

Annual Community Benefit Report

Fiscal Year 2023



A photograph of the Arkansas Children's Northwest hospital building at dusk. The building is a large, modern structure with a curved facade and many windows, some of which are illuminated from within. The sky is a deep blue with some clouds. In the foreground, there is a parking lot and some landscaping. The text "Arkansas Children's Northwest" is visible on the building's facade. The word "EMERGENCY" is visible on a sign to the left of the main building. The name "Tyson Family Tower" is visible on the lower part of the building.

A note from

Arkansas Children's

Executive Summary

From our early roots as a home for orphaned children to our role today as Arkansas's only pediatric health care system, Arkansas Children's has a long history of supporting the communities we serve. Fiscal year (FY) 2023 continues this legacy with a combined total of \$121,880,764 invested back into communities between our two hospitals. This investment ensures children receive the health care they need, regardless of financial barriers their family faces; paves the way of future health care professionals through education; supports cutting-edge research; addresses social conditions and health issues affecting child health; and aids other non-profit organizations to partner in our mission of making children better today and healthier tomorrow.

Focusing on the child health issues identified in the 2022 Arkansas Children's Community Health Needs Assessments, this year brought to fruition a successful mobile vaccine effort improving vaccine access in some of the state's highest need areas, mobilized efforts to improve pediatric access to mental health resources, launched programming to prepare communities to respond to cardiac emergencies, and more.

Thank you to the many partners who have worked beside us to make the children of Arkansas better today and healthier tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisha DiCarlo".

Marisha DiCarlo, PhD, MPH

Vice President of Community Engagement, Advocacy and Health



About Arkansas Children's

Children are at the center of everything we do.

Arkansas Children's is the only hospital system in the state solely dedicated to caring for children, which allows our organization to uniquely shape the landscape of pediatric care in Arkansas. We are driven by four core values: safety, teamwork, compassion, and excellence. These values inform every decision and every action, from the aggressive pursuit of zero hospital infections to treating each family with dignity, kindness, and concern. These core values fundamentally guide our work at Arkansas Children's.

For more than a century, we have continuously evolved to meet the unique needs of the children of Arkansas and beyond. Today, we are more than just a hospital treating sick kids - our system includes two hospitals, a pediatric research institute, a foundation, clinics, education and outreach, all with an unyielding commitment to making children better today and healthier tomorrow.

Mission

We champion children by making them better today and healthier tomorrow.

Vision

Our Promise:
Unprecedented child health.
Defined and delivered.



HOSPITALS • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

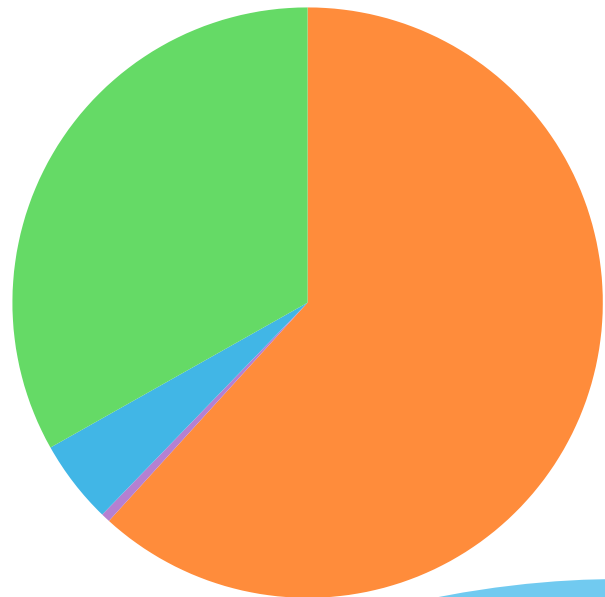
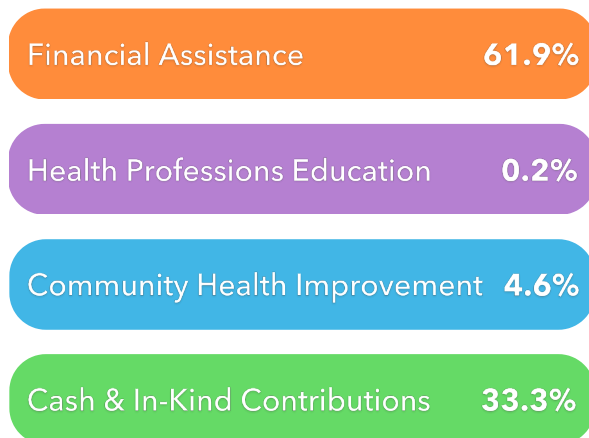
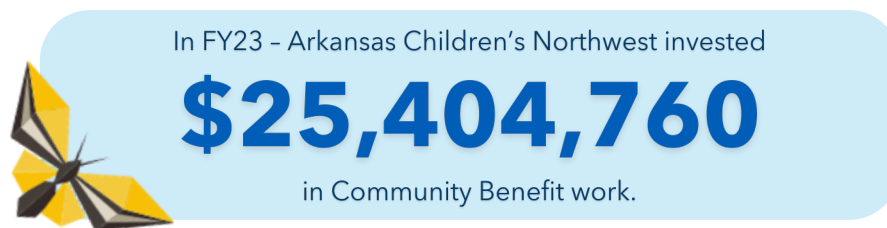
What is Community Benefit?

Community benefit is any program or service that responds to a demonstrated health/related community need and seeks to achieve at least one of the following:

- Improve access to health care
- Enhance the health of the community
- Advance medical health or knowledge
- Relieve or reduce the burden of government or other community health efforts

Arkansas Children's has a legacy of supporting community benefit work to ensure that children, youth and their families can plug into healthy communities. In all we do, our focus is working to meet the needs of children and their families to restore children to health, avoid preventable injuries and promote good health practices. Our community benefit strategy involves a multi-faceted approach to use our time, talent, and resources to improve the lives of children and their families.

This report covers audited financial numbers for FY 2023 as reported on Schedule H of the IRS Form 990, addresses health needs identified during the 2022 Arkansas Children's Northwest (ACNW) Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), and addresses activities outlined in the ACNW 2023-2025 Implementation Strategy.



Financial Assistance

\$15,741,920

to support qualifying families' health care needs.



At Arkansas Children's, we are committed to providing safe, high quality, affordable health care, and we recognize the financial burden that medical bills may cause. During the 2022 CHNA, poverty and finances were identified as an intersecting need, adding additional challenges and

complications to all other child health needs identified. Providing uncompensated care and financial assistance helps to ensure families not only are able to receive the health care their child needs, but also are not burdened with medical bills that hinder their ability to provide for their family.

By the Numbers

565

financial assistance applications

1,515

Medicaid applications

All patients that identify as uninsured, or families that have high deductibles or balances, are screened for Medicaid by the dedicated team of financial counselors at ACNW. Financial counseling is offered by both Spanish and Marshallese-speaking staff, in addition to English, to best serve the Northwest Arkansas community. Additionally, applications for financial assistance are available at all registration areas, can be found on MyChart, on the back of patient bills, and on our website.

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Every day our financial counselors are supplying families with resources they didn't think they would qualify for or they didn't even know existed.

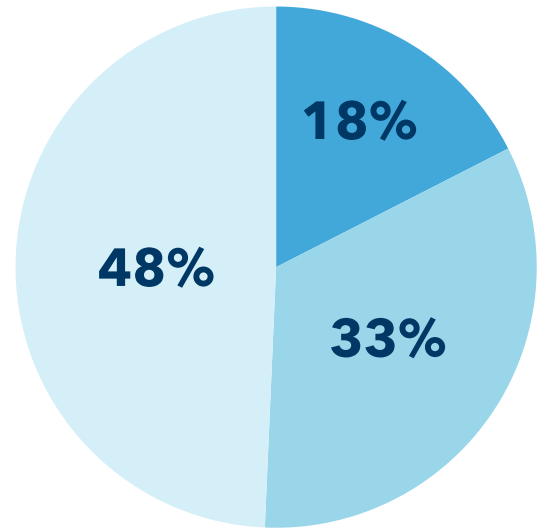
– ACNW Team Member

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Financial Assistance At-A-Glance

Charity Care at Cost	\$2,752,055
Unreimbursed Medicaid	\$5,227,326
Subsidized Health Services	\$7,762,539
Total \$15,741,920	



Supporting Families through TEFRA

"Many times our greatest success stories are with our patients families that qualify for TEFRA (Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act). TEFRA is not income based, so in many cases, families do not realize they qualify for the program. They just assume that since they are over income for Medicaid, they will not qualify for other types of assistance. If they have chronic health conditions, often we can help get them approved and the premiums they pay are a fraction of the cost they pay for their deductibles or out of pocket costs."

– ACNW Access Manager



Health Professions Education

\$39,224

to support the future health workforce.



By providing educational experiences to health professions around the state, Arkansas Children's helps to build a future workforce of high-quality health care professionals and increase access to care for children in Arkansas.

This work includes activities and programs such as:

- Tuition assistance for health professions
- Nursing student clinical rotations

By the Numbers



22

individuals received
tuition assistance

Tuition Assistance for a Healthier Tomorrow

"The tuition assistance program allowed me to complete a Master's degree without the burden of taking out student loans. I was able to advance my knowledge and skills in my field, and ultimately advance to a higher level in the organization. I'm thankful this program was available to help me further impact our mission to make children better today and healthier tomorrow."

– Tuition Assistance Recipient



Community Health Improvement Programs

\$1,175,605

to support the identified health needs of children and their families.

Arkansas Children's delivered on their promise to communities by continued implementation of health improvement programs designed to meet the demonstrated health needs found in their most recent CHNA. The CHNA identified needs through a process of primary and secondary data collection, analysis, and prioritization, with engagement in robust community listening. From behavioral and mental health to injury prevention, community benefit efforts touched each need with a collaborative partnerships-based approach.

Some results of these efforts:

3,317 mobile dental procedures

2,910 mobile dental screenings

49 Child Passenger Safety Technicians certified



ACNW 2022 CHNA Prioritized Health Needs

Primary Priorities

- Behavioral & Mental Health
- Immunizations
- Food Insecurity

Secondary Priorities

- Infant Health
- Child Abuse & Neglect
- Access to Care

Sustaining Activities

- Childhood Obesity
- Injury Prevention

Intersecting Needs Poverty & Finances



Expanding Vaccine Access Where Children Live, Learn, and Play

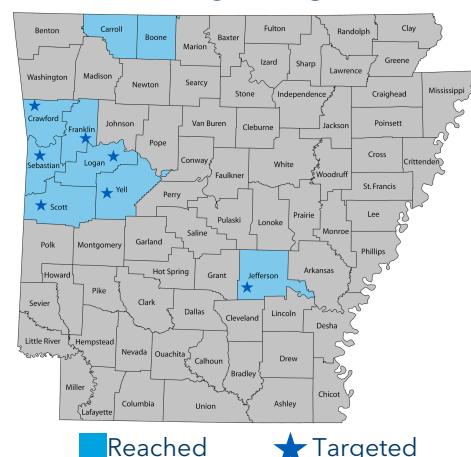
Vaccines protect children when they are most vulnerable and can keep them safe from contracting dangerous, and even deadly, viruses. Despite years of evidence that vaccines are safe and effective, they still often can be hard to access. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is a federally funded, state administered program that allows children who are on Medicaid, are underinsured, or are uninsured to access vaccines at no cost. In 2022, 12 counties in the state only had access to the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program in the county local health units.¹ Arkansas Children's heard that with limited access, families often had to travel long distances to access the vaccines, or had to choose between paying full price for vaccines at a pharmacy or paying for other basic necessities.

By the Numbers

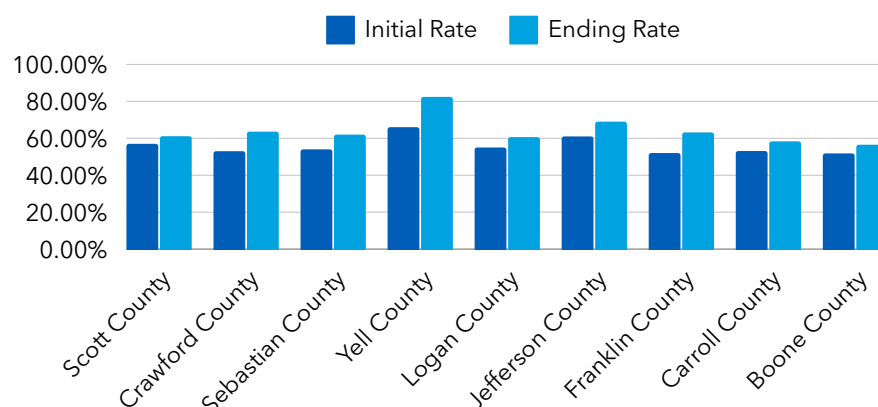
709 immunizations provided

During FY23, Arkansas Children's worked to create a mobile vaccine strategy to target seven Arkansas counties with low immunization rates and low VFC provider access. These counties included Crawford, Franklin, Sebastian, Logan, Scott, Yell, and Jefferson. Through the work of this mobile vaccine strategy and partnerships, 709 needed immunizations were provided to children in the seven target low access counties, plus additional counties of Carroll and Boone, successfully reaching children where they live, learn and play. This program achieved target immunization rate goals in all seven target counties, improving immunization rates in counties by as much as 25% (Yell County). The learnings from this strategy have informed future work around advancing the VFC program to more sites for broadened access to these lifesaving vaccines.

FY23 REACH



FY23 IMMUNIZATION RATE IMPACT



1. Arkansas Children's. (2022). 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (p. 29). Little Rock, AR.



Cash and In-Kind Contributions

\$8,448,011

to improve the health needs of children and their families.



At Arkansas Children's we understand that we cannot do the work of improving child health alone; therefore, cash and in-kind contributions are made to support other non-profits who share our mission and who help us meet child health needs identified in our triennial community health needs assessments.

During FY23, these contributions benefitted 12 organizations, including regional food banks and pantries; the Children's Safety Center of Washington County, a non-profit organization based on the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) model and facilitates more effective prevention, detection, investigation, and treatment of child abuse; and Tri Cycle Farms, who was able to distribute 33,700 eggs to families in the Northwest Arkansas region because of Arkansas Children's support.

Advancing Food Security Through Partnership

"We recognize the importance of initiatives promoting nutrition education and access to fresh, locally sourced produce, especially among low-income students in underserved urban areas. Apple Seeds has been a valued partner in advancing food security goals, and their dedication to empowering young minds aligns seamlessly with our mission."

– Arkansas Children's Leader

33,700

eggs donated to families in need



