



# Community Health Needs Assessment

# 2024

*Progress Report*



**NEMOURS**  
CHILDREN'S HEALTH.

Well Beyond Medicine

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# About Nemours Children's Health



# About Nemours Children's Health

We are one of the nation's largest multistate pediatric health systems, which includes two free-standing children's hospitals and a network of nearly 75 primary and specialty care practices. We seek to transform the health of children by adopting a holistic health model that utilizes innovative, safe, and high-quality care, while also caring for the health of the whole child, beyond medicine. We also power KidsHealth.org from Nemours KidsHealt® — a pioneer and leader in pediatric health content, trusted by millions worldwide for more than 25 years to help keep families healthy.

In the Delaware Valley, we provide comprehensive pediatric care at our nationally ranked Nemours Children's Hospital. We also offer families access to primary and specialty care in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. In 2024, we provided nearly 500,000 outpatient visits at these locations. As Delaware's only Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center, we have reduced child deaths from injuries and contributed to statewide injury prevention initiatives.

Our mission is to provide leadership, institutions, and services to restore and improve the health of children through care and programs not readily available. We offer one high standard of quality and distinction, regardless of the recipient's financial status. We are committed to providing patient- and family-centered health care; educating the next generation of health care providers through a variety of education affiliations; offering extensive online and in-person continuing medical education; providing health and wellness information for kids, teens, parents, and educators via KidsHealth.org; and offering families 24/7 access to video visits with our health care providers via computers and mobile devices.

We have been recognized as a model of, and an advocate for, transforming the pediatric health care system from a focus on sickness to a focus on wellness, often in collaboration with community and health care partners. Our leaders and associates serve on numerous boards of organizations addressing health and children's issues, and a wide range of community organizations also receive sponsorship support as part of our commitment to support those who support children. We are also focused on bringing our standard of care — and better health — to local communities. We do this not only by providing both primary and specialty care at various locations throughout the region, but also by continuously seeking answers to the most vexing problems in children's health.

Our researchers look for and find novel treatments for complex childhood conditions while our population health and prevention specialists work to reverse long-standing patterns of unhealthy behavior across our communities. Our Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) provides an opportunity to survey community members and systematically address their concerns. This report details the strategies we employed in 2022 to address the top concerns identified, as well as the ongoing work to be conducted in these areas.



# Community Health Needs Assessment



# Community Health Needs Assessment

Every three years, we conduct a CHNA in compliance with requirements in the Affordable Care Act. Since 2016, the CHNA has allowed us to obtain a comprehensive data set on the health status, behaviors, and needs of children in our community, which for this assessment includes the three counties in the state of Delaware (New Castle, Kent, and Sussex). This data is used to inform a multiyear strategic plan to address community health needs.

Nemours Children's associates analyzed secondary data sources from the most up-to-date national, state, and local sources to assess the health needs of the community, while considering input from members of the community, stakeholders, and patient families. In 2022, our associates approached primary data collection differently than in years past. Instead of only asking the community "what" is wrong, we took the opportunity to draw from multidisciplinary expert panel discussions, in conjunction with information collected from over 30,000 Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) screenings in primary care locations across the region, to develop a more robust community-facing survey that leverages existing knowledge of the issues that persist with solution-driven questions related to their upstream causes and potential intervention strategies.

By expanding the scope of questions at the survey development stage, we ensured the community voice was not only present in the prioritization phase but also included in the implementation process and plan. Engagement with other internal and external networks involved in this work further bolstered our efforts in crafting a CHNA in 2022 that was truly responsive to the health landscape of our region. Our CHNA team remains in regular contact with the CHNA team at our Florida hospital as well as other health systems across the state to facilitate alignment, awareness of data-driven approaches, and partnership opportunities where appropriate. To download our 2022 CHNA Report, please visit [Nemours.org/about/community-health-needs.html](https://nemours.org/about/community-health-needs.html).

During the prioritization process, we asked survey participants to identify:

- The two most important characteristics of a healthy community
- The top three needs when thinking about the health of children, teens, and adolescents in their household and their community.

Participant feedback was aggregated to create the prioritization list below. This is the second iteration (2019, 2022) for which Health Care Access, Behaviors, and Outcomes are ranked separately from SDOH. The goal in having two distinct categories of need is to remain focused on a more comprehensive model, treating symptoms and diseases while also shifting focus to further upstream strategies.



Ranking	Health Care Access, Behaviors, Outcomes	Totals (n=537)	Social Determinants of Health	Totals (n=481)
1	Access to mental health care	297	Youth Activities and Opportunities	226
2	Mental Health/Trauma	206	Affordable Healthy Homes	180
3	Access to Medical Health Providers	188	Community Crime or Violence	174
4	Access to Dentists	142	Education	163
5	Substance Use/Misuse	125	Economic Development/Jobs	154
6	Not Enough Assistance/Resources to Health With Basic Needs	122	Environment/Air Quality	151
7	Nutrition	101	Transportation	122
8	Sexual/Reproductive Health	58	Food Insecurity	105
9	Asthma/Other Respiratory Conditions	51	Lack of Access to Affordable/ Reliable Internet	37
10	Access to Necessary Rx/Med Devices/Therapies (\$\$\$)	41	-	-

Senior leaders at Nemours Children's examined this information to identify the top two focus areas to be incorporated into our 2023–2025 CHNA Implementation Plan. In addition to considering the magnitude and severity of issues, the impact of these issues on the most vulnerable populations, resources available, areas in which we should be partnering with other key stakeholders, and the feasibility of addressing these issues over the next three years – our leadership also reviewed key SDOH screening tool data from thousands of patient families. This is in alignment with the 2020–2022 CHNA Implementation plan, which includes a specific goal around the use of SDOH screening tool data to inform strategy and recommendations in future iterations. Food insecurity remained a top three-identified need based on screening results over the previous 12 months. Based on these results, coupled with food insecurity landing within our top ten community-identified needs, Nemours Children's decided to incorporate food insecurity into the implementation plan for 2023–2025 period.

The final top two areas chosen were:

- Violence Prevention
- Food Insecurity

The remaining issue areas continue to be important to us, and we will work to improve these aspects of children's health through our patient care, research, and population health management efforts. Our commitment — in communities where it has a physical presence and beyond — is to be an important leader in designing the future of caring for children. As part of our journey to create the healthiest generations of children, we recently joined the Healthcare Anchor Network (HAN) to develop and implement a health care anchor strategy that leverages our economic impact on local communities to help address economic, social, and racial inequities. Momentum behind efforts like these directly aligns with the CHNA work and are key to ensuring a meaningful investment in the community is built into everything we do.

# Violence Prevention





# Violence Prevention

According to the CDC, youth homicides and nonfatal physical assault-related injuries result in an estimated \$100 billion annually in costs including medical, lost work, and quality and value of life. This estimate does not include costs to the criminal justice system. Children and adolescents exposed to violence are at risk for poor long-term behavioral and mental health outcomes regardless of whether they are victims, direct witnesses, or hear about the crime. Exposure to violence in a community can be experienced at various levels, including victimization, directly witnessing acts of violence, or hearing about events from other community members. This exposure can have long-term effects on a child's physical, mental, and emotional health, including an increased risk of chronic diseases, mental health disorders, and substance abuse. Delaware (6.9 per 100,000 population) does not meet the Healthy People 2030 goal of reducing the homicide rate to 5.5 per 100,000 population. In addition, more than 50% of the 2022 CHNA survey respondents have witnessed violence in their neighborhood or community on more than one occasion. Community members ranked community crime or violence as one of the top priorities for Nemours Children's to address in its implementation plan.

Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens ages 1 to 19 years in the United States. Delaware ranks number five in highest rate of gun violence per capita. The department of Population Health Management established a violence prevention task force, comprised of experts in the field, to advise on the most effective plan to address these staggering statistics. The group evaluated existing efforts and resources to identify opportunities for strategic partnerships, reviewed evidence-based best practices to understand how to address gaps, and leveraged established infrastructure to shape a CHNA violence prevention implementation plan reflective of the following key points:

- While many violence intervention programs exist in the state of Delaware, there are significant gaps in primary prevention-based programs and initiatives.
- Secure gun storage is critical to prevent unintended death or injury and suicide.
- Hospital systems with trauma centers have a unique opportunity to develop data-driven, impactful programs that support gunshot wound/assault victims in their care to prevent future victimization, retaliation, and death.
- The trust relationship between a physician and family needs to be leveraged to broker information and resources designed to prevent violent injury and death in youth.
- A focus on parents/caregivers in high-quality violence prevention education programs is key.
- Successful violence prevention programs center on health and safety vs. polarizing statements that take a firm stance on gun ownership/rights.

The health and safety of our patients and families has always been our top priority, and health and safety are not possible without gun safety. Suicide and community violence each contribute to nearly half of all annual gun deaths in the state. There are 4.6 million children living in homes with access to unlocked or unsupervised guns. In 75% of youth firearm suicides for which the gun storage method could be identified, the gun was stored loaded and unlocked. What's more, 32% of firearm suicides and unintentional firearm fatalities among youth could be reduced through safe storage alone. These realities, coupled with a wealth of research on the opportunity health providers have to broker safety discussions and resources, informed the strategic direction of the 2023-2025 Implementation Plan.

# Implementation Plan

## Initiative

Implement a referral pathway to an evidenced-based violence intervention program that incorporates support services to patients who experience violence to promote healing and prevent future confrontation death.

## Goals, Metrics, and Progress

**Goal:** Establish a Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) partnership with ChristianaCare Health System (CCHS) by the end of Y2, Q2 (6/30/24).

**Status:** Complete

**Metric:**

- A fully executed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Nemours Children's and ChristianaCare.
- ✓ **Progress: Complete.** An MOU was fully executed and recorded in April 2024.



**Goal:** Develop a pathway that triggers patient referral to the CCHS HVIP program based on established eligibility criteria by the end of Y2 (12/31/24).

**Status:** Complete

**Metric(s):**

- Expressed written approval of defined eligibility criteria for referral.  
✓ **Progress: Complete.** Leadership at both organizations reviewed eligibility criteria within the terms of the MOU and provided receipt of approval via the delivery and filing of an executed MOU signature page.
- Expressed written approval of the patient referral pathway.  
✓ **Progress: Complete.** Leadership at both organizations reviewed the HIPAA-compliant referral pathway, which utilizes the direct message inbox systems of EPIC (Nemours Children's) and CERNER (CCHS) to communicate pertinent patient information. Receipt of approval was provided via the delivery and filing of an executed MOU signature page. The pathway was adopted and fully operational by Q3 of 2024.



**Goal:** Refer at least 75% of eligible patients to the CCHS HVIP program in Y3 (1/1/25 - 12/31/25).

**Status:** Not started

**Metric(s):**

- Total number of patients seen at Nemours Children's who meet eligibility criteria for EVOLV referral  
✗ **Progress: Not started.** Progress will be reported on in Y3.
- Total number of patient referrals to CCHS HVIP program.  
✗ **Progress: Not started.** Progress will be reported on in Y3.





## Initiative

Identify opportunities in education for patients, families, and providers that promote evidence-based health and safety measures for the reduction of preventable death and injury due to gun violence.

## Goals, Metrics, and Progress

**Goal:** Develop and disseminate parent/caregiver secure storage education materials in 12 Delaware practice locations and on at least one digital platform by the end of Y2 (12/31/24).

**Status:** In Process

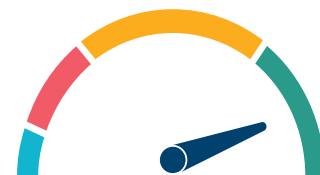


### Metric(s):

- Receipt of final approval of the Nemours Children's brand-compliant education content and design from leadership  
✓ **Progress: Complete.** A safe storage education campaign was developed in partnership with Coalition for a Safer Delaware and submitted to the Nemours Children's MARCOM team to facilitate brand-compliant design. A final mockup was produced, reviewed, and approved by the appropriate governing bodies at each organization, and the joint campaign was published in October 2024.
- Secure storage education materials printed and delivered to all 12 Delaware primary care practices.  
➔ **Progress: In Process.** Primary Care leadership underwent significant changes in 2024, placing our original distribution plan on hold. New governance has been named, and we've taken steps to ensure distribution in primary care practices in 2025. Community distribution has been consistent and successful since publishing.
- Secure storage education materials adapted and published on one or more digital platforms.  
✓ **Progress: Complete.** Materials were adapted to provide an interactive graphic on the Coalition for a Safer Delaware's Secure Storage landing page. Campaign materials link to this page via QR code. Webpage visitors can hover over elements of the graphic to learn more information or be directed to relevant tools and resources. We have also taken steps to break out the larger infographic format into their own respective blocks of text and visuals for social media distribution.

**Goal:** Operationalize a supply pathway for the distribution of universal gun locks to eligible patient families by the end of Y2, Q2 (6/30/24).

**Status:** Complete



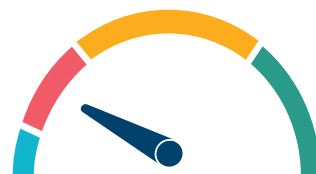
### Metric(s):

- Identification of a gun lock repository.  
✓ **Progress: Complete.** A repository partner was identified in Q2 of 2024.
- Approval of a gun lock distribution pathway.  
✓ **Progress: Complete.** The Coalition for a Safer Delaware has agreed to intake/triage public requests for gun lock resources in partnership with Nemours Children's via their secure storage webpage. Their organization is experienced in gun-lock distribution in the community, and, therefore, well-positioned to take over this component while Nemours Children's works toward policy changes that will facilitate distribution in our care locations.

**REVISION (2024):** As stipulated in the 2023 Progress Report, the final two goals within the violence prevention focus area were placed on hold due to leadership changes in key areas of proposed implementation. In 2024, a revised strategy was developed that, both, preserves the original intent of delivering trauma-informed associate training and education, and aligns with other violence prevention efforts that require associate training and support. The following revised goal is anticipated for rollout in early 2025.

**Goal:** Identify an avenue to offer trauma-informed violence prevention training and education to Nemours Children's associates to support the implementation of secure storage screening and resource distribution in our care locations by the end of Y3 (12/31/25).

**Status:** On Hold



**Metric(s):**

- Identify a content expert to develop and facilitate secure storage education/training to clinical and nonclinical associates.  
**△ Progress: On Hold.** Progress will be reported on in Y3.
- Determine at least three (3) associate groups to receive secure storage education/ training in 2025.  
**△ Progress: On Hold.** Progress will be reported on in Y3.
- Complete at least three (3) training sessions with three (3) unique associate groups in 2025.  
**△ Progress: On Hold.** Progress will be reported on in Y3.





# Additional Investments In Violence Prevention

Nemours Children's continues to explore opportunities to support community priorities as we remain committed to advancing the physical, social, and emotional well-being of our patients with the same vigor applied to medical care.

In 2024, Nemours Children's established investment partnerships with several community organizations engaged in violence prevention and intervention work across the region. Building strong relationships with trusted pillars in the community allows us to champion efforts that address critical patient and family needs outside of our scope of care.

- **Community and Structural Violence:** The Center for Structural Equity (CSFE) empowers communities to overcome systemic barriers by promoting youth development, fostering meaningful community engagement, and advancing structural equity through programs that address the root causes of violence and inequity. Our 2024 partnership supported critical youth services and programs, workforce training, research and field testing, and outreach and education including CFSE staff serving on panels and hosting focus groups around violence, safety, and cultural competency.
- **Suicide and Self-Harm: SL24:** Unlocked the Light Foundation (Sean's House) is dedicated to supporting youth and young adults by providing free mental health education, 24/7 peer support, and safe spaces to reduce suicide, destigmatize mental illness, and promote emotional well-being. Our 2024 partnership sponsored two large fundraising events for the organization and provided additional support for a youth mental health summit, in addition to mental health workshops and seminars in the community that were developed and facilitated by Nemours Children's clinical psychologists.
- **Gun Violence:** Coalition for a Safer Delaware, alongside their sister organization the Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence, works to end gun violence through education, community engagement, and policy advocacy, promoting responsible gun ownership, and supporting initiatives to prevent firearm-related injuries. In addition to the education campaign, our 2024 partnership supported the convening of a Violence Prevention x Public Health Summit, as well as the distribution of secure storage resources (i.e., cable locks) at community events and in other public spaces such as schools and libraries. Nemours Children's also attended various advocacy engagements.
- **Generational Trauma:** Partnerships with the Wilmington Alliance and The Hope Commission sponsored other evidence-based approaches to violence prevention in youth, such as safe spaces to engage in trauma-informed activities (i.e., Wilmington Alliances Art-O-Mat, or The Hope Commission's Dover Hope Zone) like art therapy, mentorship, juvenile justice programming, and positive youth and family events.

The Trauma Center at Nemours Children's expanded their **Stop the Bleed (STB)** program footprint in 2024, hosting training at various community-based events such as the Latinos Unidos Student Summit, as well as at locations centrally located in neighborhoods that experience high rates of violent injury. STB instructors adapted the training to include front-line staff and other trusted adults in addition to the adolescents and teens that typically participate. By meeting communities where they are, Nemours Children's was able to expand access to, and knowledge of, key safety measures that save lives and empower young people and the support systems around them.

The information on this page is not exhaustive. Rather, it is meant to provide a snapshot of the comprehensive commitment Nemours Children's has made to address this community-driven priority. By utilizing the CHNA as a vehicle for strategic development and action, we can invest back into the communities we serve in an informed and valuable way. This is how we go Well Beyond Medicine.

## Food Insecurity





## Food Insecurity

Children exposed to food insecurity are of particular concern given the implications posed to the child's health. Malnutrition during the first 1,000 days of life can have irreversible effects on a child's physical and cognitive development. In addition to immediate health impacts, food insecurity can also have long-term consequences for a child's overall well-being. Children who experience food insecurity may be at a higher risk for chronic health conditions, such as obesity and diabetes, later in life. The 2022 CHNA revealed that approximately 50% of households in Delaware with children under the age of 18 participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Additionally, 1 in 4 (22%) of survey participants report having to cut the size of meals because there was not enough money in the budget for food. Therefore, it is important for Nemours Children's to address food insecurity to help mitigate the negative impacts it has on children in the communities we serve.

To address the identified needs reflected in the 2022 CHNA, a series of meetings were held with external stakeholders and key Nemours Children's staff (i.e., social workers/care coordinators) to determine a path forward. During these discussions, information routinely collected from patients and families around specific barriers to securing food was utilized in conjunction with assessment results and professional expertise to ensure an effective and responsive action plan. These planning sessions yielded the following themes aligned with evidence-based best practices:

- Recognition that there is food available via the Food Bank of Delaware and other resources.
- Access to food bank locations is a challenge (i.e., food pickups located on the racetrack that is approximately 3/4 of a mile away from a bus stop)
- Items are difficult to transport long distances if a patron does not have access to a vehicle and is either walking or using public transportation.
- Food boxes from some organizations can be prepacked with items that are not culturally appropriate (i.e., pork products) and, thus, go unused.
- Food boxes can often contain items unfamiliar to families who do not know how to prepare items.

We used these five points of information to begin shaping CHNA interventions in this area, as well as a call to action in terms of what additional stakeholders need to be at the table for implementation to be possible. For example, we reached out to the Food Bank of Delaware to secure stops at several of our community practices centrally located near the populations we serve. The proximity to these locations ensures community members can easily access the services offered (Food Bank drops and on-site pantry), as well as transport the items back to their homes without additional means of transportation. Moreover, with the on-site pantry, families can select items they wish to take home, alleviating challenges related to culturally inappropriate or unfamiliar preselected foods. We believe that bringing services closer to our patients' front doors can promote the ease and accessibility needed to get them the food they will use.

As we continue to embrace more community-facing, patient-driven work, it is imperative that we elevate the community voice when developing strategies and interventions for the CHNA and beyond. These objectives are reflected in the goals and initiatives laid out in the 2023-2025 CHNA Implementation Plan.

# Implementation Plan

## Initiative

Expand Nemours Cares Closets to additional primary care practice sites throughout the Delaware Valley.

## Goals, Metrics, and Progress

**Goal:** Identify at least two additional practice sites to host a Cares Closet at their location by the end of Y1, Q1 (3/30/25).

Status: Complete

Metric(s):

- Total number of additional practices sites identified for the Cares Closet program
- ✓ **Progress: Complete.** In the first quarter of 2023, a total of 10 additional practice sites were identified for expansion in the Delaware Valley, joining the two existing sites slated for transition. Only 4 of the 10 potential (new) sites were slated to move forward.

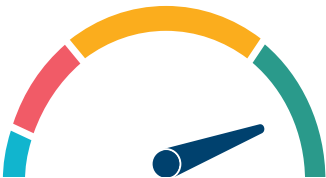


**Goal:** Stock Cares Closet food pantries based on need at each participating practice site by Y1, Q3 (9/30/23).

Status: Complete

Metric(s):

- Total number of Cares Closet sites stocked with food
- ✓ **Progress: Complete.** A total of 6 Cares Closet sites (4 new + 2 existing) were fully stocked as of May 2023.

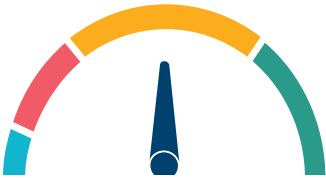


**Goal:** Monitor the Cares Closet program throughout the implementation period to provide recommendations for additional Cares Closet locations by the end of Y3 (12/31/25).

Status: In Process

Metric:

- Receipt of final approval from leadership of Cares Closet expansion plan
- ➔ **Progress: In Process.** This metric will be reported on in Y3.





# Implementation Plan

## Initiative

Partner with a mobile food pantry to coordinate regular stops at primary care practice locations across the Delaware Valley.

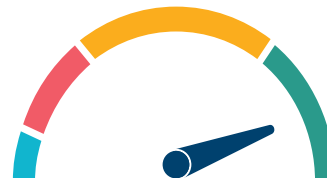
## Goals, Metrics, and Progress

**Goal:** Identify at least two practice sites to receive regular mobile food pantry stops by the end of Y1, Q1 (3/31/23).

**Metric(s):**

- Total number of practice sites identified for mobile food pantry stops
- ✓ **Progress: Complete.** In the first quarter of 2023, a total of two Delaware Valley practices were identified for pantry stops with the potential for additional expansion opportunities.

**Status: Complete**

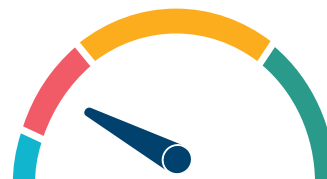


**Goal:** Finalize a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Food Bank of Delaware by the end of Y3, Q1 (3/30/25).

**Metric(s):**

- A fully executed MOU between Nemours Children's and the Food Bank of Delaware
- △ **Progress: On Hold.** In the first and second quarters of 2023, an MOU with the Food Bank of Delaware reached the final signature stage, and internal processes were established to aid pantry operations. However, in July 2023, the mobile food pantry program was placed on an indefinite pause.

**Status: On Hold**

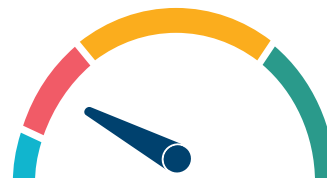


**Goal:** Partner with Nemours Children's Marketing and Communications (MARCOM) to distribute mobile food pantry promotional materials in at least two different modalities by the end of Y3, Q1 (3/30/2025).

**Metric:**

- Total number of modalities used to market mobile pantry marketing materials and messaging
- △ **Progress: Removed.** Due to anti-inducement laws, the Nemours Legal Department has advised against actively promoting the mobile food pantries or care closets. This goal has been removed as of May 2024.

**Status: Removed**

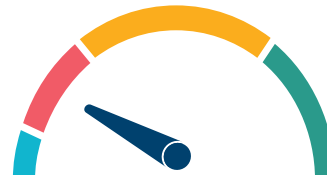


**Goal:** Implement the mobile food pantry program at identified Nemours Children's practice locations and begin tracking visit data by Y3, Q3 (9/30/25)

**Metric:**

- Total number of mobile food pantry visits at participating practice locations per month
- △ **Progress: On Hold.** As of July 2023, the mobile food pantry program has been placed on an indefinite pause.

**Status: On Hold**

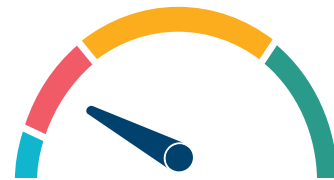


**Goal:** Utilize mobile food pantry visit tracking data to assess the feasibility of expansion to additional practice locations across the system and provide at least five recommendations for spread and scale based on findings by the end of Y3 (12/31/25).

**Metric:**

- Total number of final recommendations for spread and scale of the mobile food pantry program systemwide
- △ **Progress: On Hold.** As of July 2023, the mobile food pantry program has been placed on an indefinite pause.

**Status: On Hold**





# Additional Investments In Food Insecurity

Nemours Children's continues to explore opportunities to support community priorities as we remain committed to advancing the physical, social, and emotional well-being of our patients with the same vigor applied to medical care.

In 2024, Nemours Children's established investment partnerships with several community organizations that address food insecurity in several ways. Building strong relationships with trusted pillars in the community allows us to champion efforts that address critical patient and family needs outside of our scope of care.

- **Food Kits:** The Food Bank of Delaware's Backpack Program fills a gap resulting from free and reduced-price lunch program when children do not have access to school meals, such as on weekends, school breaks, and over the summer. Nemours Children's partnered with the Food Bank of Delaware in 2024 to reach over 130 food-insecure children, providing them with food kits each week of the grant period. As a result of our financial commitment, approximately 7,000 packs were distributed, including nearly 28,000 meals (or 24,388 pounds of food).
- **School Gardens:** Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids (HFHK) is an initiative that aims to inspire healthier lives by providing youth with joyful school gardening experiences and opportunities to eat the garden-fresh vegetables they've grown. One element of this partnership was our adoption of school gardens (Adopt-a-Garden) at Carrie Downie Elementary School, Eisenberg Elementary School, Wilmington Manor Elementary School, and Read Middle School. Our 2024 partnership also supported HFHK's health and wellness program costs for each of the schools as well as planting costs for two seasons. This impacted over 1,300 students who harvested and consumed approximately 1,000 pounds of vegetables. Nemours Children's also sponsored a garden rebuild and program implementation at New Castle Elementary School which covered all supplies and program implementation costs impacting over 500 students. Nemours Children's associates participated in the garden builds at many of these locations across the state.
- **Community Food Pantry:** The Latin American Community Center (LACC) is a trusted hub offering culturally relevant programs and services that empower and support the Latino community across all ages. One specific element of our 2024 partnership with the LACC included supporting their Produce Pantry which provides essential groceries and household items to individuals and families in need. Through this, nearly 2,000 children and families received a total of 23,920 pounds of food – helping to combat food insecurity in the local Latino community in Wilmington, Delaware.

Since 2020, Nemours Children's associates across the system have banded together to address food insecurity and provide thousands of meals to children and families in need. Food Fight is a two-week virtual food drive that provides our associates with the opportunity to donate to local food banks. Food banks supported in the Delaware Valley include the Food Bank of Delaware, Chester County Food Bank, Philabundance, and the Food Bank of South Jersey. Through the generosity of our associates, we were able to provide over 2,800 meals for families in need in 2024.

The information in this section is not exhaustive. Rather, it is meant to provide a snapshot of the comprehensive commitment Nemours Children's has made to address this community-driven priority. By utilizing the CHNA as a vehicle for strategic development and action, we can invest back into the communities we serve in an informed and valuable way. This is how we go Well Beyond Medicine.

Progress reports are posted annually on  
[Nemours.org/about/community-health-needs](https://nemours.org/about/community-health-needs).

**Please direct all CHNA-related inquiries to:**  
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