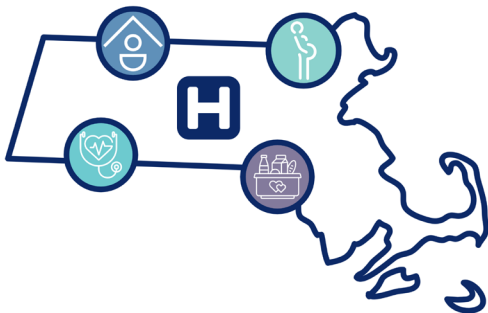


Hospital Community Benefits Programs: Providing Care Outside Their Walls

Nearly every time a community seeks to resolve a public health problem – whether it's a spike in opioid use, household hunger, inequities in maternal care, and beyond – hospitals serve as a major partner in the coordinated response. They offer resources and expertise that extend to every community and individual striving to create a healthier, more vibrant future.

It's all made possible through hospitals' community benefit programs. These programs, provided at no cost to those being served, are not reimbursed by state or federal government and totaled more than \$797 million in fiscal year 2021.

Click here to see what your local hospital is doing.



Massachusetts hospitals are renowned for the lifesaving, compassionate care they deliver each day for patients and families. What receives less attention, but is of vital importance to public health, are these community benefit activities they support outside their walls.

Each day hospitals reach out to their communities at schools, senior centers, mobile health vans, job fairs, and countless other venues to make healthcare happen before people ever enter one of their facilities.

Collaboration is key when it comes to community benefits. Massachusetts hospitals work directly with community members, other care providers, and local stakeholders to identify the health-related needs of the communities they serve on a daily basis.



In the latest Fiscal Year of reporting, 2021, **48 Massachusetts non-profit acute care hospitals – battered by the pandemic and facing unparalleled workforce shortages – nonetheless reported \$767 million in community benefit expenditures.** Nine investor-owned hospitals provided **\$30 million** in community benefits. The U.S. Internal Revenue Service, allowing hospitals to count financial losses related to care provided to Medicaid recipients, along with medical education costs and other metrics, totals Massachusetts hospital community benefits at more than **\$3.5 billion.**

About the Programs:

Hospitals detail their community outreach efforts in annual reports to the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General in addition to submitting information to the Internal Revenue Service as required by the Affordable Care Act. These essential programs generate real-world results for entire populations and help bridge health equity disparities in the places where people live, work, and play.

And as they help lift up one section of society, their positive results reverberate throughout entire communities and affect generations. For example, hospital-based outreach to improve housing quality can reduce asthma rates in children, which improves school scores, which lowers hospital admissions and healthcare costs – and on and on.



\$416 Million

in Health Professions Education

Educational programs that are available to physicians, medical students, interns, residents, nurses and nursing students, and other health professionals that are not available exclusively to the hospital's employees.



\$265 Million

in Research

Clinical and community health research, as well as studies on healthcare delivery that are shared outside the hospital.



\$276 Million

in Subsidized Health Services

Clinical service lines that would not be available in the community if the hospital stopped providing them. This includes things like air ambulance, neonatal intensive care, burn units, mobile units, and hospice and palliative care.



\$275 Million

in Charity Care

Free or discounted health services provided to people who cannot afford to pay and who meet the eligibility criteria of the hospital's financial assistance policy.



\$91 Million

in Community Health Improvement Services & Community Benefit Operations

Activities that improve community health based on an identified community need. They include support groups, self-help programs, health screenings, and health fairs, and also include the costs associated with staffing and coordinating the hospital's community benefit activities.



\$30 Million

in Cash and In-Kind Contributions

Funds and services donated to the community, including contributions to non-profit community organizations, grants, and meeting room space for non-profit organizations.

Data From: IRS Form 990, Schedule H, Non-Profit Massachusetts Hospitals Mass DPH Determination of Need Program