HOSPITAL COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

2026

NHA | NEBRASKA HOSPITALS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 2026 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 nearly 56,000 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 & CEO

NEBRASKA HOSPITAL COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NEBRASKA HOSPITALS

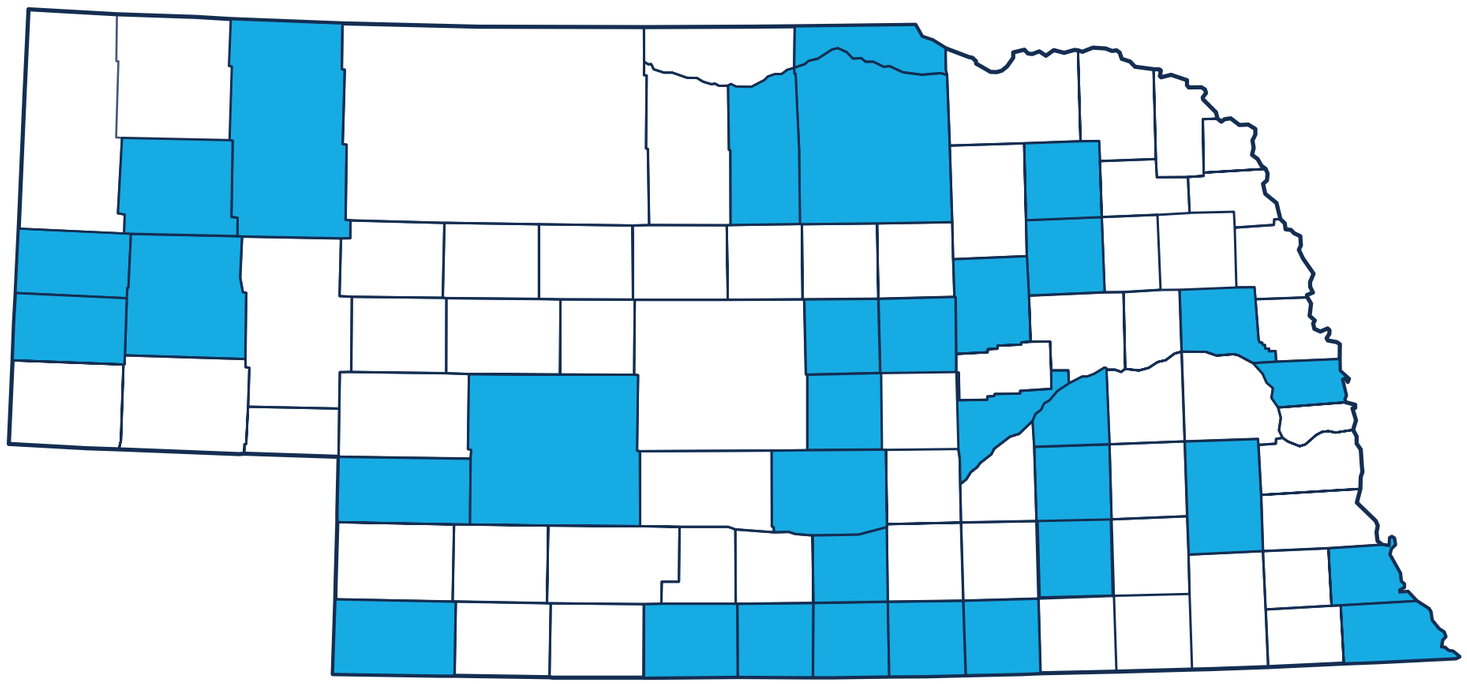
This number represents the overall contribution of hospitals to Nebraska's economy, including direct spending, employment, and the ripple effects on other industries. Nebraska hospitals play a massive financial role in the state, driving economic stability, supporting local businesses, and contributing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

JOBS PROVIDED BY NEBRASKA HOSPITALS

Each of the 55,853 hospital jobs supported about one additional job in the broader economy. Overall, hospitals contributed 114,091 jobs to total employment, accounting for 10.7% of total non-farm employment.

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.



THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY 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

$1,749,623,175

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.

$1,090,315,387

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.

$323,930,164

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.

$149,633,157

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.

$73,323,468

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.

$34,399,335

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.

$38,113,890

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/or willingness to pay.

$4,025,058

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

Home to the largest behavioral health service outside of Omaha in terms of providers and services, our hospital is removing barriers to care through same-day access for new patients, online scheduling, and open doors for all existing patients. Our specialists collaborate with schools, probation offices, and local jails to provide comprehensive mental health support.

Great Plains Health, North Platte

Our hospital has made significant and ongoing improvements to behavioral health services in response to the growing need in our community. We have expanded outpatient services and maintain a robust inpatient program serving patients from across the state of Nebraska. Our teams also focus on community advocacy and education, with efforts to build trust, foster understanding, and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health treatment.

Methodist Fremont Health, Fremont

In the 2023 reporting period, our hospital screened over 38,000 patients for depression and managed nearly 25,000 behavioral health visits. In 2026, in partnership with the Mental Health Innovation Foundation, we opened the Behavioral Health & Wellness Center that provides a world-class model of comprehensive behavioral and mental health care with inpatient, outpatient, and partial hospitalization needs co-located with medical health needs.

Children's Nebraska, Omaha

To address the growing need for specialized care, our hospital recruited additional child and adolescent psychiatrists and providers, significantly bolstering capacity. Telepsychiatry services have also been expanded, bringing critical support to rural and underserved areas, including Critical Access Hospitals across Nebraska. This expansion now encompasses new locations such as Albion, Alliance, Lexington, McCook, Sidney, Tecumseh, Valentine, Wahoo, and Wayne, building upon the already existing services in Norfolk, Howard County, Kearney YRTC, and Superior.

Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha

MATERNAL CARE

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

Following a record-breaking year with 289 deliveries in 2025, our hospital is further investing in its maternal care team. We are currently recruiting a fourth OB-GYN to support our patient and community needs.

Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center, Beatrice

Our hospital recently opened a new labor and delivery wing, increasing delivery room space and adding a family waiting room. To enhance patient safety, we have implemented the JADA system, a vital tool designed to control postpartum bleeding and prevent maternal mortality.

Brodstone Healthcare, Superior

Bryan Health and Bryan Medical Center launched the Bryan Baby app as well as an online screening tool for postpartum depression to support new families. We also introduced a postpartum wristband program to alert first responders and providers to the recent delivery that may impact patient health status as well as NICU telemedicine behavioral health services to quickly identify health crises in new mothers and connect patients to resources.

Bryan Medical Center, Lincoln

We are a Level II NICU and offer breastfeeding support, childbirth classes, and support groups for expecting mothers. We engage in perinatal quality improvement projects through the Nebraska Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative and with community partners to connect patients to resources and strengthen support.

Grand Island Regional Medical Center, Grand Island

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.

SENIOR CARE

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

We expanded Medicare population enrollment to our Chronic Care Management program by 50%, focusing on education, medication adherence and patient health goals. Additionally, home health staff provide regular blood pressure screenings at the local Senior Citizen Center to support community wellness.

Cherry County Hospital, Valentine

To ensure high-quality local senior care, our hospital invested $9 million in improvements to our assisted living building. Our collaboration with the local nursing home and assisted living facility keeps essential services attractive and accessible for area seniors.

Franciscan Healthcare, West Point

Our hospital adopted the national Age-Friendly Health initiative. This program focuses on the 4Ms: What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility to align clinical care with the specific health goals and safety needs of older adults. The program improves senior care and reduces hospital readmissions.

Crete Area Medical Center, Crete

Our hospital recently invested $2.2 million to support nursing home and assisted living operations, including the addition of a new secure memory care unit. These enhancements ensure a safe, sustainable continuum of care for residents with cognitive impairments.

Sidney Regional Medical Center, Sidney

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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

Our nursing home recently became a designated CNA training site, hosting classes that graduate approximately 48 students per year. The program has not only improved patient care by reducing reliance on contract labor but has also strengthened the local health care talent pool.

Gordon Memorial Hospital District, Gordon

We actively invest in workforce development through ongoing partnerships with regional schools and universities. During the past fiscal year, we supported medical resident training rotations, hosted nursing and allied health students for clinical experiences, welcomed university health care students for facility tours and specialty shadowing opportunities, and provided job-shadow experiences for high school students to promote early exposure to health care careers and strengthen the future workforce pipeline.

Kearney County Health Services, Kearney

Pender Community Hospital invests deeply in the people who serve our community every day. We offer tuition assistance to help current staff advance their education and loan repayment options to attract and retain providers in a rural setting. By attending local career fairs and maintaining a robust student shadowing program across disciplines, we are actively building the next generation of health care professionals.

Pender Community Hospital, Pender

In partnership with UNMC and UNK, our hospital is expanding the rural health care pipeline with a focus on non-traditional students and veterans. These educational efforts help support expanded access to inpatient services.

Kearney Regional Medical Center, Kearney

PARTICIPATING HOSPITALS

Antelope Memorial Hospital	Neligh
Avera Creighton Hospital	Creighton
Avera St. Anthony's Hospital	O'Neill
Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center	Beatrice
Boone County Health Center	Albion
Box Butte General Hospital	Alliance
Boys Town National Research Hospital	Omaha
Brodstone Memorial Hospital	Superior
Brown County Hospital	Ainsworth
Bryan Medical Center	Lincoln
Butler County Health Care Center	David City
Callaway District Hospital	Callaway
Chadron Community Hospital	Chadron
Chase County Community Hospital	Imperial
Cherry County Hospital	Valentine
CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center - Bergan Mercy	Omaha
CHI Health Good Samaritan	Kearney
CHI Health Immanuel	Omaha
CHI Health Lakeside	Omaha
CHI Health Midlands	Papillion
CHI Health Nebraska Heart	Lincoln
CHI Health Plainview	Plainview
CHI Health Schuyler	Schuyler
CHI Health St. Elizabeth	Lincoln
CHI Health St. Francis	Grand Island
CHI Health St. Mary's	Nebraska City
Children's Nebraska	Omaha
Columbus Community Hospital	Columbus
Community Hospital	McCook
Community Medical Center	Falls City
Cozad Community Health Center	Cozad
Crete Area Medical Center	Crete
Douglas County Community Mental Health Center	Omaha
Dundy County Hospital	Benkelman
Faith Regional Health Services	Norfolk
Fillmore County Hospital	Geneva
Franciscan Healthcare	West Point
Genoa Medical Facilities	Genoa
Gordon Memorial Hospital District	Gordon
Gothenburg Health	Gothenburg
Grand Island Regional Medical Center	Grand Island
Great Plains Health	North Platte
Henderson Health Care	Henderson
Howard County Medical Center	St. Paul
Jefferson Community Health & Life	Fairbury
Johnson County Hospital	Tecumseh
Kearney County Health Services	Minden
Kearney Regional Medical Center	Kearney
Kimball Health Services	Kimball
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals	Lincoln/Omaha
Mary Lanning Healthcare	Hastings
Memorial Community Hospital & Health System	Blair
Memorial Community Health	Aurora
Memorial Health Care Systems	Seward
Merrick Medical Center	Central City
Methodist Fremont Health	Fremont
Midwest Surgical Hospital	Omaha
Morrill County Community Hospital	Bridgeport
Nebraska Medicine	Omaha/Bellevue
Methodist Hospital & Methodist Women's Hospital	Omaha
OrthoNebraska	Omaha
Nemaha County Hospital	Auburn
Niobrara Valley Hospital	Lynch
Ogallala Community Hospital	Ogallala
Osmond General Hospital	Osmond
Pawnee County Memorial Hospital	Pawnee City
Pender Community Hospital	Pender
Phelps Memorial Health Center	Holdrege
Providence Medical Center	Wayne
Rock County Hospital	Bassett
Saunders Medical Center	Wahoo
Select Specialty Hospital	Omaha
Sidney Regional Medical Center	Sidney
Syracuse Area Health	Syracuse
Thayer County Health Services	Hebron
Valley County Health System	Ord
Webster County Community Hospital	Red Cloud
West Holt Medical Services	Atkinson