

Hospital Community Benefit Accountability

Evidence of Investment Improvement
Colorado Springs

2024

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Children's Hospital
Colorado

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Investment Activities	4
Financial Assistance	4
Community Health Improvement.....	4
Partners for Children’s Mental Health	4
Disease and Condition Specific Community Health Education	5
Injury Prevention and Education	6
Building Resiliency for Healthy Kids.....	7
Health Navigation.....	7
Family Aid Administration	8
Transportation Vouchers.....	8
After Hours Telephone Care Program.....	8
ParentSmart Hotline.....	8
Bug Watch Publication	8
Social Care Networks.....	8
Health Access and Safety Net.....	9
Population Health: Improve Access to Health Care Services	9
Community Health Improvement Related Advocacy.....	9
Community Benefit Operations	10
Health Professions Education	11
Allied Health Professions (Interns and Learners)	11
Nursing (Students and Learners)	11
Cash Donations / Not-for-Profit Community Organizations.....	11
Cash & In-Kind Contributions, Other.....	11
Community Building Activities.....	11
Appendix A - Disease and Condition Specific Community Health Education	13
Appendix B - In-Kind Contributions	15

Executive Summary

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 top 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. Through medical research and advocacy efforts, we are working towards a world where kids are safer and healthier and will one day have less need for a hospital.

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. In 2023, the health insurance coverage-mix among our patient population in the Colorado Springs area included 48.8% of patients covered by Medicaid, 30.0% commercial insurance, 18.2% TRICARE, 1.8% CHP+, and 1.2% all other (including Medicare, cash-pay, uninsured, indigent care, etc.).

In 2023, the Children's Colorado system of care had 19,507 inpatient admissions, 664,734 outpatient visits and 192,851 emergency and urgent care visits. Children's Colorado's operating margin in 2023 was 0.3%; in 2022 it was 4.81%; in 2021 it was 6.1%; and in 2020 it was 2.8% (inclusive of federal provider relief funds recognized in 2020, 2021, and 2022 as a result of the COVID public health emergency).

Children's Colorado submits its Schedule H 990 as a hospital system inclusive of all facilities¹. Children's Colorado strives to apply a uniform, consistent approach to our high-quality approach to care across the whole system of care. Accordingly, there are many leaders, staff, and other resources serving the entire system, rather than allocated to location-specific resources. This integrated system of care allows Children's Colorado to leverage system resources to ensure consistent approaches and cost efficiencies to support the delivery of patient-centered and equitable healthcare to over 276,000 children each year. Consequently, this means that not all costs or investments can be disaggregated down to the level of brick-and-mortar location.

In 2022, Children's Colorado provided Community Benefit of \$378,010,088.

- Of that amount, **\$313,476,476** was for the Denver Metro hospitals and network of care, and
- **\$64,533,612** for Colorado Springs hospital and network of care.

In 2022, Children's Colorado provided Community Building of \$1,383,004.

- Of that amount, **\$1,366,465** was for the Denver Metro hospitals and network of care, and
- **\$16,539** for Colorado Springs hospital and network of care.

¹ Pursuant to state requirements, we also prepare a *pro forma* Schedule H 990 covering Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs.

As a result of the timing associated with Children’s Colorado’s annual tax filings and in compliance with reporting timelines required by House Bill 19-1320, Children’s Colorado respectfully submits this report using community benefit financial investments for 2022 and a summary of community benefit activities for 2023.

Major community benefit investments in calendar year 2023 included:

- Expanding capacity to treat children and youth with behavioral health needs, an area of extreme and persistent need in Colorado.
- Providing free and discounted healthcare services.
- Funding extensive [injury prevention](#) work including [car seats](#) and [safe sleep](#).
- Providing school-based mental health clinical care and complementary health coaching as part of our Building Resiliency for Healthy Kids program.
- Advocating to advance health equity and reduce health disparities.
- Addressing [social determinants of health](#) through community health navigation.
- Advocating for expansion of health navigators in healthcare systems across the state.
- Operating [Partners for Children’s Mental Health](#), a cross-system resource, training, evaluation, and implementation hub in order to bring communities together to increase access to high-quality youth behavioral health services in Colorado.

More details on these community investments can be found throughout the report that follows.

Investment Activity	Description of 2023 Activities
Financial Assistance	
<p>The Children’s Charity Care program provides financial assistance for patients who are uninsured or underinsured and demonstrate financial need. Financial assistance also covers unreimbursed costs for patients enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) and other government programs.</p>	
Community Health Improvement	
<p>Includes activities addressing CHNA priorities, parent education, community health screening, health navigation, and advocacy for improving child health.</p>	
<p>Partners for Children’s Mental Health</p>	<p>Partners for Children’s Mental Health (PCMH) is a community-facing center established by Children’s Hospital Colorado and the University of Colorado School of Medicine to improve youth mental health in Colorado. PCMH operates as a training, evaluation and implementation center. We focus on “high-impact” settings – particularly schools and primary care offices – to reach trusted adults who interact with at-risk kids.</p> <p>PCMH trained 345 school professionals on Dialectical Behavior Training² (DBT) and added 19 short videos to support the learning experiences. PCMH also partnered with a subject matter expert to update the DBT series. The new series is offered with three different focuses - elementary, middle school, and high school. The updates aim to help participants seamlessly integrate DBT skills into their typical lesson plans. Guided by the Colorado education standards, we have created examples lesson plans that infuse these practices easily into various lesson plans. A comprehensive user guide was also created to support deeper learning. These updates were then piloted with a 7-member expert panel comprised of school community members from administration to direct care.</p> <p>PCMH also provided Zero Suicide³ training to primary care providers in 2023, reaching 232 medical professionals (1,088 contact hours). PCMH also provided over 20 hours of training through cohorts in partnership with Colorado ECHO.</p> <p>PCMH offered five Question, Persuade Refer⁴ (QPR) trainings. Sixty-eight community members attended a QPR training. About 4% of community training participants were from rural or frontier counties. QPR attendees demonstrated an increase in knowledge after attending the training across all measures.</p> <p>During Mental Health Awareness Month in May 2023, we launched a digital marketing campaign, “Here to Help,” to raise awareness of our program and drive interest. In partnership with our youth committee members, we produced three videos that underscore the importance of providers serving as a “trusted adult” role for youth. Watch the videos: video 1, video 2, video 3.</p> <p>We distributed these videos through ads on LinkedIn, Reddit and Zemanta, targeting primary care providers and clinic staff. In less than two months, the ads drove nearly 13,300 clicks on our content, and 10 form fills from individuals interested in learning more.</p>

² Rizvi, S. L., Bitran, A. M., Oshin, L. A., Yin, Q., & Ruork, A. K. (2024). The State of the Science: Dialectical Behavior Therapy. *Behavior Therapy*.

³ Kenny, J., Kelsay, K., Bunik, M., Xiong, S., Millar, A., & Talmi, A. (2023). Addressing Adolescent Suicidality in Pediatric Primary Care. *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*, 44(8), e527-e535.

⁴ Quinnett, P. G. (2023). The certified QPR pathfinder training program: a description of a novel public health gatekeeper training program to mitigate suicidal ideation and suicide deaths. *Journal of Prevention*, 44(6), 813-824.

	<p>Through this campaign, we have also been able to test messaging and identify themes that drive more of our audiences to action (e.g. mentioning Zero Suicide and support from the AAP and AFSP).</p> <p>During Mental Health Awareness Month, we also wrote articles to be published in the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) Colorado monthly newsletter and Pediatric Care Network (PCN) monthly newsletter. The AAP article was republished in several other newsletters, including the Office of Suicide Prevention, and reposted on the PCMH website.</p> <p>To enhance our other recruitment efforts, we also designed a new program flyer and distributed through PCMH and partner newsletters.</p> <p>We continued to disseminate our quarterly newsletter focused on youth suicide prevention in primary care: The Quarterly Dose. The metrics for this newsletter remain high at about 40% open rate (higher than industry average of 21.7%) and 10% click rate (significantly higher than industry average of 2.5%).</p> <p>PCMH’s youth engagement work was revamped to create the Youth Council on Mental Health (YCMH). The new structure was built for youth, by youth. Over 43 Colorado youth applied to participate in the YCMH. The council holds 22 Colorado youth and two boards; Community Action Team and the Program Innovation Team. These boards meet monthly to discuss mental health initiatives in schools and youth-led resource development (social media guide for teens).</p>
<p>Disease & Condition Specific Community Health Education</p>	<p>Children’s Colorado plays an important role in creating content on various health topics accessible to the general public. The Children’s Colorado digital content team developed and/or promoted health education for parents and the community-at-large via www.childrencolorado.org and on our social media channels throughout 2022⁵.</p> <p>See <i>Appendix A</i> for a comprehensive list of topics with links.</p> <p>Just Ask Children’s is a collection of free programs and tools that improve access to health care services and educate parents on the fundamentals of keeping children safe and well. This is offered through an email newsletter, web content, social media and paid media offering parenting tips and advice on key health topics. Examples of 2023 topics included: Internet safety, fitness and nutrition, safe sleep, neurodivergency, mental health resources, body positivity, loneliness, head injuries, germs and respiratory illnesses. In 2023, there were more than 14.4 million people reached through this medium.</p>
<p>Injury Prevention and Education</p>	<p>In 2023, we expanded our community outreach to increase injury prevention efforts with an equity lens. We continued providing 1-on-1 car seat checks by appointment and also partnered with the Colorado Springs Fire Department, Fountain Fire, and Colorado Springs Police Department to hold 11 monthly car seat check events in the community. Through these seat checks and car seat educational classes at the local Lutheran Family Services Refugee and Asylee program, we educated 238 caregivers on proper child restraint use, checked 206 car seats and boosters and corrected over an 80% misuse rate, while also providing 82 reduced-cost car seats and booster seats to families in need. We continued conducting appointments in English and Spanish while utilizing</p>

⁵ Gill, H. K., Gill, N., & Young, S. D. (2013). Online technologies for health information and education: a literature review. *Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet*, 17(2), 139-150.

interpreters for families who spoke Dari, Arabic, and Swahili. We conducted **8** total in-person car seat safety presentations for expecting families at Peterson Space Force Base and the United States Air Force Academy, reaching **54** military parents and caregivers. We continued our child passenger safety program in the hospital, providing **43** free car seats to patient families in need along with printed materials on southern Colorado inspection stations and handouts with installation videos, Colorado law and best practices. Additionally, we created a program to be responsive to disparities in motor vehicle collisions (MVC) for Hispanic and Latino individuals, who have a 50% higher rate of death compared to non-Hispanic white adults in El Paso County. Also in Colorado over a 4-year period, a higher percentage of Hispanic and Latino children who died in MVCs were improperly restrained compared to non-Hispanic white children (72.3% vs. 46.2%). In wanting to intentionally address this, we identified the need to bring child passenger safety education to the part of our community with higher percentages of Hispanic or Latino families and reduce the geographic barrier of driving to our hospital location. We also partnered with Peak Vista Community Health Center's First Visitor program, which serves over 800 families yearly, 73% of which are Spanish speaking. As a result, in 2023, we held **6** Child Passenger Safety classes in Spanish at Peak Vista's location, reaching **21** caregivers and providing **31** reduced-cost car seats and boosters, each which is checked for proper installation after each class. We also held two Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) certification courses, training over 35 Children's Hospital Colorado and community members as CPSTs, and held one Safe Travel for All Children (STAC) adaptive child restraint course, training **11** Children's Hospital Colorado and community members. During that course, our IP Specialist became the second STAC instructor in the state of Colorado, with the first also being employed by Children's Hospital Colorado, allowing our program to expand its ability to train more CPSTs on this important skill set.

As bike and wheeled-activity injuries remained among the top 5 causes of traumatic injury, we continued our helmet distribution program through our Emergency Department for children. We include a guide on proper helmet fit and a list of when it is appropriate to wear a bike helmet for other wheeled activities according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. In 2023, we provided over **50** helmets to patients treated in our hospital, families in the rural communities of neighboring Teller County, and at our yearly Safe Kids Day event in May. We continue to receive support from partner Borealis, a local fat bike company, to sustain our hospital helmet program.

Non-accidental trauma remained among our top 5 causes of traumatic injury in 2022, with approximately half of related patients being under 1 year old. As such, we continued our free 1-hour virtual education class, 'Crying Happens. What's Your Plan?', in partnership with UCHHealth Memorial Hospital, a main birthing hospital in the area. The class teaches about Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) prevention and has interactive questions for participants on frequency, causes, and how to make a plan. The course reached **33** caregivers and each participant who completed the post-survey reported having learned something new about SBS.

The Injury Prevention Specialist trained **61** individuals on Stop the Bleed, including middle school students, rural first responders, Children's Hospital Colorado employees, state legislators, and allies of the LGBTQ+ community. In partnership with the Colorado Trauma Network, the IP specialist also provided testimony for House Bill 23-1213 to support Stop the Bleed training for public schools with provision of bleeding control kits for those that opted in to coordinate training, a bill which did pass. We continue coordinating the Safe Kids Colorado Springs coalition, which has over **20** community partner organizations,

	<p>and presented state injury and fatality data to help inform outreach plans. We also reached our greater community through 25 additional outreach and educational events, reaching over 2,080 adults and children to promote awareness of safety tips including pedestrian safety, motor vehicle safety, and home safety. Events included Safe Kids Day and National Injury Prevention Day, coordinated directly by the Safe Kids Colorado Springs coalition and Children’s Hospital Colorado, respectively. Additionally, in 2023 the IP program completed 3 media interviews on topics including summer safety and infant safe sleep. We continued the Safe Kids Colorado Springs monthly e-newsletter with over 190 subscribers to share timely safety tips, past events, and upcoming community opportunities with families and community partners. We also continue managing our Safe Kids Colorado Springs Facebook page to share safety tips and community event information with over 400 followers.</p>
<p>Building Resiliency for Healthy Kids</p>	<p>The Building Resilience for Healthy Kids program is an innovative, upstream, school-based resilience program that partners 6th grade students with a Children’s Hospital Colorado trained health coach. The coach works 1:1 with students to develop and foster resiliency skills, utilizing motivational and strengths-based techniques over a 6-week period. During each 15-20 minute weekly coaching session, the health coach assists the student in developing goals and skills to improve resilience and provides non-judgmental support to the child along the journey. Students who complete the program demonstrate increased resilience, self-efficacy, emotional self-regulation, and they experienced decreased symptoms of anxiety and depression.</p> <p>In 2023, Healthy Kids served a total of 1,414 students, from 24 schools. For some students, participation in the program reveals acute mental health needs; those students are then referred to the program behavioral health providers. In 2023, Healthy Kids behavioral health providers (licensed clinicians) delivered therapeutic services to 354 students. Students who complete the program demonstrate increased resilience, self-efficacy, emotional self-regulation, and they experienced decreased symptoms of anxiety and depression. Results are particularly discernable in underserved, racial/ethnic minority communities where access to mental health services are typically scarce. In fact, racial minority students exhibited greater improvement in resilience as compared to white students, illustrating that Health Kids is not only a universal program, but an equitable one.</p>
<p>Family Health Navigation</p>	<p>The health navigation team⁶ plays a critical role in addressing social determinants of health for patients and families in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings, addressing needs such as housing, food, benefits, transportation, etc. The family navigation team provided resource support to more than 8,300 unique patients in 2023.</p>
<p>Family Aid Administration</p>	<p>Family Aid serves to reduce barriers to health care utilization by addressing social determinants of health⁷. Examples of areas of support are food/groceries, gas cards, bus passess, hotel, etc.</p>
<p>Transportation Vouchers</p>	<p>Transportation assistance⁸ is provided to families following a financial needs assessment that determines they are not eligible for transportation assistance</p>

⁶ Rosenthal, E. L., Brownstein, J. N., Rush, C. H., Hirsch, G. R., Willaert, A. M., Scott, J. R., ... & Fox, D. J. (2010). Community health workers: part of the solution. *Health Affairs*, 29(7), 1338-1342.

⁷ Health Care Access and Quality - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov

⁸ Reduce the proportion of people who can't get medical care when they need it – AHS-04 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov

	through any other program, like Medicaid-funded transportation or insurance reimbursement. Transportation provided is to accommodate access to care, barriers to discharge and the safety of the child. In 2023, we provided 73 rides for Colorado Springs patient families.
After Hours Telephone Care Program	The After Hours Telephone Care program ⁹ was developed in 1988 based on pediatrician-identified need to provide health care information and care advice when the office is closed as well as supporting the physician to promote a better work/life balance. As has been reported by several pediatricians, this program has been a huge help in extending their work years as a pediatrician. As occurs for some large clinics, this program also allows the families to access health care when their physician is not available by phone or in the office. Families in the community receive significant benefits from this program through access to timely, helpful advice concerning their child’s illness or injury. In 2023, we answered 59,945 calls to our After Hours Telephone Care program.
ParentSmart Hotline	Children’s Colorado’s ParentSmart Hotline ¹⁰ provides parents and caregivers 24/7 access to experienced pediatric nurse who can provide telephone triage and in-depth information on what may be ailing their child ¹¹ . In 2023, we answered 34,590 calls to our ParentSmart hotline.
Bug Watch Publication	The Bug Watch 2.0 publication, led by the Department of Epidemiology, provides vital information to community providers to visualize and assess what organisms are prevalent in the community and to help make better clinical decisions when treating patients. Data within the Bug Watch 2.0 dashboard is updated weekly during the respiratory season (usually October-April) and every two weeks during the non-respiratory months. In 2023, there were 859 community providers who received the weekly or biweekly distribution.
Social Care Network	We subscribe to Find Help, a web-based resource hub that connects people to community programs that offer free or reduced-cost social services. This service is integrated in our electronic medical record and it is also accessible to the general public on our website .
Health Access & Safety Net	The Health Access and Safety Net Program works to expand the number of underinsured ¹² (and uninsured) children and families who can be served by Children's Hospital Colorado and other pediatric providers in Colorado, while also improving the benefits they have access to, improving equity of coverage between private and public insurance. The Program also works to improve equity, quality, and access in the child and youth behavioral health care system ¹³ , and assesses and escalates major eligibility, coverage, and access-to-care challenges encountered by families. The Program engages at the levels of: systems, coalitions of community and patient advocacy organizations, and

⁹ Poole, S., Ambardekar, E., Gablehouse, B., Joslyn, L., Jaramillo, S., Hegarty, T., ... & Todd, J. (2022). Office “Phone First” Systems Reduce Emergency Department/Urgent Care Utilization by Medicaid-Enrolled Children. *Academic Pediatrics*, 22(4), 606-613.

¹⁰ Poole, S., Ambardekar, E., Gablehouse, B., Joslyn, L., Jaramillo, S., Hegarty, T., ... & Todd, J. (2022). Office “Phone First” Systems Reduce Emergency Department/Urgent Care Utilization by Medicaid-Enrolled Children. *Academic Pediatrics*, 22(4), 606-613.

¹² [Increase the proportion of people with health insurance – AHS-01 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)

¹³ [Increase the ability of primary care and behavioral health professionals to provide more high-quality care to patients who need it – AHS-R01 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)

	<p>individual patient-family access. The Program also provides technical and other assistance to independent community pediatric primary care practices on issues of Medicaid system comprehension, benefits navigation, and general access to care. The Program functions as a bridge between the State and Children’s Colorado on State-specific efforts/initiatives, particularly those undertaken in the Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program, the Colorado Hospital Discounted Care Program, the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP), and overarching Colorado behavioral health delivery system reforms.</p>
<p>Population Health: Improve Access to Healthcare Services</p>	<p>Leaders within the division of Community Health & Advocacy are responsible for the creation and operation of a community based, partner-driven network of care. This network both expands access to traditional pediatric healthcare and expands access to non-traditional care that addresses a child’s total picture of health, the social determinants of health¹⁴. Operating a community based, partner-driven network of care requires identifying partners that will engage in a transformative system of care, one that allows a pediatric specialty hospital to work with community based partners to generate improved health for all kids in a targeted region, despite never being patients or having limited interactions with that hospital. The network must support improvements in the delivery of traditional healthcare services, like the number of immunizations, well-child visits¹⁵, oral health screenings and behavioral health interventions. And the network must also support improvements in social conditions impacting health such as increased attendance at school, increased access to nutritional food and sustained access to stable housing. Work is done to ensure the network supports the many components of a child’s health by recruiting and supporting a robust array of community based partners that may range from schools to childcare centers to churches and food pantries. The division is responsible for directing hospital resources to support the creation and operation of the community based network.</p>
<p>Child Health Improvement: Social & Environ. Determinants of Health</p>	<p>The Government Affairs department serves as the primary contact with officials on all public policy issues on behalf of child health. This includes, but is not limited to, written communication, public testimony, or any other form of endorsement or opposition. As a not-for-profit entity, Children’s Hospital Colorado does not engage in partisan activities. At the state level in 2023, Children’s Hospital Colorado coordinated testimony from 28 experts on pending legislation at committee hearings, and actively tracked 176 bills. We activated our grassroots network on multiple child health policy topics, generating hundreds of messages to state and federal lawmakers on youth mental health. Children’s Colorado’s 2023 legislative priorities are attached for background, and the bills noted below can be included for community benefit purposes.</p> <p>Top priority bills relevant to community benefit included advocating for youth mental health. We established a new Children, Youth and Families Mental Health Coalition in January 2022 and as of December 2023, we had 80 individuals and organizational representatives of diverse interests represented including schools, treatment providers, child abuse prevention advocates, mental health policy experts and more. Major community health priorities included a bill to increase access to mental health services¹⁶ for children under age 21 who are insured by Medicaid without the requirement for a mental health diagnosis. This expands access to integrated care and provides care to children and youth in need who</p>

¹⁴ [Reduce the proportion of people living in poverty – SDOH-01 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)
¹⁵ [Increase the proportion of children and adolescents who receive care in a medical home – MICH-19 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)
¹⁶ [Increase the proportion of adolescents with depression who get treatment – MHMD-06 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)

	<p>may otherwise have barriers to access. We worked on two proposals this year to establish eating disorder prevention programs at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and a bill to increase access to treatment for individuals with disordered eating by prohibiting health plans and Medicaid from utilizing body mass index to determine access to treatment. Additionally, we led an effort to support additional investments in community-based residential treatment capacity for children and youth with complex mental health needs¹⁷ and to require hospitals and counties to report to the state the number of patients with mental health conditions who were boarding or staying for extended periods of time beyond clinical need due to lack of intensive community-based treatment options.</p> <p>We worked closely with other child health advocates on House Bill 1300 to require Medicaid to seek federal authorization to extend Medicaid continuous eligibility for children from birth to age three¹⁸. The bill also sets up a study of how the Medicaid program can better address health-related social needs. Additionally, we worked with lawmakers to provide funding for counties to process appeals in cases when families lose their Medicaid eligibility due to an error - all of these policy strategies were greatly needed to preserve access-to-care for children as a result of the end of the federal public health emergency.</p> <p>In our health-related social needs portfolio, we led a coalition to expand access to community health workers, where research has shown that access to community health workers can improve patient health outcomes, address health disparities¹⁹ and reduce healthcare costs while also expanding and diversifying the healthcare workforce. The legislation will enable community health workers to be paid for their care by Colorado Medicaid. We also worked on a number of proposals related to housing stability and nutrition, two of the most commonly identified needs among our patient population when we use our psychosocial screener.</p>
<p>Community Benefit Operations (Evaluation & Dedicated Staff)</p>	<p>This represents our team who manages our community benefit operations, including data gathering, data entry, HCBA reporting, IRS Form 990 Schedule H reporting, the triennial Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), the triennial Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS), annual CHIS reports/updates, plans and facilitates annual community engagement meetings, oversees evaluation plans for community health programs, etc.</p>

Health Professions Education

Includes graduate education for medical residents and fellows, nursing students and continuing professional education for other health professionals such as community pediatricians, community emergency medical providers.

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 and certification programs aimed at developing, strengthening, and sustaining knowledge and expertise in the pediatric medical field. We offer a wide variety of advanced training and learning opportunities for future healthcare

¹⁷ [Increase the proportion of children and adolescents who get appropriate treatment for behavior problems – EMC-D05 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)
¹⁸ [Increase the proportion of people with health insurance – AHS-01 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)
¹⁹ [Reduce the proportion of people living in poverty – SDOH-01 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)

<p>professionals and today’s clinicians²⁰. Health profession education addresses regional and national workforce needs, serves to increase access to healthcare and improve health outcomes²¹.</p>	
<p>Allied Health Professions</p>	<p>We provide internships and clinical experiences for students learning in the following health professions: Pharmacy, Respiratory Therapists (we hosted 56 students in 2023), Physical Therapy, Child Life Specialists (10 students in 2023), Audiology and others.</p> <p>Some health colleges and universities we partnered with in 2023 includes Pikes Peak Community College, Pueblo Community College,</p> <p>Pickens Technical College, Pima Medical Institute, Pueblo Community College, Regis University, University of Colorado, Metropolitan State College of Denver, American Public University, Erikson, Mills College, Washington University, University of Utah, Edgewood and College of Charleston, and St Louis University.</p>
<p>Nursing Students and Learners</p>	<p>We provided clinical experiences and internships for 817 nursing students throughout our system (programs that lead to a registered nurse license) in 2023. We also provided clinical experiences and internships for 332 advanced practice nursing students (graduate level: NP, DPT).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cash and In-Kind Contributions</p>	
<p>Includes cash and in-kind donations to community non-profit organizations, donations of meeting space and donations of health and safety educational materials, and service on community boards and coalitions addressing community health.</p> <p>See <i>Appendix C</i> for a list of community-based organizations that Children’s Hospital Colorado leaders serve in-kind.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Community-Building Activities</p>	
<p>Includes environmental improvements, workforce development, coalition building and advocacy for health improvements.</p>	
<p>Medical Career Collaborative (MC2)</p>	<p>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 high school year by a committee with great emphasis placed on selecting a diverse group of students from a range of backgrounds and high schools in the Denver metro area. Increasing diversity and providing opportunity to underrepresented populations in the health professions has become identified as paramount to the nation’s need to eliminate inequities in the quality and availability of health care for underserved populations.²²</p> <p>The MC2 program expanded to Colorado Springs in Fall of 2023. The winter cohort launched in January of 2024 with 2 students; the summer cohort hosted 4 students a total of 6 students in the program. Over 120 students in the southern region applied for the MC2 program for the 2024-2025 winter and summer cohort.</p>

²⁰ Thibault, G. E. (2020). The future of health professions education: emerging trends in the United States. *FASEB BioAdvances*, 2(12), 685.

²¹ Zhang, X., Lin, D., Pforsich, H. et al. Physician workforce in the United States of America: forecasting nationwide shortages. *Hum Resour Health* 18, 8 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12960-020-0448-3>

²² Danner, O. K., Lokko, C., Mobley, F., Dansby, M., Maze, M., Williams, E., ... & Childs, E. (2017). Hospital-based, multidisciplinary, youth mentoring and medical exposure program positively influences and reinforces health care career choice: “the reach one each one program early experience”. *The American Journal of Surgery*, 213(4), 611-616.

In-Kind Service	See <i>Appendix B</i> for a list of community-based organizations that Children’s Hospital Colorado leaders serve in-kind.
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Appendix A

Disease & Condition Specific Community Health Education

Community Health Education and Resources – new or revised in 2023 - by Category:

- Ongoing COVID-19 Updates and Resources
- [Youth Mental Health Crisis Resources](#)
- Respiratory season preparation and execution
 - [Pediatric Respiratory Readiness Toolkit](#)
 - Content updates across various webpages
 - RSV vaccines expert interviews and content additions
- [School nurse toolkit](#)
- Pediatric conditions
 - [RSV](#) condition page
 - [Bronchiolitis](#) condition page
 - [Pneumonia](#) condition page
 - [Influenza](#) condition page
 - [Tonsillitis](#) condition page
 - [Sinusitis](#) condition page
 - [Ear infection](#) condition page
 - [Fetal hydrops](#) condition page
 - [Neuroblastoma](#) condition page
- Specialty-specific resources
 - [Dual Organ Transplant Program page \(new\)](#)
 - [Cochlear Implant Program page \(new\)](#)
 - [DaVinci Robot services page \(new\)](#)
 - [Update to IUD procedure page](#)
 - [Precision Medicine Institute Webpage](#)
- Health literacy and medical animation video review and publishing
 - Gastroschisis video – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
 - [Hearing Loss](#) and [Cochlear Implants](#) video
 - [Fertility Preservation Options for Females](#) video
 - [Placing an NG Tube](#) video
 - [Giving Feeds with an NG Tube](#) video
 - [Checking Placement of an NG Tube](#) video
 - [Venting a G-Tube](#) – Spanish
 - [Cleaning and Dressing a G-Tube](#) – Spanish
 - [Giving Feeds with a G-Tube](#) – Spanish
 - [Spine Program: Breathing Exercises After Spine Surgery](#)
 - [Spine Program: What to Expect from Physical Therapy After Spine Surgery](#)
 - MDI with Spacer – [Spanish](#) & [English](#) versions
 - NEW Halo Goes to the Dentist – [Spanish](#)
 - Respiclick – [Spanish](#) & [English](#) versions
 - Redihaler – [Spanish](#) & [English](#) versions
 - Respimat – [Spanish](#) & [English](#) versions

- [Managing Your Child's Pain After Surgery](#) – English
 - Diaphragmatic Breathing – [English](#) & [Spanish](#)
- Sports Medicine Partner Articles
 - Tournament Nutrition
 - [Hyper Hydration](#)
 - [Concussion Prevention](#) (Dispelling Myths & Updated Guidelines)
 - [Stretching a newly injured muscle](#)
 - [Chocolate Milk for Nutriution Recovery](#)
 - [Are Supplements Safe](#) article
 - Mental Health in Sports – Mimi Babcock-Renadin
 - Why It's Important to See a Pediatric Sports Medicine Physician

Community health stories in Colorado Springs media:

- https://gazette.com/health/covid-19-rsv-and-flu-still-circulating-in-colorado-worst-may-be-over/article_67bfe45a-8d68-11ed-a81c-6fff1d378f23.html
- <https://www.kktv.com/2023/07/01/an-accident-could-happen-anyone-experts-caution-parents-firework-dangers/>
- <https://www.cpr.org/2023/06/26/colorado-teen-healthcare-lobbying-in-washington/>
- <https://www.fox21news.com/news/local/first-full-time-medical-dog-at-childrens-hospital/>
- <https://www.kktv.com/2023/08/23/colorado-doctor-has-tips-parents-if-kids-are-struggling-with-anxiety-depression-going-back-school/>
- <https://www.koaa.com/news/covering-colorado/low-child-vaccination-rates-in-colorado-causing-concern>
- <https://www.koaa.com/news/national/american-academy-of-pediatrics-offers-new-guidance-for-treating-childhood-obesity>
- <https://krdo.com/health/healthy-kids/2023/08/22/healthy-kids-back-to-school-nutrition-goals/>
- <https://krdo.com/health/2023/07/28/healthy-kids-cleft-camp-gives-young-kids-a-place-to-be-together-and-boost-confidence/>

Appendix B

In-Kind Contributions

Community-based organizations that Children’s Hospital Colorado leaders provided in-kind service in 2023

A Precious Child
Adams County Health Department
Adams State University
American Association for Respiratory Care
Anchor Center for Blind Children
Arapahoe Community College - HIT Program
Aurora @ Home
Aurora Chamber of Commerce
Aurora Health Alliance
Aurora Public Schools
BCIVIC
Boettcher Foundation
Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver
Brent’s Place
Broomfield County Health Department
Broomfield FISH
Center for Health Progress
Children’s Hospital Association
City and County of Denver Racial Equity Council
Colorado Access
Colorado American Lung Association
Colorado Business Committee for the Arts
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
Colorado Health Information Management Association
Colorado Nurses Association
Colorado Nursing Leaders Association
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
Colorado State Patrol
Colorado State University
Colorado Womens Chamber of Commerce
Denver Art Museum
Denver Metro EDC Board of Governors
Denver Public Schools
Denver Rescue Mission

Emergency Medical Services Assoc. of Colorado
Executives Partnering to Invest in Children
Find Help
Food Bank of the Rockies
Hope Starts Here Food Bank
Jefferson County Public Health Department
Latino Community Foundation of Colorado
Mapleton School District, School-Based Health Center Community Advisory Council
Metro Caring
National Board for Respiratory Care
National Child Passenger Safety Board (National Safety Council)
Papua New Guinea Tribal Foundation
Pediatric Experience Collaborative
Public Health in the Rockies Conference
Reach Out and Read Colorado
Regis University
Resident Leadership Council
Rocky Mountain Public Media
Ronald McDonald House - Aurora
Swim Across America - Denver
University of Colorado Clinical Education Advisory Committee
Vital Hearts
Youth for Child Mental Health
Youth Healthcare Alliance

Colorado Springs specific:

El Paso County Health Dept. - Health Communities Collaborative
El Paso County Health Dept. - Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup
El Paso County Tobacco Free Alliance
Pikes Peak State College
Ronald McDonald House - Colorado Springs