



2025 Annual Community Benefit Report



Children's Hospital Colorado
Here, it's different.™

Our most recent Community Benefit Schedule H (Form 990) was filed with the IRS in November 2025. This 2025 report reflects financial investments and related program activities for calendar year 2024.

2025 COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT

When it was founded in 1908 in Denver, Children's Hospital Colorado (Children's Colorado) set out to be a leader in providing the best healthcare outcomes for children. That calling has consistently made us one of the top ten children's hospitals in the nation. Our modern-day mission is to improve the health of children through the provision of high-quality, coordinated programs of patient care, education, research and advocacy. In addition to providing the best possible care for kids who need it, we also work hard to keep kids out of the hospital. Community Benefit is one way we realize that intention: investing in resources, services, programs, and people that improve children and families' health in the present and future. We are grateful for the many internal and external partners that contribute to this work, and we are pleased to share 2024 highlights in this report.

What is Community Benefit?

Community Benefit programs and services improve health at the community level. Not only is this important for improving systems and environments in which children, youth, and families can live their healthiest lives, but it is an important way we support Children's Hospital Colorado's mission and our non-profit tax status.

Community Benefit programs or activities provide treatment and/or promote health and healing as a response to identified community needs. They address a documented community need and meet one of these community benefit objectives:

- 1 Improve access to health services
- 2 Enhance the health of the community
- 3 Advance medical knowledge
- 4 Relieve or reduce the burden of and on the government

2025 - 2028 Community Health Implementation Plan

The 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) examined primary and secondary data, surveyed caregivers and community members, and talked with key informants and partners around our region to better understand the health needs of our community. Top identified health issues included mental health, injury prevention, preventive care, and mother and infant health. Our community and partners also confirmed what the data show: the social drivers of health - access to, cost and timeliness of care; food security and nutrition; housing affordability and quality; and safety - greatly influence the health and wellness of children and their families.

In response to the findings of the CHNA, in 2025 we developed a plan to focus on the six identified priority areas in each region: the Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS). These plans will guide the work for Children's Hospital Colorado over the next several years but will be refreshed annually, as needed, in response to changing community needs and priorities.



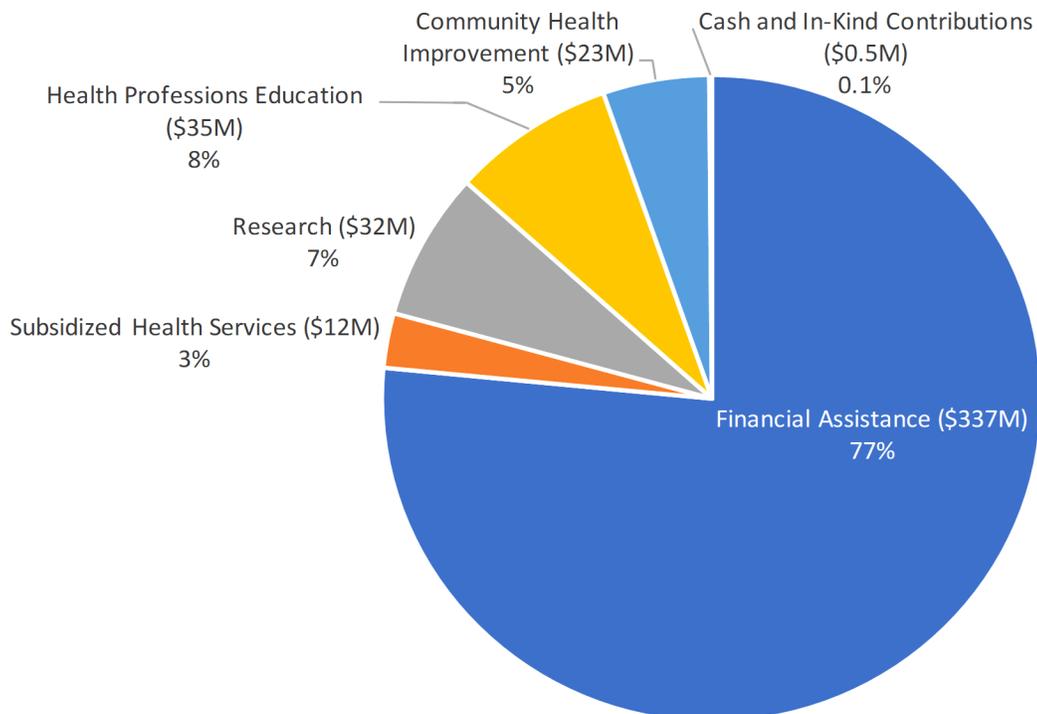
2024 Community Health Priority Areas, by Region



2024 Community Investment

As a not-for-profit hospital, Children’s Colorado is proud to provide investments that respond to community needs and serve our community. Children’s Colorado provides more healthcare services to children covered by Colorado Medicaid than any other provider. Children’s Colorado’s most recent net community benefit totals \$440,569,912 (2024). In 2024, the Children’s Colorado system of care had 19,448 inpatient admissions, 697,194 outpatient visits and 196,987 emergency and urgent care visits.

Chart 1. 2024 Community Investments by Type, Percentage, and Total (millions)



2025 COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Children’s Colorado is proud to be able to provide healthcare services and resources to all children who need it. Financial assistance was the largest portion of Children’s Colorado’s 2024 Community Investment at \$337 million: 77% of the total investment. This is historically typical for Children’s Colorado and most non-profit, safety-net hospitals also have financial assistance as their largest category of investment. Financial assistance investment includes unreimbursed costs from providing care to patients enrolled in Health First Colorado (Medicaid), Colorado Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), TRICARE and other government programs.

\$337m

Financial Assistance Community
Benefit Investment

SUBSIDIZED HEALTH SERVICES

Subsidized health services are clinical programs provided despite incurring a significant financial loss that persists even after accounting for financial assistance, Medicaid shortfall and bad debt. Services provided meet community-identified health needs and would likely need to be provided by someone else in the community (i.e., the government or local non-profit organizations) if not offered by the hospital. Examples of subsidized services provided by Children’s Colorado include services in the areas of pediatric mental health, neuroscience, rehabilitation, digestive health, trauma, and respiratory and breathing health. In 2024, subsidized services made up 3% of Children’s Colorado’s community investment for a total of \$12 million.

\$12m

Subsidized Health Services
Community Benefit Investment

Spotlight on a Subsidized Service: Pediatric Mental Health Institute

The Pediatric Mental Health Institute at Children’s Hospital Colorado provides the high quality mental health services to children, adolescents, and their families. We deliver evidence-based, family-focused and youth-centered services that make a difference. That means that everything we do is backed by the most recent research and focused on the needs of every child and their whole family. We also pay careful attention to the unique needs and stressors of each generation and adjust our care to meet the moment.

Our interdisciplinary team includes psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors, nurses and creative art therapists who tailor their care to the unique needs of each child. We provide complete psychiatric services including outpatient care, partial hospitalization, inpatient care and emergency services for children and adolescents from birth to 18 years old. We approach each child with sensitivity, experience and professionalism, working with each family to promote healthy outcomes for their child and provide support for the whole family.

RESEARCH

Our pursuit of research is woven into the fabric of who we are and how we approach solutions that can keep kids healthy and safe. Research is at the core of our mission, brought to life by every team member. Community investment in research contributes to the larger body of knowledge and its benefits reach our community and beyond. In 2024, 7% of Children’s Colorado’s community investment went towards research for a total of \$32 million.

\$32m

Research-Related Community
Benefit Investment

2025 COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT

Research Spotlight: The CBTeX! Study

The CBTeX! Study (Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy and Exercise Training in Adolescents At Risk for Type 2 Diabetes) is a research initiative designed to identify effective strategies for preventing type 2 diabetes in teenagers by improving insulin resistance. Existing research demonstrates that regular physical activity can enhance insulin sensitivity, and exercise training is considered a standard approach for reducing diabetes risk in adolescents. Additional studies indicate that psychological factors, like stress and mood, also influence insulin resistance. This study evaluates three intervention approaches: cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), exercise training, and a combined CBT-plus-exercise program. The goal is to determine which treatment level or combination most effectively reduces stress, improves mood, increases physical activity and fitness, and decreases insulin resistance among adolescents at elevated risk for developing type 2 diabetes.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

Health professions education includes delivering training and education that will impact the larger healthcare community. This includes graduate education for medical residents and fellows, nursing students, and continuing professional education for other health professionals, like community pediatricians and community emergency medical providers. At a time when national trends indicate reduced pediatric capacity to serve children and families, these investments are particularly important. Part of our mission is to improve the health of children, and as an academic medical center Children's Colorado offers a broad spectrum of training, education certification programs, internships and clinical experiences for nurses, therapists, and allied health professions that aim to develop, strengthen, and sustain knowledge and expertise in the pediatric medical field. We offer a wide variety of advanced training and learning opportunities for future healthcare professionals as well as today's clinicians. Health professions education addresses pediatric regional and national workforce needs, serves to increase access to healthcare and improve health outcomes. In 2024, 8% of Children's Colorado's community investment went towards health professions education for a total of \$35 million.



Health Professions Education Spotlight: Pediatric Residents

Annually, approximately 16,374 pediatric residents are trained in Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) across the United States, accounting for 50% of the total number of pediatric residents trained. In 2024, Children's Hospital Colorado was home to more than 350 pediatric medical residents and 17 pediatric dental residents. Federal CHGME funding falls far below the cost of covering institutional needs. Because of insufficient federal funding, Colorado Medicaid provides some financial support for this critical function. However, because of the low federal investment, Children's Colorado must backfill program costs, which are triple the amount currently funded by the federal government, in order to continue training such a high number of medical professionals. Luckily, many of those professionals stay in-state. From 2016 - 2024, 64% of our pediatric medical residents continued practicing in Colorado after program completion. Upon completion of training, many of these providers care for children throughout the broader Rocky Mountain region as well, where there are no other pediatric training programs. This is crucially important to the future of access to care in Colorado, as the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has found that most of Colorado's counties are designated as shortage areas for pediatric primary care,¹ and gaps across these and other pediatric health professions are expected to further widen nationwide in the coming years.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Community health programs and partnerships advance community health and the relationships critical to improving health at the societal level. Community Health Improvement services and activities are a main component. They aim to improve community health through community health education, outreach, and prevention services; clinical, nonbillable services; healthcare support services (e.g., transportation or health insurance enrollment); or social and environmental improvement activities. Community Health Improvement activities benefit the larger community and are provided without the expectation of generating income. In 2024, 5% of Children’s Colorado’s community investment went towards community health improvement for a total of \$23 million.

\$23m

Community Health
Improvement Community
Benefit Investment

Community Health Spotlight: National Injury Prevention Day

To celebrate and bring attention to National Injury Prevention Day, November 18, 2024, the Injury Prevention team coordinated several events and activities across the system. Team members held tabling events at the Anschutz and Colorado Springs campuses, highlighting injury prevention resources and giving away free educational pamphlets, child-proofing and safety tools, safety-themed coloring books for kids and secure storage devices for medications and firearms. Many families and kids stopped by to talk, learn and pick up resources for themselves, friends and families.



2025 COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT



1,378

Unique patients served by
Resource Connect

Community Health Spotlight: Resource Connect

Resource Connect is a physical suite of offices in the Children’s Colorado Health Pavilion where we offer nine programs, five of which are provided by community partners, to support the social needs of our patient families and provide wraparound care and support. Resource Connect comprehensively addresses social needs, including food security, energy assistance, and eligibility for public benefits, legal services, community resource navigation and more. The services provided through Resource Connect promote equitable access to the resources that all families, including families experiencing challenges with the social drivers of health, need to improve their comprehensive picture of health and well-being. In 2024, Children’s Colorado providers and other team members referred 2,021 families to Resource Connect; of those referrals, 676 were for the Healthy Roots Food Clinic, 310 were for legal services, 126 for WIC, 241 for housing navigation, and 137 for energy assistance.



2,767

People served by the Healthy
Roots Foot Clinic

Community Health Spotlight: Healthy Roots Food Clinic

In 2024, the Healthy Roots Food Clinic received 676 referrals from primary care clinics in our Health Pavilion and served 3,574 people (1,757 children and 1,817 adults). Most of these referrals came from social needs screening within our Health Pavilion’s primary care clinics which provides comprehensive, team-based, family-centered primary care in a medical home model to more than 12,000 children annually from birth to 18 years, regardless of their ability to pay. Additionally, our Healthy Roots Garden had over 870 visitors and produced over 580 pounds of fresh produce that was distributed in our food clinic.

CASH AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Children’s Colorado is also proud to provide cash and in-kind contributions to our community partners. These donations and contributions include things like board service and the sponsorship of local events and organizations. Cash and in-kind contributions amounted to a total of \$0.5 million.



2025 COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT

COMMUNITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Community-building activities focus directly on the social drivers of health and the root causes of health and wellbeing, like safe and stable housing, economic development, and environmental improvements. In 2024, Children’s Colorado invested \$1.5 million in community-building activities.

Community-Building Spotlight: Medical Career Collaborative

The Medical Career Collaborative (MC²) program propels high school students towards careers in healthcare through hands-on experiences and professional development opportunities. Applicants are selected in the spring of their sophomore year in high school by a committee with great emphasis placed on selecting a group of students from a range of backgrounds and high schools in the Denver metro and Colorado Springs areas. Providing opportunities to underrepresented populations in the health professions is an important way to improve quality and availability of healthcare for underserved populations, as well as increase economic mobility security and mobility in our communities.

Community-Building Spotlight: Youth Council for Mental Health and the Child, Youth and Family Mental Health Coalition

In 2024, over 45 Colorado youth applied to participate in Children’s Colorado’s Youth Council for Mental Health (YCMH). The council consists of 25 Colorado youth and two boards: the Community Action Team and the Program Innovation Team. These boards meet monthly to discuss mental health initiatives in schools and youth-led resource development (e.g., social media guide for teens). The Child, Youth and Family Mental Health Coalition, a coalition convened by Children’s Colorado, is currently made up of 40+ organizations from across Colorado who are committed to improving child and youth mental health outcomes through advocacy and system engagement.



MORE INFORMATION

Additional information on our community investment, needs assessments and implementations plans is available on our website here: <https://www.childrenscolorado.org/community/community-health/community-health-needs-assessment/>. You can also contact us by emailing communitybenefit@childrenscolorado.org.

¹Health professional shortage area maps and data. 10 February 2025. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/prevention-and-wellness/health-access/health-workforce-planning-and-assessment/health-professional>



Children's Hospital Colorado
Here, it's different.™

To learn more about Children's Hospital Colorado's population health and community work, visit childrenscolorado.org/CommunityHealth.