

Understanding a Hospital Community Benefits Report from a Community Development perspective

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Today's Goals

You will learn about how to use MACDC's new [Guide to Reading a Hospital's Community Benefits report](#) to:

- Understand your local hospital's priorities and the extent to which they overlap with those of your organization
- Learn about the extent to which the hospital has historically partnered with community organizations and identify opportunities for collaboration.
- Identify key players within the hospital and among the hospital's partners.
- Cater requests and conversations to the hospital's mission, priorities, identity, and role in the community.
- Map out next steps for engaging with your local hospitals.

You will also have the chance to hear from three CDCs who have launched successful partnerships with their local hospitals



What are Community Benefits?

Charity care and programmatic work that benefits community health in areas served by the hospital.

Overseen by the IRS requirements and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO)

In Fiscal Year 2019, Massachusetts hospitals collectively spent over \$753 million on Community Benefits. These expenditures represented an average of 2.7% of hospitals' net patient services revenue



What are Social Determinants of Health?

The AGO updated its Community Benefits Guidelines for Nonprofit Hospitals in 2018 to encourage hospitals to devote more resources towards improving “Social Determinants of Health” in their communities which include:

- **Social Environment**
- **Built Environment**
- **Housing**
- **Education**
- **Employment**
- **Violence**

Much of the economic development work in which CDCs are engaged is considered to address Social Determinants of Health.

What does a Hospital's Community Benefits Report look like?

A hospital's Community Benefits Report is divided into a few sections:

- **Organizational Information**
- **Mission and Key Planning Documents**
- **Program Report**
- **Expenditure Report**
- **Optional Supplement**



Organizational Information

This section lists basic information about the hospital and its Community Benefits work

What to look for/ask yourself:

- Where is there overlap with your organization's service area?
- What is the title or department of the Community Benefits contact?



Mission and Key Planning Documents (1/2)

This section includes:

- The hospital's Community Benefits mission statement, list of target populations
- Link to latest Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)
- Link to the latest Implementation Strategy (IS)
- List of key accomplishments for the last reporting year
- Plans for next reporting year
- Hospital self-assessment

Mission and Key Planning Documents (2/2)

What to look for/ask yourself:

- What are top health priorities indicated in the CHNA/IS/Self-Assessment? Which of these priorities overlap with your organization's priorities?
- Did the hospital collaborate with other hospitals to complete the CHNA/IS? If so, which ones? When will the hospital next be required to publish a CHNA/IS?
- Note individuals or organizations represented on the CBAC or listed on the self-assessment — gaps might in representation may indicate a future opportunity for partnership with your organization.

Program Report (1/3)

The following information is included for each Community Benefits program: program name, program type, program description, program contact information, program goals, target population served, and program partners.

The hospital also indicates which, if any, Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) focus issues are addressed by the program, including:

- Chronic Disease
- Substance Use
- Housing and Homelessness
- Mental Illness and Mental Health

Program Report (2/3)

The hospital additionally indicates if a program addresses any of the updated DoN Health priorities:

- Social Environment
- Built Environment
- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Violence

Program Report (3/3)

What to look for/ask yourself:

- Look for programs that overlap with the work that your organization does.
- Note if there are any gaps in their programs.
- Look at the list of community partners and note if there are any that you know or are familiar with.
- Are there priorities articulated in the CHNA that don't have an associated program in the program report?



Expenditure Report (1/2)

- The expenditures section provides total Community Benefits expenditures as well as expenditures broken down in several ways.
- This section details expenditures by program type:
 - Direct clinical services
 - Community-Clinical linkages
 - Total population or community-wide interventions
 - Infrastructure to support collaboration

Expenditure Report (2/2)

- Within the expenditures by program type, the hospital also details a subtotal provided to outside organizations. This could be helpful to better understand the extent to which the hospital is already funding outside organizations to assist with their work in the community.
- Expenditures are also broken down according to health need, corresponding to the EOHHS focus issues reported in the program section, including:
 - Chronic disease
 - Mental health/mental illness
 - Substance use
 - Housing/homelessness

Optional Supplement

The optional supplement could give additional insight into the role the hospital sees itself playing in relation to its surrounding community. This could be helpful in framing a conversation with or ask of the hospital.



Questions