university professors and local experts to lead engaging lectures on fascinating topics, while attendees learn something new and connect over a great glass of wine. So far, Dr. Mark Lamas led a fascinating deep dive into ancient curse tablets and how it relates to today's society. Kay Spears explained how food can play a role in managing stress. Click here to see a preview reel.
- From mixing to measuring out ingredients, clients from Independence through GRACE learned how to whip up protein energy balls at a cooking demo on June 12. This local organization supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by offering engaging programs that build life skills, foster independence and create meaningful social connections. Our team believes that working alongside community partners like Independence Through GRACE is key to building a healthier, more inclusive Bakersfield, where everyone has the chance to live better, longer.
- Nothing helped our community stay cool in the Bakersfield heat like hosting the coolest event in town. More than 250 people of all ages showed up to our Skate into Summer event at the Valley Children's Ice Center of Bakersfield on July 13 ready to glide, laugh and have fun on the ice! From kids taking their first steps on the ice to families skating together, this event was all about finding new ways to move naturally, spend time with family and relax in a cool environment. To promote this unique event, our team did three separate media interviews, a billboard/social media marketing campaign and two recap reels. See links to the recap reels below.
    - Beacon Studios recap reel
    - Visit Bakersfield recap reel
- On July 18, we wrapped up our Upcycle Adventures Moai, a creative, community-centered series hosted in partnership with Earth Day 661 and Green Clean Pros. Each Friday at Yokuts Park, families gathered to learn about sustainability by transforming everyday items into meaningful works of art. This Moai brought people together not just to craft, but to build relationships, share stories and

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support one another. Fifteen participants completed the Moai, forming a small but strong community committed to living more intentionally and caring for the environment. We're thankful to everyone who took part in Upcycle Adventures and look forward to more opportunities to connect, create and inspire sustainable change in our community. Click here to see a recap reel.

- We had a wonderful time partnering with Comprehensive Blood and Cancer Center for another Inspiring Wellness Cooking Demonstration! This month, we welcomed Chef Karen Diaz, from Mango Haus, who guided participants through a vibrant, anti-inflammatory recipe: Coconut Cream Tofu with Turmeric. Not only was the dish delicious, but it also highlighted the healing power of plant-based ingredients, turmeric in particular that is known for its anti-inflammatory benefits. Chef Karen shared tips for bringing flavor and nourishment into everyday meals, and attendees had the chance to taste the dish, ask questions and learn how to recreate it at home. Special thanks to CBCC for their continued partnership and dedication to creating a culture of wellness.
- Our team had the pleasure of hosting a Purpose Workshop for the students at the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF) in Bakersfield. During this interactive session, students explored their unique strengths, passions and values to reflect on their "why" and how it can guide their personal, academic and professional paths. By connecting to a deeper sense of purpose, these students took a meaningful step toward building healthier, more fulfilled lives, in alignment with the Blue Zones philosophy of living better, longer.
- The Girls Run Moai took off on August 9 with about 175 women and girls joining together - every age, every pace - side by side. What began as a run quickly became something more: a Positive Pack, moving naturally, lifting each other up and discovering just how much more we can achieve together. Everyone left inspired and connected. Click here to see a recap reel.
- At the latest monthly Shelf Help volunteer event, more than 150 families in Bakersfield received groceries and hygiene kits thanks to the helping hands of our volunteers. From packing bags to handing out supplies, volunteers came together to make sure neighbors had what they needed and to spread a little kindness along the way.
- Kern High School District Chef Brandon Sullivan and Ridgeview High School student Hailie Burnett won the second annual Chopped Challenge cooking competition at the Kern County Fair with their Taste of Spain tapas dish. A partnership between the Kern County Fair and Kern High School District, the September 19 event paired a KHSD nutrition services staff member with a high school student to see which team could craft a Blue Zones inspired dish in 30 minutes. While Sullivan and Burnett won the title, each team's recipes will be adapted into the district's menu offerings. Chopped Challenge also served as a way to instill a passion for cooking and inspire students to make healthy choices a part of their daily lives. Click here to see a recap reel.
- Simple acts of kindness can have a powerful impact for those in our community. At our Planting Thanks event on September 6, more than 30 people spent two hours painting ceramic pots and planting succulents into them. From patriotic themes to inspirational quotes, the designs were one small way to show gratitude and appreciation for those who serve and protect us each day. Each of the succulents were then gifted to local veterans and first responders in honor of September 11 at our At Ease relaxation event. For both events, we partnered with the Kern County Veterans Chamber of Commerce and Church of God Bakersfield. Click here to see a recap reel.
- Spooky vibes came a little early this year, thanks to our Halloween Roller Disco. From Ken and Barbie to a T-Rex in a tutu, more than 120 people of all ages showed up in costume to skate at the Saunders Park Roller Rink on October 17. With support from our partners - Intuition Skate Shop, Skater Ghouls, DJ Pantomime and the City of Bakersfield - this event highlights how simple, joyful activities can make a lasting impact on well-being.

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- Knowing what truly drives you and gives you purpose is a key to living longer and happier. We hosted our first Spanish-only Purpose workshop with the Cesar Chavez Foundation on October 7. Participants discovered what their purpose might be, learned how purpose can boost health and happiness and explored ways to bring more meaning into their daily life. It was amazing to see so many people connecting with their passions and taking small steps toward a more purposeful life.
- Living Victory Church is now the first church in Bakersfield to earn the Blue Zones Project approved participating organization designation. The church has promoted local volunteer opportunities in the community, offered healthy, nutritious food options at meetings and fellowship events, established a health and well-being council that meets regularly at the organization and more.
- When a local restaurant approached us about collaborating on an event to feed people for Thanksgiving, we had no idea how big it would become. This event we thought would be small became much larger than anyone expected, but proved just how impactful things can be when our community shows up. On November 26, we teamed up with Skye's the Limit and Mango Haus to host the Live Well Give Well Community Cookout. Skye's the Limit transformed their downtown location into a gathering space where nearly 150 volunteers came out to serve 600 hot meals, donated by several restaurants and organizations. Other resources were brought out for attendees, including hot showers, clothing, haircuts, medical check-ups and much more. This event was a powerful reminder of why giving back matters so much, especially during the holidays.
- Around 200 people came out to our Donate to Skate event on November 22 at the Valley Children's Ice Center for a chance to skate for free by bringing a non-perishable food donation. Families gave more than one donation, filling several bins of food that will benefit the Golden Empire Gleaners to help local families. This event was the perfect mix of fun, movement and giving back. Click here to see a recap reel.
- Forty-degree temperatures didn't stop almost 60 volunteers from walking the neighborhood surrounding Williams Elementary to walk students to campus as part of Bakersfield's first-ever Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day on December 5. In 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges walked into William Frantz Elementary School – escorted by federal marshals and surrounded by protestors — becoming the first Black student to integrate the all-white school. Her courage and kindness continues to provide inspiration decades later. To honor her legacy, BZP Bakersfield, the City of Bakersfield, Children First, and Community Interventions joined together to host this meaningful event as a way to celebrate Ruby's bravery and highlight the importance of safe, healthy and active transportation to school. More than 200 students participated, concluding their walk with an inspiring message from one of our community champions. Click here to see a recap reel.
- Activities that bring employees together help build connection, strengthen well-being and create a real sense of belonging across a workplace. The team from First 5 Kern took time on December 2 to craft handwritten Christmas cards for foster youth in Bakersfield. These simple moments of giving back make a meaningful difference, not just for the youth receiving the cards, but for the First 5 Kern team who came together to create them.

Media:

Highlights:

- January 10, 2025, on KGET-TV 17; Volunteer Big Kern: Biggest one-day volunteer event in the county; https://www.yahoo.com/news/volunteer-big-kern-biggest-one-020041757.html
- January 10, 2025, on KGET-TV 17; Morning weather interview for Volunteer Big Kern; https://www.yahoo.com/news/warm-today-clear-conditions-over-163925126.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referr

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- January 16, 2025, on KGET-TV 17; Blue Zones Project Bakersfield partners with local pastors to promote health and purpose; https://www.kget.com/studio17live/blue-zones-project-bakersfield-partners-with-local-pastors-to-promote-health-and-purpose/
- February 12, 2025, in The Bakersfield Californian, Fatal collisions down in Bakersfield; https://www.bakersfield.com/news/fatal-collisions-down-in-bakersfield/article_8e6dc1a6-e9c0-11ef-ba74-f75b5737b5ea.html
- February 27, 2025, on KGET; Blue Zones Project seeks ideas for new gathering spaces in downtown Bakersfield; https://www.kget.com/news/local-news/blue-zones-project-seeks-ideas-for-new-gathering-spaces-in-downtown-bakersfield/
- April 8, 2025, in Kern County Superintendent of Schools' EdConnect; Annual summit teaches Kern students to advocate for tobacco policy change; https://news.kern.org/2025/04/annual-summit-teaches-kern-students-to-advocate-for-tobacco-policy-change/
- April 11, 2025, on KGET, Connecting through service: Blue Zones Project and Bakersfield Angels for National Volunteer Month; https://www.kget.com/studio17live/connecting-community-through-service-blue-zones-project-and-bakersfield-angels-team-up-for-national-volunteer-month/
- April 28, 2025, on KGET; Students leading the charge: How SWAT is fighting for a healthier future; https://www.kget.com/studio17live/students-leading-the-charge-how-swat-is-fighting-for-a-healthier-future/
- May 20, 2025, on KGET; Spotlight: Faith, wellness and breaking the mental health stigma; https://www.kget.com/studio17live/spotlight-faith-wellness-and-breaking-the-mental-health-stigma/
- May 23, 2025, in The Bakersfield Californian; Event to discuss where faith meets mental health; https://www.bakersfield.com/news/event-to-discuss-where-faith-meets-mental-health/article_bf5bed99-d1f2-490b-b029-1297272743dc.html
- July 8, 2025, on KGET; "Skate into Summer" event happening July 13; https://www.kget.com/news/local-news/skate-into-summer-event-happening-july-13/
- July 8, 2025, on KBAK; Free community ice skate day at Valley Children's Ice Center set for July 13; https://bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/free-community-ice-skate-day-at-valley-childrens-ice-center-set-for-july-13-q-street-bakersfield-california
- July 8, 2025, in The Bakersfield Californian; Free community skating event set for Saturday afternoon; https://www.bakersfield.com/news/free-community-skating-event-set-for-saturday-afternoon/article_c1de5c5c-c3b3-4fb9-9be0-c0a32f4353c8.html
- July 11, 2025, on KERO ABC 23; Skate into Summer: Blue Zones Project to host free ice skating day, https://www.turnto23.com/news/in-your-neighborhood/bakersfield/skate-into-summer-blue-zones-project-to-host-free-ice-skating-day?utm_term=homepage%20showcase,bakersfield,ice%20skating%20in%20bakersfield,healthy%20lifestyle%20changes,family-friendly%20activities%20bakersfield,bakersfield%20news,active%20summer%20events,free%20ice%20skating%20event,bakersfield%20community%20events,healthy%20living%20events,local%20news,news,in%20your%20neighborhood,ice%20skating%20rentals&utm_source=pushly
- July 15, 2025; on KGET; Studio 17: Connecting communities through volunteer service; https://www.kget.com/studio17live/studio-17-connecting-communities-through-volunteer-service/
- September 1, 2025, on KGET; Chopped Challenge practice day interview, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huDB9yYJD1w

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- September 15, 2025, on KGET; Check out the Chopped Challenge at the Kern County Fair; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKDjkq-148U
- September 16, 2025, on KGET; Studio 17: Tackling food access in Kern County; https://www.kget.com/studio17live/studio-17-tackling-food-access-in-kern-county/
- September 16, 2025, on ABC23; Kern High School District plans to "chop it up" at the Kern County Fair; https://www.turnto23.com/news/in-your-neighborhood/bakersfield/kern-high-school-district-plans-to-chop-it-up-at-the-kern-county-fair
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- September 29, 2025, on Telemundo Bakersfield; KHSD obtiene jardín hidropónico, huerto alimentará a 1,500 estudiantes cada mes; https://www.kget.com/telemundo/noticias/educacion/khsd-obtiene-jardin-hidroponico-huerto-alimentara-a-1500-estudiantes-cada-mes/
- October 10, 2025, on ABC23; Ultra-processed foods to be phased out in Kern County schools under new California law; https://www.turnto23.com/news/in-your-neighborhood/bakersfield/ultra-processed-foods-to-be-phased-out-in-kern-county-schools-under-new-california-law
- October 16, 2025, on KGET; Blue Zones Project approves Fresh Harvest Market; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxofFPiJoQc
- October 22, 2025, on KGET; Studio 17: Find Your RealAge with Blue Zones Project Bakersfield; https://www.kget.com/studio17live/studio-17-find-your-realage-with-blue-zones-project-bakersfield/
- October 31, 2025, in the City of Bakersfield's Bakersfield Notes October 31 edition; City of Bakersfield recognized as Blue Zones Approved worksite; https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/00404cbf2345478f846bc497cfee7f74?item=1
- November 13, 2025, on KGET; Blue Fig Farms to become Blue Zones Project approved; https://www.kget.com/news/local-news/blue-fig-farms-to-become-blue-zones-project-approved/
- November 18, 2025, on KBAK; Donate to Skate for free at Valley Children's Ice Center; https://bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/donate-to-skate-for-free-at-valley-childrens-ice-center
- November 18, 2025, on KGET; Valley Children's Ice Center teams up with Blue Zones Project for free community skate day; https://www.kget.com/news/local-news/valley-childrens-ice-center-teams-up-with-blue-zones-project-for-free-community-skate-day/
- November 19, 2025, on KBAK; Blue Fig Farms joins Blue Zones Project with healthy initiatives; https://bakersfieldnow.com/news/arc-bakersfield/blue-fig-farms-joins-blue-zones-project-with-healthy-initiatives
- November 19, 2025, on KGET; Studio 17: Live Well Give Well Community Cookout; https://www.kget.com/studio17live/studio-17-live-well-give-well-community-cookout/
- November 19, 2025, in The Bakersfield Californian; Blue Zones Project to host free community skate day; https://www.bakersfield.com/entertainment/blue-zones-project-to-host-free-community-skate-day/article_4c116ad9-812c-4ce9-92e3-8aa1c1501102.html?utm_source=bakersfield.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletters%2Feye-on-entertainment%2F%3Femail-scrape%26-dc%3D1763652614&utm_medium=email&utm_content=image
- November 25, on KBAK; Live Well Give Well Community Cookout offers support to those in need; https://bakersfieldnow.com/news/eyewitness-mornings/live-well-give-well-community-cookout-offers-support-to-those-in-need

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- December 5, 2025, in The Bakersfield Californian; First Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day at Williams Elementary about safety, kindness; https://www.bakersfield.com/news/first-ruby-bridges-walk-to-school-day-at-williams-elementary-about-safety-kindness/article_e51abc1a-8f79-49a2-bbee-ae087802b19d.html?utm_source=bakersfield.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletters%2Fheadlines%2F%3Femail-scrape%26-dc%3D1765029621&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline
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- December 5, 2025; on KBAK; Bakersfield hosts first-ever "Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day" to honor civil rights icon; https://bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/bakersfield-hosts-first-ever-ruby-bridges-walk-to-school-day-to-honor-civil-rights-icon
- December 10, 2025, in Bakersfield City School District – BCSD News; Ruby Bridges Walk to School 2025; https://youtu.be/oXL8Vg21R4U?si=_1Y9meUTaw6-uus4
- December 15, 2025, on Telemundo Bakersfield; Un repaso de evento comunitario de Blue Zones Project; https://www.kget.com/telemundo/nuestra-comunidad/un-repaso-de-evento-comunitario-de-blue-zones-project/

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Significant Identified Health Needs

The Adventist Health Community Well-Being team and community partners collectively reviewed all relevant significant health needs identified through the CHNA process. Using a community health framework developed for this purpose, 12 significant health needs were initially considered. The list of significant needs are as follows:

- Access to Care
- Community Safety
- Community Vitality
- Education
- Environment & Infrastructure
- Financial Stability
- Food Security
- Health Conditions
- Health Risk Behaviors
- Housing
- Inclusion & Equity
- Mental Health

From this group of 12, several high priority health needs were established for Adventist Health Bakersfield. High priority health needs were chosen as they had demonstrated the greatest need based on severity and prevalence, intentional alignment around common goals, feasibility of potential interventions, and opportunities to maximize available resources over a three-year period.

Using the criteria mentioned above, we were able to determine which needs were high priority, as compared to those that were significant needs. The High Priority Needs are the focus of the community implementation strategy and this accompanying Implementation Strategy, Year Three Update, FY 2025. The remaining significant health needs are not addressed directly but will likely benefit from the collective efforts defined in this report.

TABLE OF SIGNIFICANT IDENTIFIED HEALTH NEEDS

Access to Care
Financial Stability
Mental Health
Lower Priority Needs that will not be addressed directly by Adventist Health Bakersfield & Specialty Bakersfield due to limited resources, expertise and feasibility of viable interventions
Housing
Health Risk Behaviors
Health Condition
Food Security
Environment & Infrastructure
Inclusion and Equity
COVID
Education
Community Vitality
Community Safety

Scan the QR code for the full Secondary Data Report

Community Health FinancialAssistance for Medically Necessary Care Commitment

Adventist Health understands that community members may experience barriers in paying for the care they need. That is why we are committed to providing financial assistance to those who may need support in paying their medical expense(s).

Community members can find out if they qualify for financial aid in paying medical bills by completing a financial assistance application. Applications can be filled out at the time care is received or after the bill has been administered. To access the financial assistance policy for more information or contact a financial assistant counselor, please visit us at: Adventist Health - Help Paying Your Bill.

Adventist Health Bakersfield
2615 Chester Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 395-3000
HCAI #: 106150788
https://www.adventisthealth.org/bakersfield/about-us/community-benefit/

Susan Passalacqua, Community Benefit Compliance Manager
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Adventist Health Specialty Bakersfield
3001 Sillect Avenue
(661) 316-6000
HCAI #: 106154101
https://www.adventisthealth.org/specialty-bakersfield/about-us/community-benefit/
Susan Passalacqua, Community Benefit Compliance Manger
P 916-406-1469| AdventistHealth.org

Thank you for reviewing our Implementation Strategy: Year Three Update, FY 2025.
We are proud to serve our local community and are committed to making it a healthier place for all.
To provide feedback on this community benefit report or other reports referenced, please email community.benefit.@ah.org. You may also request a copy free of charge.

Jason Wells, MBA, CMPE, FACHE
President, Adventist Health Central California Network

Adventist Health
Bakersfield

Adventist Health
Specialty
Bakersfield