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# **HOSPITAL COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT**

## 2024

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Hospitals are pillars of strength in our communities, providing essential, lifesaving care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Their impact extends far beyond the walls of their facilities. The Nebraska Hospital Association’s 2024 Community Impact Annual Report highlights the many meaningful ways hospitals are advancing the health and well-being of patients, supporting health care professionals, and strengthening communities across the state.

Nebraska’s hospitals collectively employ more than 54,000 individuals, making them one of the largest economic engines in the state. Despite the financial challenges many hospitals face, these institutions remain steadfast in their commitment to providing high-quality care and essential community services. Through innovative programs, strategic investments, and strong local partnerships, hospitals continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Nebraskans.

This report underscores the vital role hospitals play in strengthening Nebraska’s health care workforce, expanding access to care, fostering healthier communities, and driving economic growth. From charity care and community outreach programs to workforce development initiatives and emergency preparedness efforts, hospitals across the state are dedicated to improving lives beyond traditional patient care.

While this report highlights just a fraction of the invaluable work being done, it serves as a testament to the resilience, dedication, and impact of hospitals in our state. We are honored to share these stories and celebrate the unwavering commitment of our vital health care heroes.

We are Nebraska hospitals.

Jeremy Nordquist  
NHA President



# NEBRASKA HOSPITAL COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



## TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NEBRASKA HOSPITALS

This number represents the overall contribution of hospitals to Nebraska's economy, including direct spending, employment, and the ripple effects on other industries. Nebraska hospitals play a massive financial role in the state, driving economic stability, supporting local businesses, and contributing to the overall prosperity of Nebraskans.



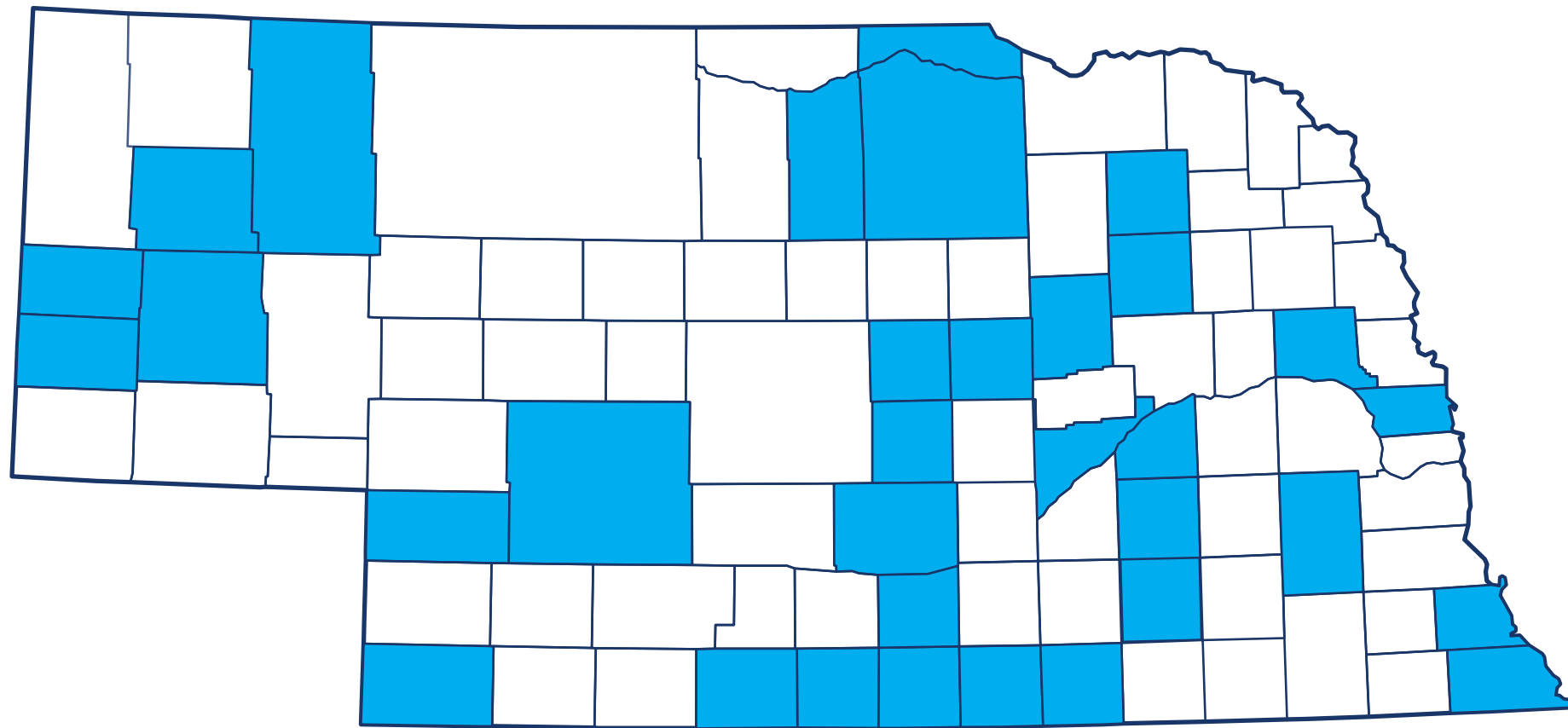
## JOBS HOSPITALS PROVIDE IN NEBRASKA

Hospitals directly provided 54,212 jobs, and each one of those jobs supported at least one additional job in the broader community, resulting in a total of 108,793 jobs. This substantial figure underscores the critical role hospitals play as economic anchors, significantly contributing to overall well-being and stability in their communities.



## HOSPITAL PAYROLL & BENEFITS

This encompasses the total wages and benefits paid to hospital employees, representing a substantial investment in Nebraska's workforce, providing stable jobs and income for thousands of residents.



HEALTH CARE OVERALL EMPLOYS MORE NEBRASKANS THAN ANY OTHER INDUSTRY AND IS THE NUMBER ONE EMPLOYER IN ONE THIRD OF NEBRASKA COUNTIES.

Nebraska's non-profit hospitals are committed to addressing the overall well-being in their communities. They do this by providing community benefits - health care-related services, often with little or no compensation, to address critical needs in the community. These services include:



Health outreach services to vulnerable or underserved people



Financial assistance and in-kind support of public health programs



Health education screening and prevention services



Medical research projects



Physician, nurse, and highly skilled health care professional training initiatives

# NEBRASKA HOSPITAL COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

**\$1,697,267,977**

**TOTAL COMMUNITY  
BENEFITS**

This is the total financial value of all community benefit programs provided by hospitals, including uncompensated care and bad debt. This figure highlights hospitals' commitment to addressing community health needs, particularly for vulnerable populations.

**\$1,132,693,343**

**UNCOMPENSATED CARE &  
CHARITY CARE**

This number includes the costs of charity care and the financial shortfalls from government programs like Medicare and Medicaid. Hospitals serve as a safety net for those who may not otherwise have access to care, continually working to eliminate barriers to health care services.

**\$324,511,050**

**CASH & IN-KIND  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

This represents direct financial contributions, donations, and grants made by hospitals to community organizations and initiatives. These contributions support vital community programs and services, strengthening the social fabric of Nebraska.

**\$108,244,711**

**HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATION**

This is the total amount hospitals spent on the education of health professionals in Nebraska. This investment helps ensure that there is a future health care workforce, and that the workforce, is well-trained, improving the quality of health care available in our communities.

**\$57,034,506**

**TOTAL SUBSIDIZED  
HEALTH SERVICES**

This number includes the costs of providing essential clinical services that are subsidized by hospitals, often at a financial loss. This ensures access to critical health care services that may not be financially viable otherwise, such as emergency and trauma care, neonatal intensive care, behavioral health services, and services for women and children.

**\$23,138,991**

**COMMUNITY HEALTH  
IMPROVEMENT SERVICES**

This represents investments in programs that address the Social Determinants of Health, such as access to healthy food and safe housing, as well as preventive care and improving the overall health and well-being of the community.

**\$22,911,391**

**BAD DEBT**

This is the amount of money that hospitals are unable to collect from patients for services rendered. While this is a negative number from an operating standpoint, hospitals are committed to providing care to every patient, regardless of their ability and willingness to pay.

**\$3,427,263**

**COMMUNITY BUILDING  
ACTIVITIES**

This includes investments in programs that improve the community's infrastructure and social well-being, such as workforce development and housing initiatives. These activities strengthen the community's foundation and create a healthier environment for residents.

# NEBRASKA HOSPITALS ARE INCREASINGLY INVESTING TIME AND RESOURCES INTO IMPROVING ACCESS TO CRUCIAL ASPECTS OF HEALTH CARE LIKE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, MATERNAL CARE, SENIOR CARE, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- ✓ Telehealth Expansion
- ✓ Increased Behavioral Health Professional Staffing
- ✓ Community-Based Behavioral Health Initiatives
- ✓ Specialty Mental Health Programs
- ✓ School Partnerships for Mental Health

*In 2024, we opened a Behavioral Health Urgent Care for children and adolescents in Kearney — the first of its kind in the state. We also have instituted the Zero Suicide Initiative to improve the identification and care of children at risk for suicide.*

### Children’s Nebraska

*We are preparing to launch several behavioral health programs at our community health clinic Pharmacogenomics Testing (PGX) to improve medication management for behavioral health. The testing process includes a patient/provider wraparound model with the goal of improving care coordination, closing care quality gaps, achieving treatment goals, gaining control of chronic conditions, and reducing hospitalizations and readmissions.*

### Chadron Community Hospital

*We expanded geriatric behavioral health through our Senior Life Solutions program which focuses on issues facing our aging population such as isolation, depression, loss of a loved one, loss of mobility, and chronic health issues. We also provide free or subsidized behavioral health care to many of our teens and adolescents.*

### Kearney County Health Services

*Our Methodist Hospital Community Counseling Program offers affordable and accessible counseling services within clients’ neighborhoods. The services are delivered in Omaha Public Schools, High Schools, Middle Schools, and Alternative Programs (25 sites), three Metro Community College sites, and seven community locations. Therapy services are also available via telehealth throughout the state of Nebraska. Due to the generosity of the Methodist Hospital Foundation, no one is turned away due to an inability to pay.*

### Methodist Hospital

## MATERNAL CARE

- ✓ Retaining Obstetrics Service
- ✓ Enhancing Maternal Care Capabilities
- ✓ Community Support Programs
- ✓ Rural Access Solutions
- ✓ Postpartum Support

*Through financial challenges, our organization continues to provide OB services, guaranteeing residents access to safe maternal care without extensive travel. Last year, a pregnant patient en route to Omaha for care experienced fetal distress and stopped at our Emergency Department, where an emergency cesarean section saved her and her baby. This incident underscores the critical importance of maintaining local OB services, as a delay in care could have resulted in a far worse outcome.*

### Memorial Community Hospital and Health System

*Our hospital expanded its maternal and infant care services through the creation of a specialized nursery unit and comprehensive educational programs, including childbirth classes and staff training. We further enhanced patient support with a safe sleep program, breastfeeding education, bereavement services for pregnancy loss, and the introduction of midwifery services.*

### Columbus Community Hospital

*Our hospital has strengthened its obstetrics program by expanding staffing with a dedicated OB nursing team, supporting our five family practice physicians providing OB services. We've enhanced comprehensive care by adding lactation consultant services, hosting a Baby Fair for expectant parents, implementing routine postpartum mental health screenings, participating in national perinatal quality initiatives, providing access to donor breast milk, and ensuring effective communication through certified language interpretation services.*

### York General



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SENIOR CARE

- ✓ Age-Friendly Expansion
- ✓ Long-Term Care Support
- ✓ Community Engagement
- ✓ Chronic Care Management
- ✓ Transportation Access

Despite experiencing a \$1.2 million loss in our Long-Term Care (LTC) unit during FY23, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing essential services. We are actively investing in the future of our LTC with ongoing facility upgrades and workforce retention.

Jefferson Community Health & Life

We are proactively expanding our Chronic Care Management (CCM) program to better serve our senior population, including complimentary membership to our new 17,000 sq ft Wellness Center.

Howard County Medical Center

Our pharmacists educate and support patients through public health programs and community events, such as our local Boomerfest, and at Senior Centers with Medicare annual drug plan selection. Our home health care providers host a grief support group for those who have recently lost loved ones. The clinical and emergency medical services teams attend various health fairs where they complete blood pressure and blood glucose checks.

Providence Medical Center

We provide community-based health and wellness services, including a monthly diabetes support group and 12-week tai chi classes focused on stress reduction, balance, and strength improvement.

Merrick Medical Center

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Addressing Workforce Shortages
- ✓ Financial Aid for Health Care Careers
- ✓ Internships and Clinicals
- ✓ College and Facility Partnerships
- ✓ Health Care Career Education

CHI Health is committed to developing the healthcare workforce throughout the state. Approximately \$50 million is allocated annually to workforce development, with a significant focus on nursing (around 25%) through scholarships, loan forgiveness, and educational assistance. We have also secured \$1 million in grants to bolster the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) workforce pipeline and expand teen volunteer programs.

CHI Health

We have developed rural internships and clinical experiences for medical and allied health students and are recruiting physicians to underserved priority areas.

Great Plains Health

We are collaborating with state community colleges and adapting successful strategies from other industries. We launched a 10-hospital pilot program, offering financial support and job commitments to non-traditional candidates identified through community college screening in exchange for a three-year service commitment. This initiative seeks to fill critical clinical workforce gaps by tapping into a broader talent pool.

Bryan Medical Center

We are investing in our workforce through tuition reimbursement, student loan forgiveness programs, and discounted tuition partnerships with local institutions. We have developed nursing scholarships with local colleges, clinical preceptorships across various health care roles, and leadership training opportunities.

Boys Town National Research Hospital

# PARTICIPATING HOSPITALS

Antelope Memorial Hospital	Neligh	Great Plains Health	North Platte
Avera Creighton Hospital	Creighton	Harlan County Hospital	Alma
Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center	Beatrice	Henderson Health Care	Henderson
Boone County Hospital & Health Center	Albion	Howard County Medical Center	St Paul
Box Butte General Hospital	Alliance	Jefferson Community Health & Life	Fairbury
Boys Town National Research Hospital	Omaha	Johnson County Hospital	Tecumseh
Brodstone Memorial Hospital	Superior	Kearney County Health Services	Minden
Brown County Hospital	Ainsworth	Kearney Regional Medical Center	Kearney
Bryan Medical Center	Lincoln	Lexington Regional Health Center	Lexington
Bulter County Health Center	David City	Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals	Lincoln/Omaha
Callaway District Hospital	Callaway	Mary Lanning Healthcare	Hastings
Chadron Community Hospital	Chadron	Memorial Community Health	Aurora
CHI Health Creighton Bergan Mercy	Omaha	Memorial Community Hospital & Health System	Blair
CHI Health Good Samaritan	Kearney	Memorial Health Care Systems	Seward
CHI Health Immanuel	Omaha	Merrick Medical Center	Central City
CHI Health Lakeside	Omaha	Methodist Fremont Hospital	Fremont
CHI Health Midlands	Papillion	Morrill County Community Hospital	Bridgeport
CHI Health Nebraska Heart	Lincoln	Nebraska Medicine	Omaha/Bellevue
CHI Health Plainview	Plainview	Nebraska Methodist & Methodist Women's Hospital	Omaha
CHI Health Schuyler	Schuyler	Nemaha County Hospital	Auburn
CHI Health St. Elizabeth	Lincoln	Ogallala Community Hospital	Ogallala
CHI Health St. Francis	Grand Island	Osmond General Hospital	Osmond
CHI Health St. Mary's	Nebraska City	Pawnee County Memorial Hospital	Pawnee City
Children's Nebraska	Omaha	Pender Community Hospital	Pender
Columbus Community Hospital	Columbus	Phelps Memorial Health Center	Holdredge
Community Hospital	McCook	Providence Medical Center	Wayne
Community Medical Center	Falls City	Regional West Health Services	Scottsbluff
Cozad Community Health Center	Cozad	Rock County Hospital	Bassett
Crete Area Medical Center	Crete	Saunders Medical Center	Wahoo
Dundy County Hospital	Benkelman	Sidney Regional Medical Center	Sidney
Faith Regional Health Services	Norfolk	Syracuse Area Health	Syracuse
Fillmore County Hospital	Geneva	Thayer County Health Services	Hebron
Genoa Medical Facilities	Genoa	Tri Valley Health System	Cambridge
Gordon Memorial Health Services	Gordon	West Holt Medical Services	Atkinson
Gothenburg Health	Gothenburg	York General	York
Grand Island Regional Medical Center	Grand Island		



THANK YOU!

**NHA** | NEBRASKA  
HOSPITALS