

**COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT:**  
**Community Health Implementation Plan**  
2025 – 2027



# A Message from Dr. Richard Lofgren, President & CEO of OU Health

At OU Health, our commitment to shaping the future of health care in Oklahoma is unwavering. As the state's only comprehensive academic health system, we understand that true health extends beyond access to medical care. It is deeply influenced by education, employment, nutrition, and the overall well-being of individuals and families.


Over the past year, we have partnered with the Central Oklahoma Health Impact Team (COHIT) and dedicated community organizations to conduct a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Through data analysis, stakeholder collaboration and direct engagement with residents. We have gained valuable insights into the challenges our communities face and the opportunities we have to create lasting change.

Guided by the CHNA findings, our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for fiscal year 2025 focuses on three key priorities: expanding access to health care, improving food security, and strengthening educational opportunities. We also recognize the urgent need to address mental health, substance use, diabetes and cancer — pressing issues that demand both com-*passion* and action.

Our mission is to change lives through discovery and healing, serving the sickest of the sick. But our vision goes further. We aim to empower individuals, foster meaningful partnerships, and drive innovation in care that leads to a healthier, more equitable future for all. Health care must extend beyond hospital walls, it should be a force for transformation embedded in our neigh-*bor*hoods, schools and workplaces.

This vision guides and fuels our work. It motivates us to deepen existing partnerships, build new collaborations, and pursue bold, community-driven solutions. While we've made progress, our journey is far from over. We must continue to address the social determinants of health and find new ways to uplift every corner of our community.

OU Health is ready to lead — with urgency, purpose and a steadfast commitment to results that matter. The future of health care in Oklahoma will be shaped by the actions we take today.



Richard Lofgren, M.D., MPH  
President & CEO  
OU Health

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## Organization Purpose, Aspirations, and Values

# Organization Purpose, Aspiration, and Values



## PURPOSE

Changing lives through discovery and healing.



## WINNING ASPIRATION

We care for the sickest of the sick as a top-tier academic referral center.



## VALUES

We settle for nothing less than living into the OU Health Way values.

- **Integrity:** We do the right thing using our values as our guide, even when it's hard.
- **Relentless Excellence:** We continually improve solutions, products, and processes to be ever ready for future value and care delivery.
- **Patients First:** We compassionately serve others, fostering a safe and healing environment.
- **Inclusion:** We welcome people of all backgrounds, viewpoints, and cultures.
- **Teamwork:** We believe teamwork is essential to achieving our winning aspiration and ensuring team members feel they belong.
- **Learning:** We are a learning organization that supports the tripartite mission and building capability in our workforce.





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# CHIP Summary

# CHIP Summary

The OU Health's Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP) 2025 is a strategic framework designed to address key health priorities identified in the 2024 Central Oklahoma Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This plan aims to enhance community well-being by improving access to healthcare, reducing health disparities, and strengthening social determinants of health. The CHIP outlines evidence-based initiatives, stakeholder partnerships, and measurable objectives to promote sustainable health improvements in Oklahoma County.

## Communities Served

The primary service area for the CHNA and the CHIP is Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. Serving as the state's only comprehensive academic medical center, OU Health provides services to other areas throughout the state. Thus, both the primary and secondary service areas are included in this document.

## Oklahoma County Joint CHNA Overview

OU Health, in collaboration with INTEGRIS Health, Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City, and SSM Health St. Anthony, conducted the 2024 Central Oklahoma Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to identify key health priorities in Oklahoma County. Facilitated by the OU Hudson College of Public Health and moderated by the Lynn Institute, this initiative was completed in partnership with the Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD).

## Key Health Priorities Identified

The Oklahoma County CHNA identified five critical health priorities:

- **Access to Healthy Food** – Addressing food deserts and expanding nutrition education programs.
- **Access to Healthcare** – Enhancing primary and specialty care services, particularly for uninsured and underserved populations.
- **Education** – Increasing health literacy, early childhood education, and workforce training opportunities.
- **Employment** – Expanding job training and placement programs to reduce underemployment.
- **Housing** – Improving access to stable and affordable housing, with an emphasis on supportive services for unhoused populations.

## Summary of the Community Engagement Process

To ensure a community-driven approach, OU Health employed a multi-method engagement strategy to inform this CHIP, including:

- **Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA):** Conducted in partnership with four major health systems to analyze healthcare disparities and social determinants of health.
- **Community Outreach Findings:** Surveys, focus groups, and public forums gathered insights from diverse populations.
- **Stakeholder Interviews:** Structured interviews with public health officials, community leaders, and healthcare providers.
- **Benchmarking and Best Practices Research:** Analysis of CHIP initiatives from other academic health systems to incorporate proven strategies.
- **Gap Analysis and Feasibility Assessment:** Identified existing service gaps and evaluated OU Health's capacity to address these needs effectively.

## Implementation Plan Goals and Objectives

This CHIP establishes targeted initiatives to drive measurable improvements across the five health priorities:

- **Access to Healthy Food:** Expand food distribution programs, collaborate with local businesses, and advocate for programs to support food security.
- **Access to Healthcare:** Increase access to providers, enhance Medicaid outreach, and improve transportation solutions for medical access.
- **Education:** Strengthen school partnerships, implement health education programs, and support health literacy.
- **Employment:** Develop workforce training pipelines, expand employer wellness initiatives, and promote workforce development opportunities.
- **Housing:** Develop supportive housing initiatives.

By aligning resources and fostering community collaboration, OU Health aims to create a healthier, more prosperous Oklahoma through the 2025 CHIP. This strategic plan serves as a roadmap for measurable health improvements, ensuring that healthcare access and social support services are strengthened for the communities most in need.

## Overview of Priority and Strategy Selection Criteria

The OU Health Community Health Implementation Plan 2025 is a strategic framework designed to address key health priorities identified in the 2024 Central Oklahoma CHNA. To determine these priorities, the CHNA team employed a rigorous data-driven selection process. Quantitative data sources, including the Oklahoma City-County Health Department's 2024 Wellness Score Report, U.S. Census data, and other public health reports, provided an objective baseline for assessing health disparities. Additionally, qualitative data from community engagement events were digitized and analyzed using Nvivo software, ensuring diverse perspectives were incorporated. Responses were systematically categorized, refined through team discussions, and validated for reliability, resulting in the selection of five key priority areas: access to healthy food, healthcare, education, employment, and housing.

The prioritization process was further strengthened by direct community engagement from March to August 2024, during which OU Health attended 25 community meetings and collaborated with over 130 organizations across the metro area. Organizations were grouped based on their focus on social determinants of health, providing a comprehensive view of community needs. This multi-method approach of integrating data analysis, expert insights, and stakeholder input ensures that CHIP initiatives align with the most pressing health challenges in Oklahoma County. Through this plan, OU Health is committed to improving health outcomes by expanding access to essential services, addressing systemic barriers, and fostering long-term community well-being.



## Key Data Sources and Method

The CHIP is grounded in data collection from multiple sources to ensure an evidence-based and community-informed approach. Key data sources include:

- **Oklahoma County Joint CHNA:** Conducted jointly by four major health systems in Central Oklahoma, providing a foundational analysis of healthcare disparities, social determinants of health, and priority needs.
- **Community Outreach Findings:** Information gathered through surveys, focus groups, and public forums during the CHNA phase to capture the voices of community members and stakeholders.
- **Expert Knowledge and Practitioner Insights:** Leveraging OU Health's unique position as the only comprehensive integrated health system in the state, expert knowledge was incorporated to validate and expand on findings.
- **Standardized Interviews via Snowball Sampling:** A structured interview guide was developed and used to interview community leaders, healthcare providers, and subject matter experts. The snowball sampling method allowed for broader participation and more diverse insights.

## INITIATIVES INFORMATION SOURCING

To ensure a well-rounded approach, the following activities were undertaken:

- **Structured Stakeholder Interviews:** Utilizing the standardized interview guide, key informants from various sectors (public health, education, housing, social services) were engaged to provide insights into effective intervention strategies.
- **Community Partner Engagement Meetings:** Meetings with nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, and advocacy organizations helped identify potential partnerships and existing community initiatives.
- **Benchmarking and Best Practice Research:** Reviewing similar CHIP initiatives from other academic healthcare systems and integrated health networks to identify evidence-based practices.





# Implementation Strategies

# Implementation Strategies

For each priority, we have outlined initiatives within the organization that align with the identified needs from the CHNA. Highlighting the specific projects and programs currently underway, along with the goals, objectives, and metrics that these initiatives are targeting to address health priorities and improve community outcomes.

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## ACCESS TO CARE

Persistent gaps in care continue to impact uninsured and underserved populations, despite progress in areas like Medicaid enrollment support, respite care, and community health education. There remains a critical need for expanded access to community-based screenings, street medicine services for individuals experiencing homelessness, pediatric behavioral health care, and affordable medications. Shortages of healthcare providers and limited access to specialty care clinics make it especially difficult for many residents to receive timely and appropriate care.

## ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

Many residents still face significant challenges in obtaining nutritious food due to geographic and financial barriers. Limited access to full-service grocery stores, particularly in low-income and rural areas, exacerbates food deserts, making it difficult for individuals and families to purchase fresh and healthy food options.

## EDUCATION

Child safety and injury prevention remain critical areas of need, with ongoing risks from firearms, burns, and dog bites affecting families across the community. At the same time, there is a growing need for accessible health education to help families better understand and manage various illnesses. Physician-led community events could help fill this gap by providing trusted information and support.

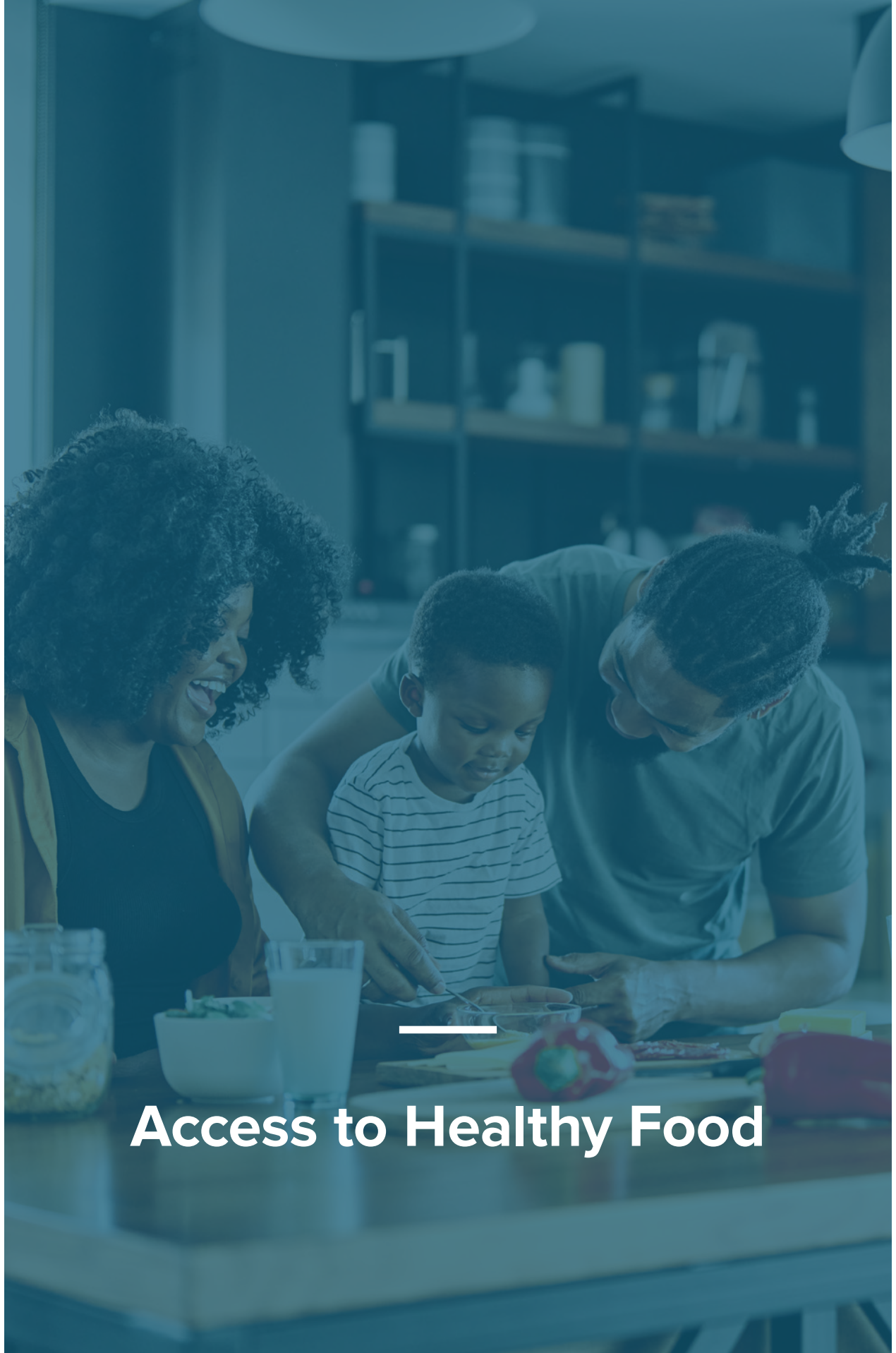
## EMPLOYMENT

Underemployment remains a significant challenge, with many residents struggling to find jobs that offer sufficient hours and wages to meet their financial needs. There is a critical need to expand job opportunities for people with disabilities and develop clear career pathways for students, particularly to address the ongoing shortage of health professionals. Creating initiatives that support workforce development and bridge gaps in healthcare staffing is essential to improving employment outcomes and meeting community health needs.

## HOUSING

Significant gaps persist in healthcare support for unhoused individuals, highlighting the need for more coordinated discharge planning to prevent homelessness. Expanding street medicine programs and creating pathways to long-term housing and stability are essential to ensure continuous care and improve health outcomes for this vulnerable population.





## Access to Healthy Food

# Access to Healthy Food

Limited access to healthy food remains a significant challenge in Oklahoma City, disproportionately affecting low-income and underserved communities<sup>1</sup>. Food deserts—areas with limited availability of fresh produce and nutritious options—contribute to poor dietary habits, increasing rates of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease<sup>2</sup>. Socioeconomic barriers, lack of transportation, and an overabundance of fast-food options further exacerbate food insecurity<sup>3</sup>. Additionally, disparities in food access disproportionately impact marginalized communities, including Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous populations, as well as rural residents<sup>4</sup>. Addressing this issue requires a multi-faceted approach that expands access to affordable, nutritious food while promoting education and community-driven initiatives<sup>5</sup>.

## PRIMARY GOALS

1

**Integrate food insecurity screening and referral processes** into clinical and community health settings to identify and support at-risk families.

2

**Expand access to emergency and supplemental nutrition programs**, including food pantries, meal programs, and summer feeding sites, with a focus on underserved populations.

3

**Strengthen partnerships with local food systems**, including food banks and community organizations, to improve the availability and affordability of nutritious food.

<sup>1</sup> *Hunger in Oklahoma* (2024, October 7). Hunger Free Oklahoma. <https://www.hungerfreeok.org/hunger-in-oklahoma/>

<sup>2</sup> Odoms-Young, A., Brown, A. G. M., Agurs-Collins, T., & Glanz, K. (2024). Food Insecurity, Neighborhood Food Environment, and Health Disparities: State of the Science, Research Gaps and Opportunities. *The American journal of clinical nutrition*, 119(3), 850–861. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajcnut.2023.12.019>

<sup>3</sup> Katre, A., & Raddatz, B. (2023). Low-Income Families' Direct Participation in Food-Systems Innovation to Promote Healthy Food Behaviors. *Nutrients*, 15(5), 1271. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu15051271>

<sup>4</sup> *Food accessibility, insecurity and health outcomes*. (2024). NIMHD. <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/resources/understanding-health-disparities/food-accessibility-insecurity-and-health-outcomes.html>

<sup>5</sup> Wahkinney, K. R. (2025, February 4). ONIE Project leads the charge in expanding access to healthy foods in Oklahoma. *OU Hudson College of Public Health*. <https://publichealth.ouhsc.edu/about/news-and-events/details/onie-project-leads-the-charge-in-expanding-access-to-healthy-foods-in-oklahoma>

# OU Health Food for Health Program

The OU Health Food for Health program is a vital community benefit initiative designed to address the often-hidden challenge of food insecurity among pediatric patients and their families. The OU Food for Health program is a multifaceted initiative aimed at addressing food insecurity among pediatric patients and their families.

Born out of collaboration, creativity, and compassion, especially during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, this program offers emergency food assistance, nutritional education, and long-term resource connections. Each pantry box delivers 49 servings of nutritious meals, and every screening represents an opportunity to support families beyond the bedside. With dedicated partners like the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and an integrated care team spanning social work, supply chain, and clinical leadership, the program not only feeds families but also fosters a healthier, more resilient community.

It encompasses food insecurity screening, emergency food assistance through pantry boxes purchased through the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, a summer feeding program offering free meals to children, and community-sponsored meals for parents of hospitalized children. The program integrates social work and healthcare services to provide immediate nutritional support while connecting families with long-term food assistance resources.

Program/Initiative	FOOD FOR HEALTH PROGRAM
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce pediatric readmissions linked to food insecurity by ensuring adequate nutrition.</li><li>• Expand the reach of food assistance programs to more clinical settings.</li><li>• Increase access to nutritious food options for vulnerable families.</li><li>• Integrate food security screenings into routine pediatric care.</li><li>• Develop educational resources on healthy eating and food resource navigation.</li></ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify and address food insecurity among pediatric patients and their families.</li><li>• Provide emergency food assistance through pantry boxes and meal programs.</li><li>• Expand screening and intervention efforts across multiple healthcare settings.</li><li>• Connect families to sustainable food resources, such as SNAP and WIC benefits.</li><li>• Enhance awareness and education on healthy eating and available community resources.</li></ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma</li><li>• U.S Department of Agriculture</li><li>• Local Community Organizations &amp; Businesses</li><li>• 211 Oklahoma</li><li>• Local Churches &amp; Community Meal Programs</li><li>• Family Resource Center at Oklahoma Children’s Hospital OU Health</li></ul>
Key Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of patients screened for food insecurity</li><li>• Number of pantry boxes distributed annually</li><li>• Number of meals served through the summer feeding program</li><li>• Number of meals served through the community-sponsored meal program</li><li>• Percentage of families connected to long-term food assistance programs</li><li>• Percent increase in the number of locations screening and sharing food assistance availability across the health system</li></ul>



# OU Health Summer Food Program

The OU Health Summer Food program was born out of a partnership with Sodexo Food Services and the US Department of Agriculture. The program is a seasonal extension of our broader Food for Health program, designed to fill a critical gap in access to nutritious meals for children during the summer months when school-based food services are not available. This initiative reflects OU Health’s deep commitment to health and child well-being by offering free, healthy lunches to all children 18 years and younger with no hospital affiliation required.

Rooted in community, compassion, and clinical care, the Summer Feeding Program ensures that no child goes hungry during the summer. Meals are freshly prepared by OU Health’s Food & Nutrition Services team and served on-site in the cafeteria to maintain food safety standards. The program is supported by partnerships with community organizations, healthcare providers, and social work staff who promote awareness and ensure families know this opportunity is available.

Program/Initiative	SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the number of summer meals served to food-insecure children in the Oklahoma City metro area.</li><li>• Maintain safe, dignified meal service environments that foster trust and participation.</li><li>• Strengthen community partnerships to expand program visibility and reach.</li><li>• Support workforce development through staff training in food preparation and service delivery.</li><li>• Collect and use data to guide improvements in future program years.</li></ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address food insecurity among children during summer break by providing access to free, nutritious meals.</li><li>• Offer healthy, hot lunches in a hospital cafeteria setting for children 18 and under—no eligibility screening required.</li><li>• Partner with local organizations to increase community awareness and promote the program.</li><li>• Engage healthcare and outreach staff to support program delivery and promotion.</li><li>• Identify and connect families with long-term food assistance resources when appropriate.</li></ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• U.S. Department of Agriculture – Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)</li><li>• OU Health Food &amp; Nutrition Services</li><li>• Hunger Free Oklahoma</li><li>• Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma</li><li>• Local Churches, Non-Profits &amp; Schools</li><li>• Social Work, Supply Chain, and Pediatric Clinical Teams</li></ul>
Key Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of meals prepared and served during the summer program (annual comparison, 2019–2024)</li><li>• Total annual program cost and associated salary and material costs</li><li>• Number of staff trained to support food preparation and service</li><li>• Number of community organizations involved in program promotion</li><li>• SMART goal tracking: 10% increase in meals served by July 2025</li><li>• Number of awards or recognitions received for community impact</li></ul>



## Access to Care

# Access to Care

Access to healthcare services in Oklahoma City remains a critical challenge, particularly for low-income, uninsured, and rural populations. Barriers such as provider shortages, long wait times, high healthcare costs, and lack of transportation hinder timely and accessible care for all<sup>6</sup>. Additionally, disparities in access disproportionately affect marginalized communities, including Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous populations<sup>7</sup>. Many residents rely on emergency rooms for primary care needs due to limited access to preventive and specialty services<sup>8</sup>. Expanding healthcare access is essential to improving health outcomes, reducing preventable hospitalizations, and addressing chronic disease management<sup>9</sup>.

## PRIMARY GOALS

1

**Expand access to primary, specialty, and behavioral health services** in underserved communities, with a focus on pediatric, rural, and marginalized populations.

2

**Grow and diversify the healthcare workforce**, with an emphasis on bilingual, culturally competent, and community-based providers.

3

**Strengthen systems for care coordination and patient navigation** to support individuals across the continuum of care, including social services.

4

**Enhance affordability and coverage** by maximizing enrollment in Medicaid and other insurance programs and leveraging financial assistance mechanisms.

5

**Integrate innovative care delivery models**, such as mobile health, school-based telehealth, and street medicine, to meet people where they are.

6

**Improve transportation and medication access** by addressing logistical barriers through partnerships, delivery services, and community outreach.

7

**Advance community awareness and trust in care systems** through culturally responsive outreach and engagement, especially with historically underserved populations.

<sup>6</sup> Access to Health Services - Healthy People 2030 | [odphp.health.gov](https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/access-health-services). (n.d.). <https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/access-health-services>

<sup>7</sup> Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Understanding and Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care; Smedley BD, Stith AY, Nelson AR, editors. Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2003. Executive Summary. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK220355/>

<sup>8</sup> Cooper, M. T., Campbell, J., Dileki, N., & Darden, P. (2018). Access to Care for Children under five in Oklahoma: a Geographic Imputation Application. *The Journal of the Oklahoma State Medical Association*, 111(8), 784–789.

<sup>9</sup> Access to Health Services - Healthy People 2030 | [odphp.health.gov](https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/access-health-services). (n.d.). <https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/access-health-services>



## Super Niños Clinic

OU Health Physicians Super Niños Clinic is where world-class pediatric care meets heart and community. Located in the heart of Oklahoma City, this vibrant clinic provides continuous, comprehensive, and coordinated family-centered care, including routine checkups, immunizations, diagnosis and treatment of common childhood illnesses, and integrated pediatric behavioral health all under one roof.

The Super Niños Clinic is a pediatric healthcare clinic focused on providing medical care and essential resources to under-served children and families, particularly within the Latino community. The clinic offers bilingual healthcare services, social support programs such as food assistance in partnership with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, and a clothing closet for families in need. The clinic is embedded in the community that it serves. Additionally, the clinic collaborates with Latino Community Development Agency (LCDA) for community outreach and engagement efforts. With a warm, bilingual team dedicated to family-centered care, Super Niños is a trusted health partner for children of all ages. Whether they're facing everyday sniffles or more complex medical needs, the Super Niños team is here to support every child's health every step of the way to provide immediate nutritional support while connecting families with long-term food assistance resources.

Program/Initiative	SUPER NIÑOS CLINIC
<b>Goals</b>	<p>Short-Term (1-2 Years):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase patient volume to ensure providers are fully utilized.</li> <li>• Improve awareness and outreach efforts through better marketing strategies.</li> <li>• Maintain and expand food assistance and clothing support for families in need.</li> <li>• Explore other community partnerships to address social determinants of health.</li> <li>• Keep WE CARE Family Resource Book and Community Resource Information sheets up to date.</li> </ul> <p>Long-Term (3-5 Years):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain and expand clinic capacity and patient base to pre-COVID levels.</li> <li>• Strengthen community partnerships to enhance available resources.</li> <li>• Increase healthcare access and utilization among underserved populations.</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide comprehensive pediatric healthcare in a culturally responsive and bilingual setting.</li> <li>• Screen patients with WE CARE survey for social determinants of health and offer resources to families including food assistance.</li> <li>• Increase access to healthcare for underserved pediatric populations.</li> <li>• Strengthen community partnerships to enhance patient support and outreach.</li> </ul>
<b>Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latino Community Development Agency (LCDA)</li> <li>• OU Health Leadership &amp; Residency Program</li> <li>• Community Donors &amp; Volunteers</li> <li>• Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma</li> <li>• Skyline</li> </ul>
<b>Key Metrics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of patients seen per month/year to measure clinic utilization</li> <li>• Utilization of the clothing closet (e.g., number of families assisted)</li> <li>• Number of food boxes distributed</li> <li>• Growth in patient volume compared to previous years</li> <li>• Engagement in community events and outreach efforts with LCDA and other community partners</li> </ul>

# OU Health Skin Screening Program

The Mobile Dermatology Clinic (MDC) is a vital community outreach initiative led by the OU Health Department of Dermatology, created to address disparities in access to dermatologic care among underserved populations. This innovative program offers free skin cancer screenings and educational resources to uninsured and underinsured individuals at local community events, farmers markets, and through collaborations with partner organizations. Each year, the MDC hosts between 2 to 6 events, with the capacity to screen anywhere from 5 to 100 patients per event, depending on the venue and community need. By bringing services directly to the community, the MDC plays a critical role in reducing healthcare access barriers and advancing skin health outcomes across Oklahoma.

Program/Initiative	SKIN SCREENING PROGRAM
Goals	<div>Short-Term (1-2 Years):</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased awareness of skin cancer and sun protection in target communities.</li><li>Establishment of recurring partnerships with trusted community hubs.</li><li>Improved trust and engagement with healthcare providers among underserved groups.</li></ul> <div>Long-Term (3-5 Years):</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Demonstrable reduction in delayed diagnosis of skin cancers in at-risk populations.</li><li>Creation of a sustainable model for regular dermatologic outreach in Oklahoma County.</li><li>Expansion to include additional services such as minor procedures or tele-dermatology.</li><li>Contribution to narrowing disparities in dermatologic outcomes across race, income, and geography.</li></ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Promote early detection of skin cancers</li><li>Increase awareness of sun protection and preventive skin health</li><li>Connect individuals to appropriate follow-up care when necessary</li></ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Faith-based organizations</li><li>Community centers</li><li>Local farmers markets (e.g., Scissortail Park)</li></ul>
Key Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Number of skin screening events held in the community per year</li><li>Number of patients served per screening event</li><li>Number of lesions suspicious for skin cancer detected</li><li>Number of referrals for biopsy or specialist care</li><li>Knowledge and understanding of sun protection measures</li></ul>

# OU Health Street Medicine Team

The OU Health Street Medicine Initiative is an outreach program created through a unique partnership between OU Health and the Mental Health Association Oklahoma (MHAOK). Designed to serve individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability, the Street Medicine team operates outside traditional healthcare settings, meeting people where they are, whether on the streets, in shelters, or in encampments.

By providing services such as integrated primary care, ongoing prescription medication access, harm reduction, and preventive screenings, the initiative helps address urgent health needs while also aiming to reduce avoidable hospitalizations and emergency room visits through early intervention. At the heart of the program is a commitment to building trust and long-term relationships, offering consistent, high-quality care even when individuals may not be ready to fully engage. Through this ongoing presence, the Street Medicine team works to close critical gaps in care and improve health outcomes for some of Oklahoma’s most vulnerable residents.

Program/Initiative	STREET MEDICINE
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide primary care to 300 new patients by the end of 2025.</li><li>• Improve health outcomes for individuals experiencing housing insecurity.</li><li>• Expand access to prescription medications, follow-up care, and patient education.</li><li>• Implement a system for early detection and treatment of acute conditions (e.g., infections).</li><li>• Provide harm reduction resources and facilitate pathways toward recovery.</li></ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide consistent, high-quality medical care to individuals experiencing homelessness or unstable housing situations.</li><li>• Introduce basic preventive care and screenings in non-traditional settings.</li><li>• Build sustained relationships through consistent engagement, even when full medical care is not initially accepted by individuals.</li></ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mental Health Association Oklahoma (MHAOK)</li><li>• Homeless Alliance</li><li>• Oklahoma State Department of Health Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Service</li><li>• City of Oklahoma City Key to Partnership</li></ul>
Key Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of individuals served</li><li>• Number of follow-up visits with individuals</li><li>• Number of prescriptions written, picked up, and delivered</li><li>• Number of preventive screenings performed</li></ul>



# Oklahoma Children’s Hospital OU Health Behavioral Health Center

The Oklahoma Children’s Hospital OU Health Behavioral Health Center initiative addresses the growing need for specialized mental health services for children in Oklahoma. Located on the main OU Health campus, the new facility is set to open in winter 2026 and will provide both inpatient and outpatient care, including a dedicated eating disorder intensive outpatient program. The program is designed to offer comprehensive treatment options, integrate family involvement, and expand the state’s capacity to care for children with complex behavioral health needs.

Two floors of the center will be dedicated to inpatient services, adding 72 beds for both short-term stabilization and long-term care for children, adolescents, and patients with a neurodevelopmental focus. In a first for the state, every inpatient room will include space for a parent to remain alongside their child throughout the duration of treatment, when programmatically appropriate. To further enhance the therapeutic environment, the center will feature designated green spaces for patients, families, and staff, creating a calming and inclusive atmosphere that reduces stigma and supports recovery.

Program/Initiative	PEDIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase treatment capacity: expand the number of beds and outpatient services available for pediatric behavioral health.</li><li>• Reduce out-of-state placements: minimize the need for Oklahoma families to seek behavioral health services for their children outside the state.</li><li>• Improve long-term outcomes: track and enhance long-term health outcomes for children receiving early behavioral health interventions.</li></ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide comprehensive care: offer a full continuum of care, including acute inpatient, long-term inpatient, and outpatient services.</li><li>• Integrate family involvement: encourage family participation in the treatment process to improve outcomes.</li><li>• Enhance workforce training: develop specialized training programs for healthcare providers in pediatric behavioral health.</li></ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oklahoma Children’s Hospital</li><li>• University Hospitals Authority and Trust (UHAT)</li><li>• Oklahoma Healthcare Authority</li><li>• Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services</li><li>• Philanthropic Organizations</li><li>• Oklahoma State Legislature</li><li>• Oklahoma City Public Schools</li></ul>
Key Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of pediatric patients treated – those receiving inpatient and outpatient services</li><li>• ED reutilization rates: monitor the rates of emergency department visits before and after treatment</li><li>• Workforce development: measure the number of graduates from specialized training programs and their retention in Oklahoma</li></ul>

# OU Health & OKCPS Stay Well in School Partnership

OU Health and Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS) launched a school-based telehealth partnership in 2021 to broaden access to pediatric care for students. This program delivers comprehensive healthcare services directly within schools, eliminating barriers such as transportation challenges, missed class time, and parents’ need to take time off work.

The initiative began as a pilot in six OKCPS schools during the 2022–2023 school year and has since expanded to 52 schools throughout the district. Starting with the 2023 school year, telehealth services became available district-wide.

Each school is equipped with telehealth software and diagnostic tools to facilitate virtual medical visits on site. OU Health pediatricians use real-time telehealth technology to examine students’ hearts, lungs, ears, mouth, throat and skin. Providers can order diagnostic tests, prescribe medications, offer treatment recommendations, and coordinate follow-up or specialty care as needed. Providers are also able to evaluate and treat a number of chronic medical conditions such as asthma. Telehealth visits are offered regardless of insurance status to ensure access for all students.

Program/Initiative	OKCPS STAY WELL IN SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expand coverage: increase the number of schools and students served by the telehealth program.</li><li>Enhance service quality: improve the quality and range of medical services provided through telehealth.</li><li>Sustain funding: secure ongoing funding to support uninsured students and maintain program operations.</li></ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improve access to care: ensure students have immediate access to healthcare services within the school environment.</li><li>Reduce absenteeism: minimize the time students spend away from school due to medical appointments.</li><li>Support public health: enhance overall community health by providing timely medical interventions and support.</li></ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS)</li><li>Health Resources and Services Administration Grant</li></ul>
Key Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Number of students served: track the total number of students receiving telehealth services</li><li>Visit types and outcomes</li><li>Insurance coverage: the proportion of students with Medicaid, private insurance, and uninsured</li><li>Cost and funding utilization: assess the financial aspects, including grant usage</li></ul>

## OU Health Harold Hamm Diabetes Center – Camp Blue Hawk

Camp Blue Hawk, an outreach initiative of the OU Health Harold Hamm Diabetes Center, is dedicated to supporting children and teens living with type 1 diabetes through a week-long summer camp and year-round programs. Designed for youth ages 9 to 17, the camp provides a safe, welcoming environment where kids can connect with peers who truly understand the day-to-day realities of managing diabetes. Each year, more than 500 people total (campers, parents and siblings) benefit from Camp Blue Hawk. The flagship summer camp is a five-day, four-night overnight experience filled with fun and friendship featuring activities like swimming, dancing, talent shows, and more. Campers are cared for by a dedicated medical team that includes pediatric endocrinologists, nurses, psychologists, and other trained professionals who ensure both physical safety and emotional support. Camp also benefits for providers and students in pre-professional programs: UH providers learn how to better care for their patients by seeing how their prescribed regimens work in real time, and learn how to use new diabetes care technologies that may be helpful to how they treat their patients. OU Health Sciences students also gain knowledge about pediatric diabetes care. Many students who serve as staff pursue a career in diabetes and endocrinology after their camp experience.

To make the experience accessible to all families, Camp Blue Hawk offers scholarships so that no child is turned away due to financial need.

Program/Initiative	CAMP BLUEHAWK
Goals	<p>Short-Term (1-2 Years):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase campers' confidence in managing their diabetes by the end of each camp session</li><li>• Maintain the number of campers served per year</li></ul> <p>Long-Term (3-5 Years):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the number of year-round support programs for campers</li></ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foster connection and peer support among children and teens living with type 1 diabetes</li><li>• Build confidence and self-management skills in youth with type 1 diabetes</li></ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• St. Crispin's Conference Center</li></ul>
Key Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of summer camp participants per year</li><li>• Demographic and geographic reach of program</li><li>• Number of year-round support program participants</li><li>• Number of medical staff and volunteers supporting the program</li></ul>

## OU Health Outpatient Pharmacy

OU Health currently operates six outpatient pharmacies, with a seventh location set to open soon, delivering specialized medication services tailored to diverse patient populations including pediatrics, oncology, hemophilia, and general outpatient care. These pharmacy services are dedicated to enhancing medication access and affordability while providing comprehensive patient support. This commitment is realized through a variety of financial assistance programs, patient navigation services, and streamlined prescription processing designed to ensure timely and effective treatment.

In alignment with these efforts, OU Health is actively working to strengthen community partnerships by collaborating with Oklahoma City Public Schools. This partnership aims to improve pharmacy access for students and families by exploring innovative solutions to overcome common barriers, such as transportation challenges, including assessing opportunities for shipping medications directly to patients.

OU Health also supports patients with complex or chronic conditions through its accredited specialty pharmacies, which are improving medication adherence and education. These pharmacies provide patients with personalized, ongoing support, including clear guidance on medication use and managing side effects. Additionally, ambulatory clinical pharmacists are embedded within outpatient clinics as part of the broader care team. Their work helps improve health outcomes, reducing emergency room visits and advancing health equity by expanding access to quality care across vulnerable patient populations.

Program/Initiative	OUTPATIENT PHARMACY
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain prior authorization turnaround time under specific number of days to ensure timely access to medications.</li><li>• Increase annual patient volume and expand number of prescriptions filled through outreach and improved affordability options.</li><li>• Optimize financial assistance distribution – ensure grants and charity funds effectively reach as many patients as possible in need.</li><li>• Improve health outcomes by providing education to increase medication adherence and help reduce medication-related ER visits and hospitalizations.</li></ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expand access to medications: ensure patients, including uninsured and under-insured populations, receive necessary medications through financial assistance programs such as grants and internal funds.</li><li>• Improve pharmacy service efficiency: reduce turnaround times for prior authorizations and medication approvals to enhance patient experience.</li><li>• Strengthen community partnerships: collaborate with Oklahoma City Public schools to improve pharmacy access and address barriers such as transportation by assessing opportunities for shipping medication.</li><li>• Maximize pharmacy related financial support programs: Utilize the 340B drug pricing program, Dispensary of Hope, and copay assistance resources to lower out-of-pocket costs for patients.</li></ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dispensary of Hope</li><li>• Oklahoma City Public Schools</li><li>• External grants</li></ul>
Key Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of patients assisted by pharmacy patient navigators to help patients overcome affordability barriers</li><li>• Amount of \$ spent on financial assistance provided through various programs such as 340B, Dispensary of Hope, internal funds and external grants</li><li>• Length of time spent on medication prior authorizations</li></ul>





# Education

Education plays a crucial role in shaping health outcomes, yet many residents of Oklahoma City face barriers to quality education, which contribute to long-term health disparities. Low graduation rates, high levels of disconnected youth, and inadequate school funding create challenges for workforce readiness, health literacy, and economic mobility<sup>10</sup>. Disparities in educational attainment are more pronounced in lower-income and minority communities, limiting opportunities for stable employment and access to healthcare<sup>11</sup>. Addressing these issues through investments in education can lead to improved public health outcomes, reduced poverty, and a stronger, healthier workforce<sup>12</sup>.

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## PRIMARY GOALS

1

**Promote community health literacy** by delivering accessible, evidence-informed education on key health topics across diverse populations and settings.

2

**Expand community-based health and safety outreach**, particularly for children and families, through schools, camps, and public events.

3

**Reduce preventable injuries and illness** through targeted education efforts on topics such as medication safety, firearm storage, water safety, and cancer screening.

4

**Support emotional and social development for youth with chronic or complex health conditions** through structured, peer-supported programming like pediatric camps.

5

**Increase trust and engagement with healthcare providers** by facilitating direct community connections via programs such as Doc Talks.

6

**Reach high-risk and underserved communities** with culturally responsive, mobile, and locally delivered education and prevention initiatives.

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<sup>10</sup> Mendelson, T., Mmari, K., Blum, R. W., Catalano, R. F., & Brindis, C. D. (2018). Opportunity Youth: Insights and Opportunities for a Public Health Approach to Reengage Disconnected Teenagers and Young Adults. *Public health reports (Washington, D.C. : 1974)*, 133(1\_suppl), 54S–64S. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0033354918799344>

Center on Society and Health. (2015). <https://societyhealth.vcu.edu/work/the-projects/why-education-matters-to-health-exploring-the-causes.html#gsc.tab=0>

<sup>11</sup> Education inequalities at the school starting gate: Gaps, trends, and strategies to address them. (2017). Economic Policy Institute. <https://www.epi.org/publication/education-inequalities-at-the-school-starting-gate/#:~:text=Why%20it%20matters:%20These%20performance,future%20life%20and%20work%20prospects.>

<sup>12</sup> Hahn, R. A., & Truman, B. I. (2015). Education Improves Public Health and Promotes Health Equity. *International journal of health services : planning, administration, evaluation*, 45(4), 657–678. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020731415585986>

# OU Health Doc Talks Program

The Doc Talks program is OU Health’s dynamic virtual or in-person speaker series that connects community members directly with physicians for practical, engaging health education, from stroke prevention to the latest in pelvic floor treatments. With topics ranging from public health awareness to managing Medicaid, these sessions not only empower participants with timely health information but have even inspired individuals to schedule life-changing follow-up care.

The Doc Talks program involves virtual or in-person presentations by physicians on various health topics, followed by Q&A sessions at schools, community centers, and other community-serving locations. These talks aim to educate the community on health issues, promote health literacy, and drive engagement with healthcare services. The program also supports broader community health initiatives and marketing efforts by OU Health.

Program/Initiative	DOC TALKS PROGRAM
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase participation: boost the number of attendees at Doc Talks sessions.</li><li>• Enhance community trust: build trust in OU Health as a reliable source of health information.</li><li>• Track patient conversion: implement a CRM system to track attendees who become patients.</li></ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote health literacy: Increase awareness and understanding of various health topics among the community.</li><li>• Drive healthcare engagement: Encourage community members to seek medical advice and services.</li><li>• Support community health initiatives: Align with broader health campaigns and community benefit goals.</li></ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Junior League of Oklahoma City</li><li>• Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS)</li><li>• The City of Oklahoma City: Community Wellness Centers</li><li>• OU Health Physicians</li><li>• Community Organizations (e.g., American Cancer Society)</li></ul>
Key Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attendance and registration: Track the number of people who register for and attend each Doc Talk.</li><li>• Engagement metrics: Measure impressions, click-through rates, and media coverage related to the talks.</li><li>• Patient conversion: Monitor the number of attendees who subsequently become patients using the CRM system.</li></ul>

# Child Safety and Injury Prevention Programs

Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health is dedicated to keeping children safe through proactive injury prevention efforts that extend beyond the hospital walls and into homes, schools, and communities across the state. Through a variety of evidence-informed education and outreach programs, we empower children, families, and caregivers with the knowledge and tools needed to reduce the risk of unintentional injuries.

## KNOW THE B.A.R.K

Our dog bite prevention program helps children and parents learn how to safely approach and interact with dogs. By understanding key behavior cues and learning respectful handling practices, families are better equipped to prevent bites and promote safe relationships with pets.

## TRAUMA RAMEN NOODLES

The burn prevention initiative focuses on hot food safety, particularly the risks associated with ramen noodles. Children are taught the importance of adult supervision when cooking and the dangers of handling hot bowls directly from the microwave. This education is critical, as approximately 9% of burn injuries treated at our hospital are related to ramen noodles.

## WATER SAFETY

Drowning is often silent, not loud. This program teaches children and caregivers the importance of constant supervision near water, following safety rules, and always wearing a life jacket when swimming or riding on personal watercraft. It aims to reduce unintentional water-related injuries and deaths.

## PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY

In partnership with Safe Kids Oklahoma, we offer pedestrian and bike safety education in schools statewide. Programs include helmet use, road safety rules, and our "Spot the Tot" campaign, which encourages parents to check around their vehicles for children before backing out of driveways.

## CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health offers car seat fittings and installations for both inpatients and outpatients. The Pediatric Trauma Program, also holds twice-monthly car seat safety checks by appointment, ensuring children are properly secured and families are educated on car seat use.

## TOY SAFETY

With support from the Oklahoma City Fire Department, the program serves to educate families about the dangers of batteries, especially for young children, and the importance of choosing age-appropriate toys. This initiative helps reduce the risk of choking and ingestion injuries tied to small parts or devices.

## RAILROAD SAFETY

In collaboration with Scholastic, we promote railroad safety using engaging materials like Clifford the Big Red Dog and train crossing books. These tools help young children learn how to stay safe around railroad tracks and understand the importance of obeying crossing signals.

## FIREARM SAFETY

In response to rising concerns around firearm injuries and youth suicide, our firearm safety initiative provides gun locks to families at the emergency department and community events. This program encourages safe storage practices and helps prevent both unintentional injuries and access to firearms during crises.

## MEDICATION LOCK BOXES

As an extension of our firearm safety efforts, we distribute medication lock boxes to help families store prescriptions securely. This initiative aims to prevent accidental ingestion by children and reduce the risk of misuse in the home.



Program/Initiative	CHILD SAFETY AND INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAMS
<b>Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease mode of injuries among children through increased education and outreach.</li> <li>• Distribute resources: Provide essential resources related to all modes of injuries such as medication lock-boxes, car seats and gun locks to the families.</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community education: Increase public knowledge and skills in trauma response and injury prevention among children.</li> </ul>
<b>Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oklahoma City Fire Department</li> <li>• Oklahoma City Police Department</li> <li>• Oklahoma Highway Safety Office</li> <li>• Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office</li> <li>• Oklahoma Highway Patrol</li> <li>• Moore Police Department</li> <li>• Oklahoma State Department of Health</li> <li>• Oklahoma City-County Health Department</li> <li>• Safe Kids Oklahoma</li> <li>• Drug Education, Counseling and Confidential Advice (DECCA)</li> <li>• Oklahoma Challenge</li> <li>• Community Individuals</li> <li>• Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA)</li> <li>• Edmond Fire Department</li> </ul>
<b>Key Metrics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of educational sessions and workshops held in local school health fairs and community events</li> <li>• Number of children and families attending educational sessions</li> <li>• Number of injuries among children observed</li> <li>• Number of resources distributed to families</li> </ul>

# OU Health Pediatric Camps

OU Health is dedicated to supporting children and teens living with chronic or life-threatening illnesses by offering meaningful opportunities for social connection and community building. Through a variety of year-round camps, these youth are able to engage in shared experiences with peers who understand the challenges of managing similar health conditions. Each camp provides a safe and inclusive environment where participants can enjoy typical childhood activities while building friendships, confidence, and emotional resilience. By fostering connection and reducing isolation, the camps play a vital role in promoting the overall well-being of young patients and their families.

## CAMP CAVETT

The largest camp offered and serves children and teens ages 8–18 who have been diagnosed with a chronic illness. Held at New Life Ranch’s Frontier Cove, the camp combines a medically supported environment with traditional summer camp activities like archery, horseback riding, fishing, boating, swimming, and a ropes course.

## CAMP INDEPENDENCE

Organized through the Oklahoma Hemophilia Foundation is a fun-filled summer camp for youth ages 7–18 affected by bleeding disorders, including siblings and children of parents with bleeding disorders. The camp offers a classic camp experience in a safe, supportive setting, allowing kids to enjoy outdoor adventures, make new friends, and build lasting memories with others who understand their unique life experiences.

## CAMP MIGHTY MOUTH

The only intensive behavioral treatment program in the region specifically designed for children with Selective Mutism. Established in 2017, the 11-day program includes six days of pre-camp preparation followed by five days of immersive activities that provide guided opportunities for children to practice speaking in real-life settings such as classrooms, medical offices, and public spaces. The camp serves families from Oklahoma, surrounding states, and even internationally. While children participate in targeted, play-based exercises, parents receive peer support, practical tools, and professional guidance to help sustain progress beyond camp.

Program/Initiative	PEDIATRIC CAMPS
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foster peer relationships, confidence, and a sense of normalcy among youth participants.</li></ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a safe, inclusive environment where children and teens with chronic or life-impacting conditions can connect with peers and participate in recreational activities.</li><li>• Support social-emotional development and reduce isolation through shared experiences and community-building.</li></ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cavett Kids Foundation</li><li>• Oklahoma Hemophilia Foundation</li><li>• University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Child Study Center</li></ul>
Key Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of campers served annually</li><li>• Participant demographics (age range, geographic distribution, condition type)</li><li>• Number and variety of camp sessions offered each year</li></ul>

## OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center - Community Outreach and Engagement: Prevention and Screening Programs

Reducing cancer incidence in Oklahoma and across the United States depends heavily on prevention and early detection. OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center (SCC) leads a range of community outreach programs designed to raise awareness, remove barriers to care, and increase access to critical screening services. These initiatives prioritize populations at higher risk for cancer, particularly those in under-served, rural, or minority communities. By delivering services where they are most needed, the center is working to address cancer disparities and promote positive health outcomes through accessible care. In the last fiscal year alone, these programs collectively served 7,767 individuals across the state.

### PROSTATE CANCER OUTREACH INITIATIVE

With support from a \$1 million private gift, this program targets prostate cancer disparities among Black/African American men and rural populations. Activities include community outreach, a mobile app, and public awareness campaigns to encourage early screening and reduce mortality.

### HPV EDUCATION AND CLINICAL TRIALS ENGAGEMENT

This effort promotes HPV awareness and vaccination in rural and American Indian communities, while also encouraging participation in National Cancer Institute clinical trials. It focuses on increasing access to information and reducing barriers to preventive care and research opportunities.

### HEAD AND NECK CANCER SCREENINGS:

In collaboration with the Department of Otolaryngology, this program offers community-based screenings for cancers of the mouth, throat, thyroid, and related areas. The goal is early identification and timely referral for further care.

### FQHC NAVIGATION

In collaboration with Genentech, this program works in concert with three selected federally qualified health center staff (FQHC) to directly provide patients with outreach and navigation services. The selected FQHCs are chosen by those who have lower cancer screening rates based on HRSA Uniform Data System (UDS) and a willingness to participate. Enhance coordination of services for patients with positive cancer screens, including linking people in need with appropriate cancer care and treatment services and community-based services and social supports, including those offering housing, food, transportation, and health services

assistance. Provide FQHC with data as to the number of people in the service area who were served by Cancer Center staff during quarterly deployments, including number of people encouraged to participate in cervical/breast/colorectal cancer screening; screenings completed (by type of cancer) and referrals made for cancer care/treatment.). Function as an expert consultant on meetings with FQHC staff discussing issues of concern concerning patient screening efforts and referrals for care/treatment. FQHC support staff to share screening rates regarding the clinics.

Last year SCC hosted a Rural Provider Health Summit: Increasing Cancer Screening Rates Through Evidence Based Interventions in June. We hosted 25 participants from 10 different healthcare organizations across the state. Participants learned about Evidence Based Interventions for breast, cervical, colorectal and lung screenings as well as HPV Vaccination. Education was provided on resources available to help increase screening and vaccination rates as well as resources to connect patients with SCC. The Genentech logo was included in the save the date and the presentation as well as a verbal thank you during the event. The event has been followed up with a bimonthly cohort of attendees, deepening the education provided and offering continued support. On average 6 participants attended the cohort calls from 3 different organizations.

Data briefs created by SCC were provided at the Oklahoma Primary Care Association Annual Conference and later sent to FQHCs.

## **WOMEN'S HEALTH BREAKFAST**

SCC hosted two Women's Health Breakfasts, one in November and another in January, in collaboration with Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. Across both events, we reached approximately 120 attendees. The sessions covered breast and gynecologic cancers, lung cancer, physical activity, obesity, diabetes, and their connections to cancer risk.

## **MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS SUMMIT**

The Men's Health Awareness Summit, now in its 5th year, is an annual community event hosted by SCC that brings together around 250 attendees for a day focused on education, support, and early detection in minority men. The summit features expert speakers on prostate cancer, survivor stories, free cancer screenings, a community resource fair, and wellness workshops, all designed to support, uplift, and inform men and their families about prostate and men's health-related issues. This is a collaborative effort with the community of Northeast Oklahoma City.

## **MUSKOGEE CANCER SERIES**

This educational series is held in Muskogee County to help inform on cancers and engage the community about the work of the OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center. The series focuses on increasing awareness of the major cancers affecting residents in the area. It is presented in partnership with the Muskogee-based cancer support organization CurtCares. This was critical in establish a relationship with the county and providing education and providing the

## **FAITH BASED EDUCATION AND SCREENINGS**

This ongoing initiative is designed to collaborate with and engage faith-based networks across Oklahoma. The Stephenson Cancer Center was the first health institution to sponsor and host the 2024 Simultaneous Revival for Oklahoma Baptist churches, bringing together over 100 church leaders to launch a statewide cancer education network. As a result, we have hosted cancer education sessions, health screening fairs, and community workshops focused on cancer prevention, obesity, diabetes, and inflammation. To date, we have partnered with more than 20 churches through this growing initiative.

## **STEPHENSON CANCER CENTER LUNG CANCER AWARENESS**

The educational video educate high-risk former and current smokers about the importance of getting screened for lung cancer. In addition, the educational videos promote the new lose-dose CT lung screening coach that can detect lung cancer in the initial stages, when the disease is more curable.

## **STEPHENSON CANCER CENTER SPAN-ISH CANCER AWARENESS EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS**

Educational cancer awareness videos play a crucial role in disseminating accurate information about cancer prevention, early detection, treatment options, and support resources. We produced nine videos in Spanish. These videos serve as powerful tools to raise awareness among the Latino public, empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their health. By providing accessible, culturally tailored and visually engaging content, these videos can effectively reach diverse audiences, including those with limited health literacy or language barriers. Furthermore, they can help reduce stigma associated with cancer and encourage proactive behaviors such as regular screenings and healthy lifestyle choices. Ultimately, educational cancer awareness videos contribute to saving lives by promoting early intervention, increasing treatment adherence, and fostering a supportive community for those affected by cancer. These videos were developed as a powerful tool for community education and awareness. They are intended to be shared widely and used in clinics, community centers, waiting rooms, and educational events to promote early detection and support around cancer-related topics.

SCC chose to collaborate with the Mexican Consulate in Oklahoma City for the official launch to strengthen our ongoing relationship and to help amplify the reach and credibility of the series within the Latino community.



## SPANISH EDUCATIONAL SERIES

SCC hosted 12 Spanish-language cancer education sessions in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, focusing on cervical, head and neck, lung, and thyroid cancers. These sessions reached a total of 230 community members and were promoted through partnerships with local community organizations and targeted social media outreach. The events aimed to increase awareness, improve health literacy, and support early detection and prevention efforts within the Hispanic community.

## SPANISH CONFERENCE

SCC hosted the 1st and 2nd **Conferencia Estatal de Educación y Prevención del Cáncer**, reaching over 600 community members. The event was promoted through flyers, community advisory boards, local partners, and social media platforms. This statewide conference provided culturally relevant cancer education, connected attendees with local resources, and fostered collaboration among community leaders and health professionals.

Program/Initiative	<b>STEPHENSON CANCER CENTER - COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT: Prevention and Screening Programs</b>	
<b>Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve early cancer diagnosis rates in high-risk populations across Oklahoma.</li> <li>• Decrease cancer disparities by delivering culturally and geographically appropriate services.</li> </ul>	
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce barriers to screening and care through community-based outreach and education.</li> <li>• Expand access to cancer prevention and early detection services among underserved, rural, and minority populations.</li> </ul>	
<b>Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System</li> <li>• Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.</li> <li>• Avery Chapel AME Church</li> <li>• American Cancer Society</li> <li>• American Cancer Society - Cancer Action Network</li> <li>• American Indian Chamber of Commerce OKC</li> <li>• American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa</li> <li>• American Lung Association Amplify Tulsa</li> <li>• Anglins Barbershop</li> <li>• Baptist Ministers Association of OK</li> <li>• Bethel High School</li> <li>• Blue Cross and Blue Shields of OK</li> <li>• Blue Cross and Blue Cross Tulsa</li> <li>• Calle 25 – Historical Capitol Hill District</li> <li>• Casa de la Cultura (Tulsa)</li> <li>• Cesar Chavez Elementary</li> <li>• Cherokee Nation</li> <li>• Cherokee Gourd Society</li> <li>• Chickasaw Nation</li> <li>• Choctaw Nation</li> <li>• Cheyanne and Arapaho Tribes</li> <li>• Cohesive Healthcare Management</li> <li>• City of Harrah</li> <li>• City Rescue Mission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Spencer</li> <li>• Comanche Nation</li> <li>• Community Health Centers of Oklahoma</li> <li>• Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse</li> <li>• Duncan Regional Hospital</li> <li>• East 6th Street Baptist Church</li> <li>• Eastern Golf Club</li> <li>• Ebenezer Baptist Church (Oklahoma City)</li> <li>• Emmanuel Tabernacle Church</li> <li>• Empower OKC</li> <li>• Fairview Baptist Church</li> <li>• Fairview Regional Hospital</li> <li>• Family 360</li> <li>• First Americas Museum</li> <li>• Great Salt Plains Health Center</li> <li>• Greater New Zion Baptist Church</li> <li>• Growing Together, Tulsa</li> <li>• Health Corps, Inc.</li> <li>• Health &amp; Wellness Center (multiple locations)</li> <li>• Homeless Alliance</li> <li>• Indian Health Service – Clinton</li> <li>• Service Unit</li> <li>• Indian Hills Pow Wow</li> <li>• Integris</li> <li>• Integris Community Benefit Program (previously known as the Hispanic Initiative)</li> </ul>

## Partners

- Iowa Tribe
- Kickapoo Tribal Health Center
- Kingfisher Free Clinic
- Kiowa Tribal Health
- Komen Foundation
- La Luz, OKC
- Latino Community Development Agency
- Langston University
- Lawton Indian Hospital
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- Lynn Institute
- Metro Technology Center
- Make a Wish OKC
- Mercy OKC
- Moore Norman Technology Center
- Morelos Corporation
- Morton Clinic, Tulsa
- Modern Manhood
- Muscogee Creek
- Newcastle High School
- Norman Endoscopy Center
- Northeast Wellness Center
- OKC-County Health Department
  - Mobile Food Bank (North and south locations)
  - Health at School
  - Community Outreach
- Oklahoma Alliance for Healthy Families
- Oklahoma Blood Institute
- Oklahoma Clinicians of Color
- Oklahoma Caring Foundation
- Oklahoma Family Support 360 Center
- Oklahoma City Community Foundation
- Oklahoma City Indian Clinic
- Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation
- Oklahoma City Public Schools
- Oklahoma City Zoo
- Oklahoma Healthcare Authority
- Oklahoma historical Society
- OKC Martin Luther King Alliance
- Oklahoma Primary Care Association
- Oklahoma Project Woman
- Oklahoma Senior Games
- Oklahoma State Department of Health
  - Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program
  - Oklahoma Comprehensive Cancer Network
  - Oklahoma Central Cancer Registry
  - Office of Minority Health (Statewide Health Equity Plan)
- Oklahoma State University (Stillwater and Tulsa/Tahlequah campuses)
- Oklahoma Strategic Tribal Alliance
- for Health (OSTAH)/Cherokee Nation Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan
- Oklahoma Tribal Finance Consortium
- Olivers CAMP
- Otoe Missouri Jiwere Nut achi Health
- OU Bedlam Clinic
- OU Health - Breast Health Network
- Oklahoma City University
- Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation
- Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
- Panhandle Counseling and Health Center
- Parents as Teachers
- Preventative Lung Cancer Workgroup
- Project 31
- Public Strategies
- Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
- Restore OKC
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- Science Museum
- Scissortail Park
- Share the Tea Inc.
- Sigma Gamma Rho sorority OKC chapter
- Sister in motion and brothers too
- SSM Health
- St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church
- Susan G. Komen
- Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.
- Tabitha Baptist Church
- Terrance Crutcher Foundation
- Tenaciously Teal
- TLC Garden Centers
- Tulsa Community College
- Tulsa Chapter of Links, Inc.
- Travel OK
- Telemundo Oklahoma
- UMA Tulsa
- United Indian Nations of Oklahoma
- Variety Care
- Young Survival Coalition
- YMCA OKC
- Prison Ministry
- Weatherford Chamber of Commerce
- Willpower wellness & counseling
- International Fitness
- NEOKC
- Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma
- Sac and Fox Nation
- Sisters in Motion and Brothers Too
- Urban League of OKC

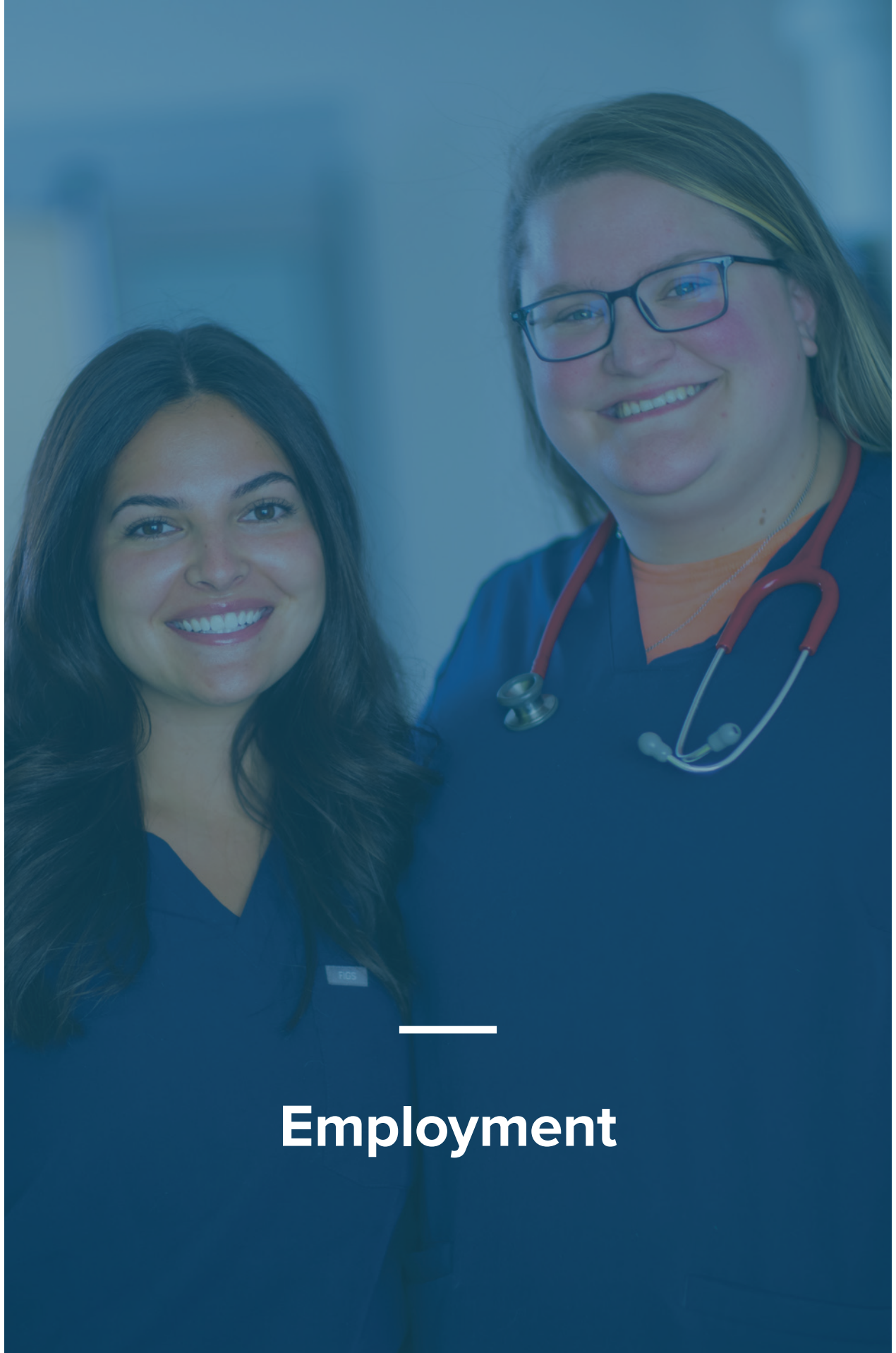
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**Key Metrics**

- Number of screenings provided by cancer type (e.g., breast, skin, head and neck, colorectal).
  - Number of educational awareness events
  - Number of counties or communities reached through mobile or local screening events.
  - Percent of participants from priority populations (e.g., Hispanic, American Indian, rural, uninsured).
  - Number of referrals made for diagnostic follow-up or treatment.
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# Employment



# Employment

Employment is a key social determinant of health, influencing income, access to healthcare, and overall well-being<sup>13</sup>. In Oklahoma City, disparities in job opportunities, wages, and workforce training contribute to economic instability and adverse health outcomes. Unemployment and underemployment disproportionately affect marginalized communities, limiting access to employer-sponsored health insurance and financial resources for healthy living<sup>14</sup>. Additionally, industries with lower wages and fewer benefits can lead to chronic stress and poorer health outcomes<sup>15</sup>. Strengthening employment opportunities through workforce development, higher wages, and job stability can improve both economic security and community health<sup>16</sup>.

## PRIMARY GOALS

1

**Expand healthcare-focused career exploration and training opportunities** for high school, college, and graduate students across Oklahoma City.

2

**Increase local job placement and workforce retention** by converting interns, externs, and residents into full-time healthcare employees.

3

**Strengthen partnerships with local schools, career techs, and universities** to build a robust and diverse pipeline into healthcare careers.

4

**Support career readiness and professional development** through experiential learning, mentorship, and structured transition programs (e.g., nurse residencies and fellowships).

5

**Promote access to healthcare employment pathways** for students from historically underrepresented or underserved communities.

6

**Develop a sustainable, communityrooted healthcare workforce** that reflects and serves the population of Oklahoma City.

<sup>13</sup> *Employment - Healthy People 2030* | [odphp.health.gov](https://odphp.health.gov). (n.d.). <https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/employment>

<sup>14</sup> Pratap, P., Dickson, A., Love, M., Zanoni, J., Donato, C., Flynn, M. A., & Schulte, P. A. (2021). Public Health Impacts of Underemployment and Unemployment in the United States: Exploring Perceptions, Gaps and Opportunities. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 18(19), 10021. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph181910021>

<sup>15</sup> Burgard, S. A., & Lin, K. Y. (2013). Bad Jobs, Bad Health? How Work and Working Conditions Contribute to Health Disparities. *The American behavioral scientist*, 57(8), 10.1177/0002764213487347. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002764213487347>

<sup>16</sup> *Economic Stability - Healthy People 2030* | [odphp.health.gov](https://odphp.health.gov). (n.d.). <https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/economic-stability#:~:text=People%20with%20steady%20employment%20are,improve%20health%20and%20well%20being.>

## Workforce Development

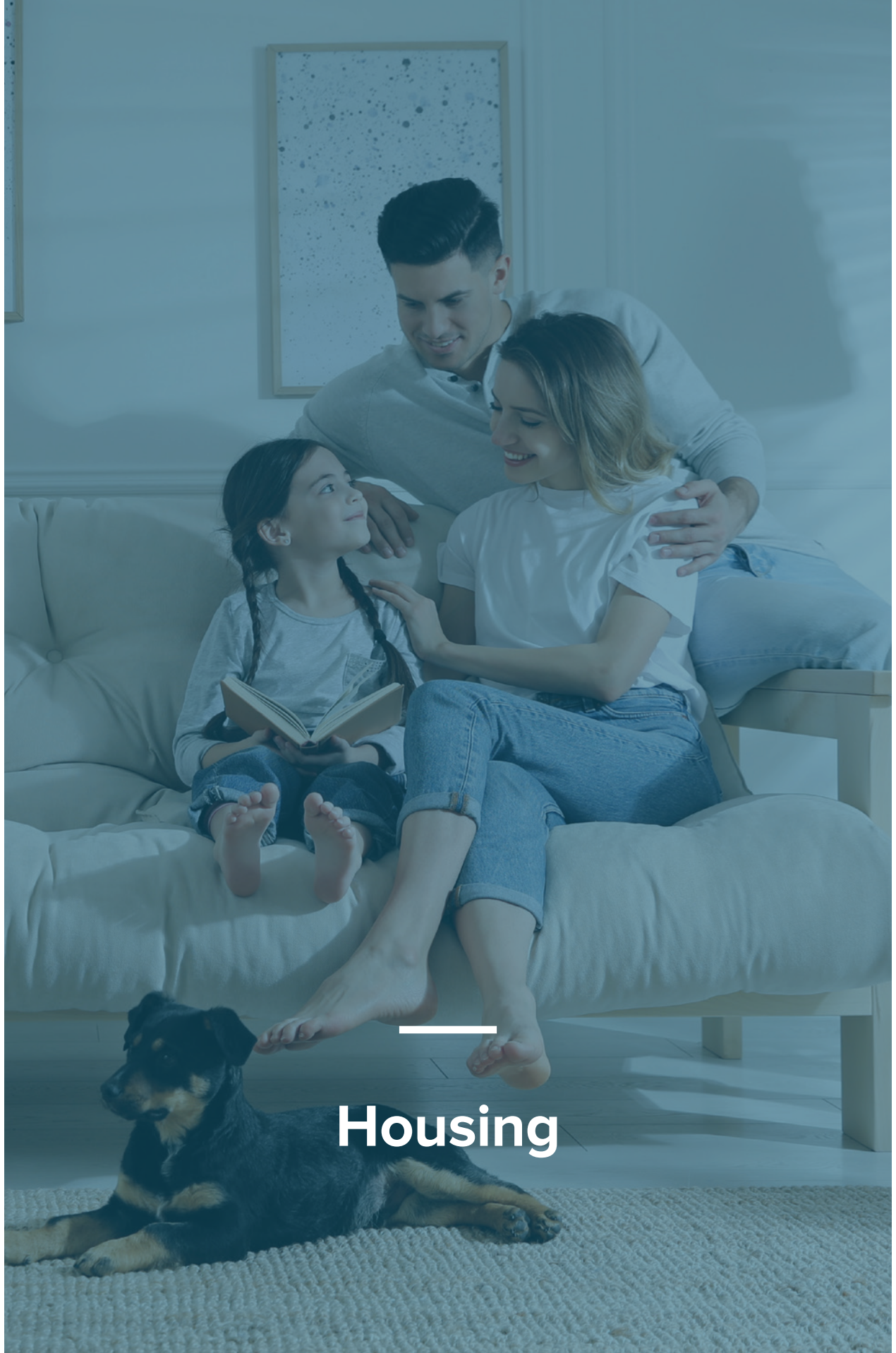
Workforce development at OU Health is a strategic priority grounded in our commitment to long-term health system sustainability and community advancement. Our goal is to cultivate a diverse, future-ready pipeline of healthcare professionals by engaging individuals at all stages of their educational journey. From early exposure in high school to post-graduate fellowships, we are building a workforce that is representative of and responsive to the communities we serve.

Our model is rooted in strong academic partnerships with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, including the Colleges of Allied Health, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health. Together, we co-develop pathways that are both clinically relevant and mission-aligned, ensuring graduates are prepared to transition seamlessly into roles at OU Health.

Through initiatives like the Healthcare Career Explorer Program, we provide high school seniors and early college students with paid placements, mentorship, and career exposure that demystifies healthcare professions and encourages early engagement. At the post-graduate level, programs like the Master of Health Administration (MHA) Fellows initiative have proven successful in retaining top talent; three former fellows currently serve in full-time roles at OU Health. This end-to-end approach strengthens our internal pipeline and reduces reliance on external or contract labor.

Workforce development at OU Health is ultimately about building a healthcare system where opportunity, inclusion, and excellence are accessible to all. As we advance our aspiration to be Oklahoma's employer of choice, we are deepening academic partnerships, expanding early pipeline programs, and implementing a holistic talent strategy. In doing so, we not only meet our internal staffing needs but also contribute to the broader health and economic vitality of Oklahoma.

Program/Initiative	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
<b>Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand Participation: Increase the number of students participating in the Career Explorers and fellowship programs.</li> <li>Improve Conversion Rates: Boost the conversion rate of student interns to full-time employees.</li> <li>Strengthen Partnerships: Enhance collaborations with local high schools, career techs, and colleges.</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advance Career Readiness: Equip students with paid, real-world healthcare experience, mentorship, and career exposure to help them successfully enter the healthcare workforce.</li> <li>Foster Local Employment: Prioritize hiring from within the communities we serve, supporting local economic growth and enhancing workforce stability.</li> <li>Develop a Sustainable, Inclusive Workforce: Create a continuous pipeline of diverse, qualified professionals who reflect our community and reduce reliance on external labor.</li> </ul>
<b>Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS)</li> <li>CareerTech and Vo-Tech institutions</li> <li>HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)</li> <li>OU Health Sciences Center Colleges (Nursing, Allied Health, Pharmacy)</li> <li>Hudson College of Public Health</li> </ul>
<b>Key Metrics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of Participants: Track student participation across high school, college, and post-graduate programs.</li> <li>Conversion Rates: Measure the percentage of participants who are hired into full-time roles at OU Health.</li> <li>Scholarship Distribution: Monitor the amount and number of scholarships awarded to students.</li> <li>Program Growth &amp; Reach: Assess expansion in program offerings and depth of academic and community partnerships.</li> </ul>



# Housing

Stable, affordable housing is a fundamental component of health and well-being, yet many residents in Oklahoma City face challenges related to housing affordability, quality, and availability<sup>17</sup>. Housing instability—caused by high rental costs, low homeownership rates, and substandard living conditions—contributes to stress, poor mental health, and increased risks of chronic disease<sup>18</sup>. Additionally, homelessness remains a pressing issue, particularly for vulnerable populations such as low-income families, individuals with disabilities, and those experiencing mental health or substance use challenges<sup>19</sup>. Addressing housing disparities through policy changes, increased affordable housing options, and supportive housing programs is critical to improving public health outcomes<sup>20</sup>.

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## PRIMARY GOALS

1

**Expand access to medical respite care** for individuals experiencing homelessness who require a safe environment to recover following hospitalization.

2

**Improve care continuity for unhoused patients** through coordinated discharge planning and connections to primary care, behavioral health, and housing services.

3

**Reduce avoidable hospital readmissions and emergency room visits** by addressing housing-related barriers to recovery and treatment adherence.

4

**Strengthen partnerships between healthcare providers, housing organizations, and community-based services** to support individuals transitioning out of acute care.

5

**Support long-term housing stability** for medically vulnerable individuals by linking respite care patients to permanent housing and supportive services.

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<sup>17</sup> *Housing Affordability Study (2021)* | City of OKC. <https://www.okc.gov/departments/planning/what-we-do/plans-studies/the-housing-affordability-study-2021>

<sup>18</sup> *Housing Instability - Healthy People 2030* | [odphp.health.gov](https://odphp.health.gov). (n.d.). <https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/housing-instability>

<sup>19</sup> *Health - National Alliance to End Homelessness*. (2025, January 24). National Alliance to End Homelessness. <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/what-causes-homelessness/health/>

<sup>20</sup> Leifheit, K. M., Schwartz, G. L., Pollack, C. E., & Linton, S. L. (2022). Building health equity through housing policies: critical reflections and future directions for research. *Journal of epidemiology and community health*, 76(8), 759–763. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jech-2021-216439>



# Medical Respite Care

OU Health will partner with Cardinal House to provide short-term medical respite care for individuals experiencing homelessness who are not ill enough to remain hospitalized but are too vulnerable to recover on the streets or in shelters. This collaboration fills a critical gap by offering a safe, stable environment for healing after hospitalization or during active treatment (e.g., wound care, antibiotics, follow-up visits). Patients receive support for both their medical and social needs while working toward long-term stability.

Program/Initiative	RESPIRE CARE
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve post-acute health outcomes for individuals without stable housing.</li><li>• Ensure patients complete their prescribed treatments (e.g., antibiotics, wound care regimens).</li><li>• Connect patients to long-term housing, primary care, and behavioral health resources.</li></ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a transitional care option for unhoused patients discharged from hospitals who require ongoing treatment and recovery time.</li><li>• Strengthen care continuity between inpatient services, street medicine, and long-term housing.</li><li>• Reduce preventable hospital readmissions and emergency room utilization.</li></ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cardinal House Community House</li><li>• Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City</li><li>• Homeless Alliance</li></ul>
Key Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of patients admitted to Cardinal House for respite care</li><li>• Average length of stay per patient</li><li>• Completion rate of prescribed treatments during respite stays</li><li>• Reduction in hospital readmissions or ER visits within 30 days of discharge</li><li>• Number of patients successfully linked to primary care or housing support post-discharge</li></ul>



[OUHealth.com](http://OUHealth.com)