



Valley  
Children's  
HEALTHCARE



# ANNUAL REPORT AND PLAN

## for Community Benefit Fiscal Year 2019

(October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019)

**Submitted to:**

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Healthcare Information Division  
Accounting and Reporting Systems Section - Sacramento, California



## I. INTRODUCTION

Nearly 70 years ago, our five founding mothers had a dream to build a hospital in the Central Valley just for children. Valley Children's Healthcare has grown and flourished ever since, caring for generations of children since 1952.

### Our Mission

The mission of Valley Children's Healthcare is to provide high-quality, comprehensive healthcare services to children, regardless of their ability to pay, and to continuously improve the health and well-being of children.

### Our Vision

Our vision is to provide the nation's best healthcare for kids and to become the nation's best children's hospital.

### Our Values

The following values guide every decision and define our commitment and the action supporting it.

**Excellence:** I am dedicated, disciplined and demonstrate high standards as we strive to be the best. I take ownership and empower myself and others to deliver an exceptional experience, every interaction, every time.

**Compassionate Care:** I am present in every interaction. I respond to others with warmth and kindness.

**Integrity:** I am honest and ethical. I demonstrate high standards of personal conduct, keep my word and take responsibility for my actions.

**Innovation:** I always look for ways to learn and make things better. I am a problem solver.

**Collaboration:** I contribute to, support and respect decisions that are made by my team and the organization. I build and promote positive working relationships and teamwork.

**Stewardship:** I am accountable for effectively managing my time and the organization's resources. I share resources to achieve the best outcome.

### Commitment to the Community

Valley Children's is Central California's only high-quality, comprehensive healthcare network dedicated to children, from before birth to young adulthood, as well as to high-risk pregnant women, and plays a vital role in meeting the healthcare needs of some of our region's sickest and most medically vulnerable residents.

Valley Children's network is anchored by a 330-bed children's hospital in Madera, plus three neonatal units (28 beds in total) located across Central California. In addition, Valley Children's network includes pediatric specialty care centers, pediatric primary care practices, an urgent care center and women's health services located strategically throughout the region to best meet the needs of children and their families.

Valley Children's consistently ranks at the top of its peer group for quality patient outcomes as evidenced by its designation by the Leapfrog Group in 2019 as one of the nation's top 10 Children's Hospitals for excellence in patient safety and quality, its Magnet® designation for nursing excellence, its Beacon Award for Excellence™ in critical care, and its U.S. News and World Report recognition in 2019 as one of the nation's best children's hospitals for Neonatology, Pediatric Orthopedics, Pediatric Diabetes & Endocrinology, Pediatric Gastroenterology & Gastrointestinal Surgery and Pediatric Urology.

While providing exceptional healthcare is the single greatest contribution Valley Children's makes for children and their families, Valley Children's also appreciates that it is uniquely positioned to support the

needs of children in other ways, as well. As an extension of our mission and vision, the goal of Valley Children's Community Benefit Program is to advance the health and well-being of underserved, medically needy children through collaboration and common concern. This Community Benefit Report summarizes the contributions provided by Valley Children's to its community for fiscal year 2019 (October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019).

## II. SERVICE AREA DEMOGRAPHICS AND PATIENT VOLUME

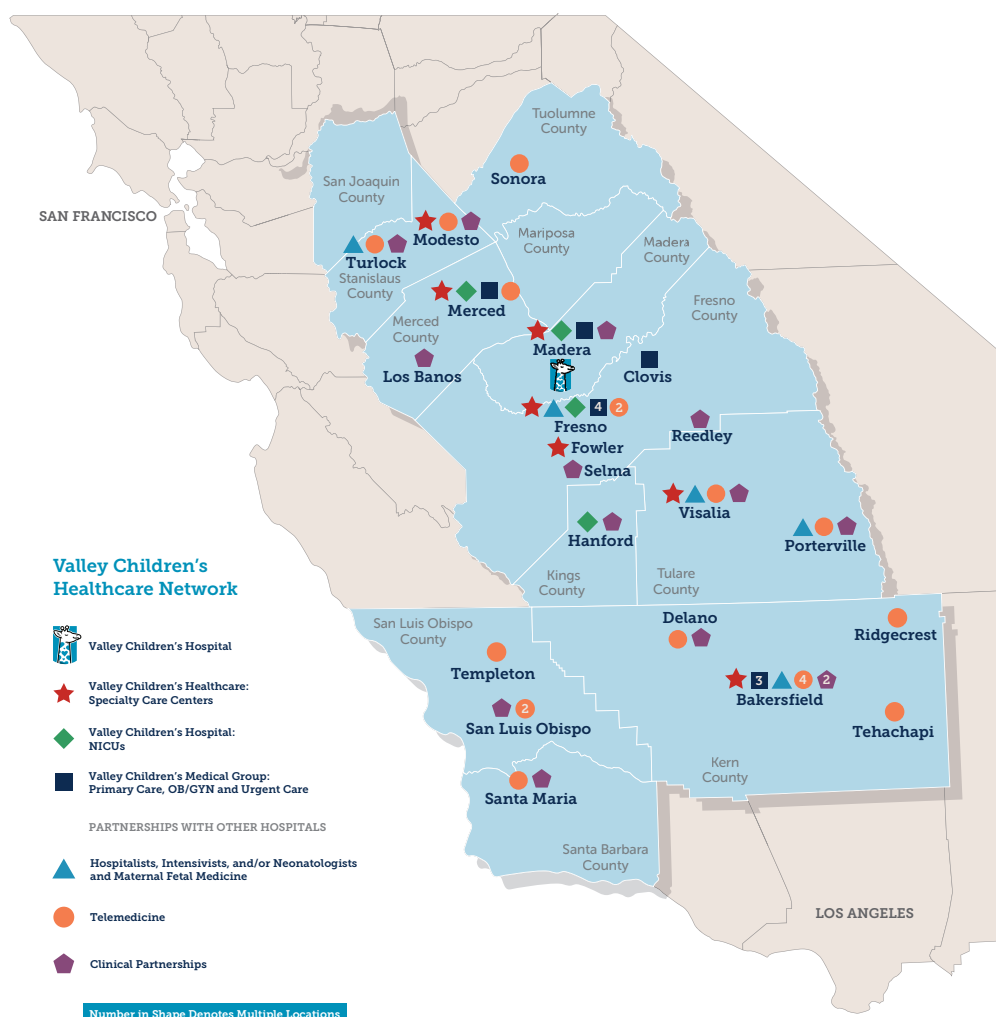
### Service Area Demographics

As the only pediatric network of its kind in all of Central California, Valley Children's service area extends from San Joaquin County in the north to Kern County in the south, and serves much of the Central Coast and eastern Sierra, as well. The map below illustrates Valley Children's service area.

For purposes of this Community Benefit Report, however, Valley Children's service area is focused on those seven counties that collectively account for more than 90% of Valley Children's inpatient and outpatient volume. Those counties are Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and Tulare. According to [kidsdata.org](https://kidsdata.org), approximately 1/3 of children living in these seven counties live in poverty, 3/4 are an ethnicity other than Caucasian and close to 1/4 live in homes where English is not the primary spoken language.

### Valley Children's Patient Volume

In 2019, Valley Children's had 12,139 inpatient admissions, 108,335 Emergency Department visits, and a combined 305,096 hospital-based outpatient specialty care center, regional specialty care center, primary care center and urgent care center visits. Valley Children's is one of the busiest children's hospitals in California. Also in 2019, Medi-Cal covered 75% of Valley Children's total inpatient cases and 77% of total outpatient visits.



### III. ASSESSING AND UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

Valley Children's Community Benefit Program is built on the outcomes of a collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) that Valley Children's completes every three years. While Valley Children's most recent CHNA was completed in 2019, the community benefit activities summarized in this report are based on Valley Children's CHNA completed in 2016 and its Implementation Strategy for 2017 - 2019 that was presented to and approved by the Valley Children's Healthcare Board of Trustees.

Valley Children's 2020 Community Benefit Report will reflect the needs identified in the organization's 2019 CHNA and the interventions included in its Implementation Strategy for 2020 - 2022. To see a copy of Valley Children's two most recent CHNA's and Implementation Strategies, log onto [valleychildrens.org/about-us/community-benefit](https://valleychildrens.org/about-us/community-benefit).

Valley Children's 2016 CHNA was based on a joint needs assessment for Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties and then separate needs assessments for Kern, Merced, and Stanislaus counties.

#### **Joint Needs Assessment for Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare Counties**

For Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties, Valley Children's partnered with 14 hospitals to conduct an assessment of health needs for both children and adults. The CHNA was coordinated by the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California and included a thorough review of secondary data as well as significant community engagement through surveys, focus groups and key stakeholder interviews.

#### **Needs Assessment in Kern, Mariposa, Merced and Stanislaus Counties**

To assess the needs of children in Kern, Merced, and Stanislaus counties, Valley Children's consulted secondary data sources and convened a number of one-on-one interviews and focus groups with organizations representing low income, underserved communities.

Additionally, Valley Children's staff engaged regularly with a host of community-based organizations and initiatives that kept us close to the issues impacting the health and wellbeing of children in the region. See pages 16 - 17 for a partial list of organizations and initiatives in which we were involved in 2019.



## IV. COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS PRIORITIES IN 2019

From high rates of obesity and child abuse to poor access to primary healthcare, children and their families throughout the seven-county region face many challenges in their efforts to live healthy, productive lives. The implications of these challenges are significant. For children and their families, it means high rates of chronic illness, frequent visits to hospital emergency rooms, missed days at school, and missed days at work for parents or caregivers. For healthcare providers, it means carefully considering the many needs that exist and determining which needs are the most critical and which needs they are best equipped to address.

Based on our 2016 CHNA and our continuous engagement with community stakeholders, Valley Children's identified the following priority needs for 2019. They are not listed in any particular order.

- **Child Maltreatment:** Enhanced community education and coordination of services regarding child maltreatment prevention.
- **Childhood Obesity Prevention:** Increased coordination of existing efforts and development of new resources to assist community-based providers in promoting healthy eating and physical activity.
- **Community Capacity:** Enhanced capacity of community-based providers to address pediatric healthcare needs, including kids with medically complex conditions.
- **Developmental Disabilities:** Improved access to and coordination of prevention, screening and treatment services for children at risk for, or with, developmental delays.
- **Family Support:** Improved access to transportation, health literacy and nutrition.
- **Behavioral Health:** Increased access to behavioral health services for children, both inpatient and outpatient.
- **Primary Care:** Increased utilization of primary and preventative care for underserved children.
- **Unintentional Injury:** Continued focus on preventing unintentional injury to children through community-based education efforts.

Availability of healthcare resources within Valley Children's service area varies by type of resource and location. However, it is generally recognized that a vast majority of the region is medically underserved.

According to data published by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, significant portions of the seven-county region were designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas for primary care (including pediatrics) and mental health in 2019. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's and the University of Wisconsin's 2020 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program confirms OSHPD's findings in noting that Valley Children's service area has some of the lowest provider-to-population ratios for primary care physicians, mental health providers and dentists.

Unfortunately, the situation is not much better with respect to the supply of registered nurses. According to the Healthforce Center at UCSF's 2018 report titled "Regional Forecast of the Registered Nurse," the Central Valley (inclusive of Valley Children's seven-county service area) has some of the lowest registered nurse-to-population ratios in California.



## V. COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAM SUMMARY

According to the Catholic Health Association's "Guide for Planning and Reporting Community Benefit," community benefit services provide treatment and/or promote health and healing in response to identified community needs, and meet at least one of the following objectives:

- Improve access to healthcare services
- Enhance the health of the community
- Advance medical or healthcare knowledge
- Relieve or reduce the burden of government or private, community-based efforts

The definition also includes the provision of charity care and the unreimbursed cost of providing healthcare services to those enrolled in public programs, including Medi-Cal.

**In 2019, Valley Children's provided the following community benefit activities and programs within its service area.**

### A. COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT SERVICES

#### Community Health Education

##### Adaptive Sports Program

Valley Children's Adaptive Sports Program provides free recreational and athletic experiences for children, adolescents and young adults with disabilities, regardless of whether they have been or currently are patients at Valley Children's. The only one of its kind in Central California, the program is designed for individuals with physical impairments and conditions ranging from cerebral palsy to spinal cord injuries. Disabled youth up to age 21 are especially encouraged to attend.

The region's abundant mountains, lakes, rivers, trails and athletic facilities make amazing destination hotspots for recreational and competitive activities. Whether water skiing or rock climbing, participants enjoy a fun experience while boosting their health, confidence and independence.

Through hard work and determination, children learn it is possible to participate in athletics, exceed expectations and achieve their dreams. Activities offered in 2019 included wheelchair basketball, waterskiing, kayaking, skiing, scuba diving, surfing, rock climbing and track and field. Regarding track and field, 17 members from Valley Children's Adaptive Sports team qualified for the Adaptive Sports Junior Nationals and eight competed in the 2019 event.



## Early Child Development and Care Coordination

In 2019, Valley Children's participated in a number of initiatives supporting the healthy development of children both during pregnancy and into the first 3 to 5 years of life. Examples include the following.

**Fresno County Pre-Term Birth Initiative:** Fresno County has one of California's highest rates of prematurity with 1 out of every 9 babies born too early. Premature birth can cause serious physical and mental disabilities, or even death, before the baby's first birthday.

Over a 10-year period, the Fresno County Pre-Term Birth Initiative worked to improve the health of Fresno mothers and reduce the rate of premature babies. Using an approach called Collective Impact, partners across many sectors came together to create change in Fresno County. Valley Children's was an active participant in this initiative, with Valley Children's Senior Vice President for Community Engagement and Population Wellness serving as chair of the Initiative's Steering Committee.

**Cradle to Career:** Both Fresno and Stanislaus counties have launched formal Cradle to Career initiatives for the purpose of convening public and private sector stakeholders to work together to improve outcomes for children in their communities, from pre-conception to college and/or vocational training. Valley Children's continues to participate in both initiatives and has been a strong voice for the inclusion of outcomes and indicators focused on child health and wellness.

**Help Me Grow Fresno and Kern Counties:** Help Me Grow is a coordinated system of early identification and referral for children ages 0-5 who are at risk for development delays. In 2019, Valley Children's supported the implementation of Help Me Grow in its pediatric practices in Fresno County and Kern County by promoting the use of a specific developmental assessment and screening tool that is part of the Help Me Grow model.

**March of Dimes:** Valley Children's partnered closely with the March of Dimes to advocate on behalf of policies at the local, state and federal level that promote healthy pregnancies and healthy babies. In 2019, Valley Children's Director for Clinical Care served on the March of Dimes Central Valley Division Board of Directors, and Valley Children's Director of Community and Government Relations chaired the March of Dimes of California's Advocacy and Government Affairs Committee.

## Injury Prevention Program

Valley Children's operates an Injury Prevention Program to increase community awareness of childhood injuries and the measures that can be taken to decrease their prevalence throughout the region.

In 2019, the program recorded 14,132 contacts with children, parents, healthcare professionals and others at 113 different community, media and professional events, covering the following topics: child passenger safety, abusive head trauma, pedestrian safety, safe sleep, traumatic brain injury (helmet safety), Halloween safety, poison prevention, responding to a bleeding emergency, driver safety and awareness including drunk/distracted driving, baby basics, medication safety, choking prevention, home safety, concussion prevention and management, bicycle safety, pediatric trauma, water safety and suicide prevention.



Regarding bicycle safety, Valley Children's gave away 582 bicycle helmets to children and families whose existing helmets did not meet minimum safety standards or who did not have helmets at all. Regarding car seat safety, Valley Children's conducted safety checks on 579 car seats and gave away 298 car seats to families whose existing car seats did not meet minimum safety standards or who simply did not have a car seat and needed one.

## **Behavioral Health**

Behavioral health is one of the most pressing needs facing children in California. Children living in Valley Children's service area are particularly underserved due to the geography, provider shortages, and limited community-based services. In 2019, Valley Children's demonstrated its commitment to meeting the behavioral health needs of children in a number of ways, including those listed below.

### **Community-Based Education and Outreach**

At the local level, Valley Children's staff provided teen suicide prevention education to students and staff at area high schools. In addition, Valley Children's staff either led or participated in a number of community-based initiatives, including serving as members of the Fresno Suicide Prevention Collaborative and the Madera County Suicide Education and Awareness Collaborative, as well as chairing Community Conversations, a community-wide partnership addressing issues of behavioral health, homelessness and their impact on families.

Valley Children's also provided education and resources for community stakeholders, including continuing medical education for community-based providers in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 1 Mental Health Access Task Force.

### **Regional Capacity**

In September 2019, Valley Children's announced a partnership with Universal Health Services (UHS), one of the nation's largest and most respected providers of hospital and healthcare services. Under the partnership, UHS will construct, own and operate an 81,600-square-foot, 128-bed behavioral health hospital for children and adults immediately adjacent to the Valley Children's Hospital campus in Madera. The facility will include a 24-bed inpatient unit for children and adolescents, ages 5 -17, representing a 49% increase in available beds for kids from Kern to San Joaquin counties. The hospital is expected to open in 2023.

While the permitting and construction process gets underway, UHS will work closely with Valley Children's to invest resources in meeting immediate behavioral health needs, establishing additional tele-psychiatry services in support of our hospital and primary care services, and developing a new psychiatry residency program in the region.

### **Statewide Advocacy**

At the state level, Valley Children's staff served as vice chair of California's Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission and helped successfully advocate for an increase in Medi-Cal coverage for postpartum depression.

## **Community-Based Clinical Services**

Valley Children's provided the following community-based clinical services to help address the healthcare needs of children and their families at home, at school and in the community.

### **Access to Primary and Preventative Care for At-Risk Children**

In 2019, pediatric physician residents participating in Valley Children's Pediatric Residency Program once



again provided primary and preventative healthcare services to at-risk children in Fresno County as a part of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools' (FCSS) Mobile Health Unit (MHU). Designed to help ensure that children are healthy, ready and able to learn, the MHU visits approximately 13 different schools regularly during the year that serve predominately rural, low-income communities. Valley Children's residents are able to provide children and their families with services and support that otherwise would be difficult for them to access, including the following:

- Well-Child Exams (0-18 years old)
- Pre-School Wellness Screening
- Immunizations - Free
- Treatment of minor injuries and illnesses
- Body mass index, height and weight evaluation
- Dental screening
- Nutrition education
- Asthma education
- WIC referrals
- Referrals to specialists
- Assistance with enrollment in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families insurance programs is available



Participating on the MHU is one of the residents' most rewarding activities as it provides them with the chance to work one-on-one with children and their families in their own communities. This experience emphasizes the importance of healthcare disparities and social determinants, aspects of care delivery that are not learned sufficiently in the hospital setting or in clinical office settings where residency training traditionally occurs. The FCSS' Family Nurse Practitioner, whose expertise lies in caring for children in a mobile/school- based setting, provides critical one-on-one instruction to the residents. The residents learn compassion and empathy and have more time to spend with patients and families than they might have in a hospital or clinical office. Two of Valley Children's pediatric residents, along with several of the MHU nurses, recently presented at a California School Nurse Association conference regarding this unique partnership and its contribution to student health and wellness.

## Child Abuse Prevention

The Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center's mission is to provide comprehensive services to children, dependent adults and their families through a multidisciplinary, child-friendly program, and to meet the physical and emotional needs of victims with abuse considerations.

The Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center's vision is to be the premier provider in Central California for diagnostic physical abuse assessments, foster care medical clearance examinations and pediatric sexual assault evaluations, including children who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Additionally, the Center's providers, known as the Child Advocacy Team, regularly testify in both dependency and criminal courts throughout the Valley. The Center is recognized in Central California

and around the state as a leader in advocacy, injury prevention, clinical research and academic training. In 2018, the Center became a member of the Child Advocacy Centers of California, Central Chapter. Membership provides a number of benefits and opportunities to expand efforts in child abuse prevention and treatment.

According to the report "Child Maltreatment 2018," the national estimate of total Child Protective Services (CPS) agency referrals for 2018 was 4.3 million (4,327,000) at a rate of 58.5 per 1,000 children in the population. This is an increase of 16.4 percent from 2014. The 4.3 million total referrals alleging maltreatment includes approximately 7.8 million children. In California, an estimated 408,666 suspected child maltreatment reports were completed, of which about 84,231 reports came from Valley Children's service area.

The Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center includes the Child Advocacy Clinic, which operates five days a week and sees approximately 1,000 children each year. Center providers also are available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, for emergency coverage. The Center includes an inpatient component that evaluates about 100 children yearly in the pediatric emergency department, acute-care floors and pediatric intensive care unit.

In addition to the clinical services offered by the Center, a Multi-Disciplinary Interviewing Center is also available for victims or witnesses of crimes. Forensic interviewing services are requested by Law Enforcement and/or Child Protective Services. The purpose of the forensic interviewing program component is to reduce the number of interviews and decrease the number of individuals who will talk to the victim.

There is ongoing collaboration with external community partners and other hospital services including subspecialty clinics, patient and family services, interpreter services, radiology, diagnostic clinical laboratories, child life services and pastoral care.

The Center works closely with law enforcement, CPS and district attorneys' offices in their investigative efforts of child maltreatment. Collaborative efforts include case consultation and monthly SCAN (Suspect Child Abuse and Neglect) meetings facilitated by our Child Advocacy Clinic in an effort to track, monitor and advocate for the health and safety of at-risk children throughout the Valley.

For prevention education, the Center collaborates with internal and external partners to provide education to parents, caregivers, healthcare personnel, teachers and mandated reporters of suspected child maltreatment. These partners include Valley Children's Trauma Department's Injury Prevention Team, Safe Kids, Child Abuse Prevention Councils of California, Comprehensive Youth Services, CPS, Exceptional Parents Unlimited, Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) and county public health departments.

Additionally, the Center provides both interventive and anticipatory guidance to our patients and families at Valley Children's Hospital. On April 25 and 26 of 2019, the Center hosted its 2nd Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference which highlighted trending topics in the field of child maltreatment interventions. International and local speakers presented on topics including human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children, child sexual abuse accommodation syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) and medical child abuse.

## HealthCare Support Services

### Enrollment in Health Insurance

Valley Children's identified and provided enrollment assistance to uninsured and under-insured patients who qualified for Medi-Cal, California Children's Services Program or Valley Children's Financial Assistance Program. Once eligibility was determined, Valley Children's staff assisted the families with completing necessary applications and submitting them to the appropriate agencies.



## Food for Families

Many of the families whose children are being treated at Valley Children's come to our organization with little time to prepare for a long stay and often do not have enough money to buy food. In 2019, Valley Children's supported these families in a number of ways.

Valley Children's dietary department provided meal coupons to breastfeeding moms whose infants were at Valley Children's. Additionally, through a program called Meals of the Heart, which is sponsored by Ronald McDonald Charities of Central California, Valley Children's social work team provided patients' families with meal coupons when they arrived and were not prepared for a long stay at the hospital. The social work team also worked closely with the California Children's Services program to provide food for eligible families.

Valley Children's also received support from a number of other organizations including the Mendiburu Magic Foundation, Catholic Diocese of Fresno, Sweet Nectar Society and Westley United Methodist Church in Fresno, that either donated food to Valley Children's to distribute to needy families or donated cash to give to families to purchase food.

## Transportation

Given the Central Valley's largely rural landscape and high concentration of poverty, transportation has long been a challenge for many families. Valley Children's continued to work with the community to improve public transportation and access to care. Valley Children's Social Work Department assisted families with transportation by providing gas cards, taxi vouchers, Amtrak tickets and bus tokens. Valley Children's also subsidized bus and other public transit services from the City of Fresno and Kings County.

## Social and Environmental Improvement Activities

Valley Children's supported a number of programs and activities to improve the capacity of communities to promote health and wellness among children.

### Childhood Obesity Prevention

High rates of childhood obesity continue to create significant challenges for children and their families throughout Valley Children's service area. To help reverse this trend, Valley Children's focused its efforts in 2019 on two significant areas: food insecurity and establishing a regional agenda to address the issue.

### Food Insecurity

As a critical social determinant of health, food insecurity impacts the health and well-being of our patients and families. Children who are food insecure lack access to affordable and healthy foods, which leads to adverse health outcomes including increased obesity rates. Addressing food insecurity within the healthcare setting provides Valley Children's the ability to further foster the health of our patients and communities.



In early 2019, Valley Children's implemented a Prescription for Food Program at its Merced Olivewood Pediatrics practice. With funding from the Central California Alliance for Health, Valley Children's primary care providers in Merced screen children for food insecurity using a simple survey developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. A family is determined to be food insecure if, during the last 12 months, they worried about not having enough money to buy food or they ran out of food and did not have enough money to buy more. For children and families found to be food insecure, our providers hand the families a "Prescription for Food" voucher, which entitles them to receive a free 30-pound box of nutritious and healthy foods from the Merced County Food Bank on a monthly basis for 12 months.

Through the Prescription for Food Program in 2019, providers at Olivewood Pediatrics screened a total of 1,398 patients; 328 were determined to be food insecure. Based on food redemption numbers reported by the Merced County Food Bank, a total of 1,790 individuals (the 328 children plus their family members) received free food through the program.

In addition, Valley Children's partnered with Vallarta Supermarket in Fresno during the summer of 2019 to promote access to healthy foods. Through the program, children who were shopping with their families at any one of three participating Vallarta Supermarket locations were offered free fruit. Given that many children rely on meals provided by schools for much of their food intake, Valley Children's felt it was important to make healthy food available during the summer months when most children are not at school.

## Regional Agenda

In 2019, Valley Children's formally launched "Communities for Healthy Kids," a multi-sector regional initiative that aligns and supports existing partnerships to reduce childhood obesity in Fresno, Kings, and Madera counties through education, advocacy and the coordinated implementation of identified strategies.

The initiative is committed to increasing access to and consumption of healthy foods, increasing access to and consumption of clean drinking water, and increasing opportunities for and participation in physical activity. To help advance these goals, the initiative encourages the adoption of evidence-based approaches to promoting healthy child weight across the following eight sectors: agriculture, business, community-based organizations, early childhood, government, healthcare, media and schools. For more information on the initiative, visit [communitiesforhealthykids.org](http://communitiesforhealthykids.org).

## B. HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

Valley Children's is committed to promoting an adequate supply of highly trained professionals to meet our region's demand for pediatric healthcare services.

Activities supported by Valley Children's in 2019 included the following:

### Clinical Partnerships

Valley Children's Clinical Partnership program brings together institutions focused on enhancing neonatal and pediatric care, regardless of whether the ill or injured child becomes a Valley Children's patient. This effort helps prevent children from being transferred or referred unnecessarily to Valley Children's, and helps identify as soon as possible when a child needs advanced pediatric care. With improved communication and tools, we decrease stress for patients and families and increase provider confidence in providing pediatric care, while enhancing performance at both Valley Children's and the partnering provider. The goals of our Clinical Partnership include providing:

- improved quality and confidence in providing pediatric care
- more care delivered closer to home
- enhanced, coordinated care

In 2019, Valley Children's supported 16 inpatient clinical partners and two outpatient clinical partners.



## Continuing Physician Medical Education

In 2019, Valley Children's provided continuing medical education to more than 600 community-based primary care physicians. Pediatric subspecialty physicians from Valley Children's served as featured faculty, providing community-based physicians with critical guidance on a variety of pediatric medical conditions including dermatology, developmental dysplasia of the hip, headaches, hernias, heart disease and exercise, hypertension, neonatal abstinence syndrome, new onset seizures, short stature and growth failure, and surgery urgencies and emergencies.

Programs were provided at locations throughout Valley Children's service area, including Bakersfield, Hanford, Madera, Merced, Modesto, Porterville, Reedley and Visalia.

## Non-Physician Clinical Training

Valley Children's partners closely with health professions education programs throughout the state and around the country to provide students with a variety of educational opportunities to observe or participate in the care of pediatric patients. In 2019, Valley Children's hosted 801 nursing students from more than 15 different nursing schools for a total of 65,955 nursing instruction hours. Valley Children's also hosted 301 non-nursing students, representing 22 different clinical disciplines across 18 different educational institutions for a total of 34,763 instruction hours.

## Valley Children's Pediatric Residency Program

When a child is ill or injured, only the best pediatric medical care will do. As the region's leader in pediatric care, Valley Children's has remained committed for decades to ensuring high-quality pediatric medical education and resident training for healthcare professionals throughout Central California. To maintain this standard of excellence, we continuously look for ways to expand our training opportunities and to use the latest technology to improve clinical outcomes and promote best practices.

Valley Children's Pediatric Residency Program, affiliated with Stanford University School of Medicine, provides an in-depth education focused on general and advanced clinical pediatric training in a fast-paced, tertiary care environment, with a focus on quality and patient safety, interprofessional education, and scholarship and community partnerships. The residents rotate through Valley Children's main teaching hospital – the 330-bed, state-of-the-art Valley Children's Hospital – and Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. They work closely with physicians, nurses, pharmacists, administrators and other healthcare professionals, including our partners in local hospitals and medical groups.

Traditionally, physicians train in silos. Today's way of thinking is to train in teams to replicate the reality of the current collaborative healthcare environment. Doctors also tend to practice where they learn. Our goal is to attract and retain 50% of our resident graduates to stay in the Central Valley to care for our community. Valley Children's pediatric residency program prepares healthcare professionals for an exciting career in medicine, academics, advocacy and leadership, demonstrating the advantages of practicing in the Valley.

In 2019, Valley Children's provided training to 42 medical students and 190 physician residents from programs throughout the country. Residents received training in a number of different disciplines including general pediatrics, cardiology, emergency medicine, family medicine, pediatric surgery and orthopaedic surgery.



## Pharmacist Training

Valley Children's supported a pharmacy residency program in 2019 that provided training to four residents and one Fellow.

## C. RESEARCH

The research program at Valley Children's Hospital consists of both national multi-center clinical trials and locally generated, physician-initiated research studies. Our focus is to participate in studies that are tailored to meet the varying needs of our patient population. Currently, 165 studies are available to children and their families. Studies include Phase II through Phase IV clinical research, as well as social and behavioral research.

Our institution's oncology research program is a member of the Children's Oncology Group, an international network of clinical trials that is federally funded by the National Cancer Institute. Physicians have access to more than 100 studies to treat a variety of types of cancer and to find more effective treatments for the children we care for. Additionally, we have developed a cancer survivorship program that examines the long-term effects of cancer treatment and the ongoing health needs of survivors.

Valley Children's Endocrinology team participates in several studies that follow children to determine whether they are at risk of, or are developing, Type 1 diabetes (T1D). These studies also offer community benefits including risk screening for relatives of patients with T1D.

In conjunction with Stanford University, several Valley Children's cardiologists are examining the outcomes of children who have had surgical procedures for different types of serious heart defects. Another study seeks to understand the psychological effects of implanted pacemakers on children.

Researchers in our Graduate Medical Education Program are mentoring Pediatric and Pharmacy residents on more than a dozen studies examining best practices to care for children, such as partnering with community health organizations, suicide prevention and safe usage of medications.

Due to the prevalence of Valley Fever locally, Valley Children's Infectious Disease specialists are examining treatment outcomes, and seeking to learn why some patients develop more severe disease than others. Additionally, they are working with families to support resilience, as they navigate the many months of treatment their children undergo.

This year has seen an increase in research in Cystic Fibrosis. Valley Children's has joined the Therapeutic Development Network, a cooperative group that offers the latest in treatment for this serious lung disease. The Cystic Fibrosis Registry collects information on the diagnosis and treatment outcomes. By analyzing data, physicians can address quality improvement initiatives and examine important epidemiological trends in the Valley population. Registry data is also used to design clinical research studies offering the latest treatment options.

Valley Children's Hematology Treatment Center participates in a national database to improve the care of children and young adults with bleeding and clotting disorders. The goals of the collaborative network are to gain a better understanding of the issues affecting patients and families, including the development of inhibitors; increase knowledge of the genetics and natural history of blood disorders; study treatment and develop standards of care; and increase community support and education. The Community Counts project is a public health surveillance project run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor the health status of people with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. The goal is to help physicians prevent and reduce complications of bleeding disorders.

A study conducted by the physicians in the Maternal Fetal Center surveys women about their birth experience and collects information to improve care.



Physicians in the Nephrology Department are working on an international research effort to study the clinical course and natural history of children with kidney dysfunction, to study treatment modalities, and to collect and analyze information to advance the science of pediatric renal transplant.

## **D. CASH AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Valley Children's participated as a financial sponsor of community-based organizations whose purpose aligns closely with Valley Children's mission and community benefit priorities. Some of those organizations included the Catholic Charities, Central California Food Bank, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Exceptional Parents Unlimited, Hinds Hospice, March of Dimes and Sierra Vista Child & Family Services.

Valley Children's also provided a variety of in-kind support in 2019 including the following:

### **Disaster Preparedness**

Valley Children's donated space to the California Department of Public Health to store pharmaceuticals to be used in regional disasters or medical emergencies.

### **Expanded Access to Pediatric Primary and Specialty Care**

Valley Children's made cash contributions for the purchase of capital-related items to be used to increase access to healthcare services for children throughout the region.

### **Poison Control**

The Central California Poison Control Center is located on the Valley Children's campus and received a donation of office space in 2019 from Valley Children's.

The Center answers calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and provides expert advice and information regarding exposure to potentially harmful substances.

In addition to medical advice, the Center also assists physicians in complying with mandatory reporting requirements for pesticide exposures, provides case data, and collects and reports information on the health issues related to pesticide exposure in California. Lastly, the Center has been expressly responsive to the growing and largely underserved Latino population by developing specialized teaching tools and program interventions in Spanish, and providing customized trainings for community health workers in Spanish.

### **Ronald McDonald House**

Valley Children's owns the land on which the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) of Central California is located and leases the land to the RMH for \$1 per year. The lease arrangement helps make it possible for the RMH to offer services to families whose children are hospitalized or receiving treatment, including:

- 18 bedrooms with a private bathroom
- Three wings equipped with a laundry room, kitchen and dining area
- Fully stocked pantry and private refrigerators for each room
- Home-cooked meals
- Playroom for siblings
- Large communal living area with small reading room
- Outdoor dining and play area

## Leadership in Community Health

Valley Children's is an active member of the community. Members of the leadership team and clinical staff support many healthcare related initiatives through an in-kind donation of time and resources, including:

### Child Maltreatment

1. Central California Coalition of Child Abuse Prevention Councils
2. Children's Advocacy Centers of California
3. County Child Abuse Prevention Councils, Fresno and Madera counties
4. County Pediatric Death Review and Child Maltreatment Teams, Fresno, Kern, Kings Madera and Merced counties
5. Live Well Madera County Child Abuse Prevention Workgroup
6. Sexual Assault Response Teams, Fresno, Madera, Merced and Tulare counties
7. Suspected Child Abuse & Neglect (SCAN) Team, Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Merced counties
8. Tulare County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Review Team

### Childhood Obesity Prevention

1. Fresno County Diabetes Collaborative
2. Fresno County Food Security Network
3. Fresno County Health Improvement Partnership Steering Committee
4. Kings County Diabetes Coalition
5. Live Well Madera County Obesity and Diabetes Workgroup
6. Regional Partnership for Childhood Obesity Prevention
7. Tulare County Diabetes and Obesity Workgroup

### Community Health Improvement

1. Central Valley School Health Advisory Panel
2. Cradle to Career Fresno County
3. Cradle to Career Stanislaus County
4. Fresno County Community Health Improvement Partnership
5. Fresno Unified School District School Health Advisory Committee
6. Stanislaus County Mobilizing for Action through Partnerships and Programs
7. Tulare County Mobilizing for Action through Partnerships and Programs Committee

### Developmental Disabilities

1. Bi-Annual Babies First Coordinating Council
2. California Breast Feeding Coalition Communication Committee
3. Fresno Babies First Breastfeeding Task Force
4. Fresno County Office of Education Teen Parent Support Collaborative
5. Help Me Grow, Fresno County
6. Kern County Medically Vulnerable Infant Project
7. Madera County Breast Feeding Coalition
8. Madera County Office of Education Pregnant or Parenting Teen Youth Conference
9. March of Dimes California Advocacy and Government Affairs Committee

10. March of Dimes Central Valley Division
11. Model of Care Partnership Oversight Committee, Fresno County
12. Preterm Birth Collective Impact Initiative, Fresno County
13. Teen Parent Support Program, First 5 Fresno County

### **Behavioral Health**

1. Central California Perinatal Mental Health Collaborative
2. Clovis Unified School District Comprehensive Wellness Committee
3. Community Conversations on Mental Health, Fresno County
4. Fresno County 5150 Task Force
5. Fresno County Suicide Prevention Collaborative
6. Fresno County Trauma and Resiliency Network
7. Madera County Suicide Prevention Collaborative
8. Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, California
9. National Alliance on Mental Illness, Fresno County
10. Resource Center for Survivors, Fresno County Rape Crisis Services
11. Survivors of Suicide Loss, Fresno County

### **Primary Care**

1. Fresno County Healthcare Coalition
2. Merced County Healthcare Consortium

### **Unintentional Injury**

1. California Safe Teen Driving Committee
2. California Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Project
3. Children in Autonomous Vehicles Consortium
4. Safe Kids Central California
5. Safe Kids Kings County
6. Safe Kids Worldwide President's Advisory Council
7. Safe Kids Worldwide Railroad Safety Committee
8. Water Safety Council of Fresno County

### **Other**

1. ABC30 Fresno Community Advisory Committee
2. Binational Health Week of Central California Planning Committee
3. California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee
4. Kings County Multi-Disciplinary Team
5. Madera County Interagency Council for Children
6. Mariposa County Interagency Team Member
7. Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno, Health Ministry Office
8. Ventanilla de Salud Program, Mexican Consulate Fresno



## VI. FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT

### Economic value and categorization of community benefit provided in FY2019

Valley Children's community benefit funding for FY2019 (October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019) is summarized in the table below. The organization's community benefit costs are in compliance with Internal Revenue Service instructions for Form 990 Schedule H. All community benefit expenses are based on actual costs, not charges, in compliance with IRS Form 990 Schedule H instructions using a cost to charge ratio for financial assistance.

(October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019)

Community Benefit Categories		Net Benefit
1.	Financial assistance/charity care <sup>1</sup>	\$346,213
2.	Unpaid costs of Medi-Cal <sup>2</sup>	-
3.	Education and research <sup>3</sup>	\$10,806,508
4.	Other for the broader community <sup>4</sup>	\$11,810,469
	<b>Total quantifiable community benefit prior to unpaid cost of Medicare</b>	<b>\$22,963,190</b>
5.	Unpaid costs of Medicare	\$66,916
	<b>Total quantifiable community benefit</b>	<b>\$23,030,106</b>

<sup>1</sup>Charity Care - In keeping with its Mission, Valley Children's continues to accept all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. This amount represents costs associated with patients who meet certain criteria under the organization's financial assistance policy without charge, or at amounts less than its established rates in relation to the cost of these services. Financial assistance includes indigent and free care, which is based on the patient's inability to pay for services.

<sup>2</sup>Unpaid costs of Medi-Cal, net of disproportionate share funds received, were \$98,607,787 in fiscal year 2019. Valley Children's recognized net revenue from the Hospital Fee Program in the amount of \$135,907,799 in fiscal year 2019 and therefore has reported \$0 unpaid costs of Medi-Cal.

<sup>3</sup>Costs related to the medical and health professions education programs and research that the hospital supports.

<sup>4</sup>Includes non-billed activities, such as health education, community health improvement, health support services, community benefit operations, cash and in-kind donations.

## VII. COMMUNITY BENEFIT PLAN FISCAL YEAR 2020

### Significant Needs the Hospital Intends to Address

In 2019, Valley Children's completed a Community Health Needs Assessment. Priority health needs were identified that the hospital chose to address through its Implementation Strategy/Community Benefit plan. These included:

- Access to care
- Basic needs
- Chronic disease prevention
- Infant health
- Behavioral health
- Violence and injury prevention

### Access to Care (including community capacity, primary care and transportation)

Valley Children's will address access to healthcare by taking the following actions:

- Participate in community partnerships that enhance the ability of stakeholders to meet the healthcare needs of children in Central California.
- Support development and/or implementation of health professions education programs for physicians and non-physician providers.
- Promote health careers in pediatric care by participating in health career fairs and by offering observation and mentoring activities at Valley Children's.
- Provide education to school nurses, primary care physicians, hospitals and others to advance their clinical knowledge.
- Advance community providers' capacity to address the medical needs of children through Valley Children's Clinical Partnership Program.
- Recruit and place pediatricians in underserved communities.
- Partner with existing community providers to increase their primary care capacity.
- Participate in community initiatives that expand access to primary care.
- Provide health insurance enrollment assistance to families with children not enrolled in health insurance.
- Represent the interests of children needing to access hospital services by participating in county-led and state mandated regional transportation assessments.
- Provide financial support for transportation services for needy families.

### Basic Needs

Valley Children's will address basic needs by taking the following actions:

- Provide meals to Valley Children's families and increase food access for eligible families.
- Provide education to families on food resources (food pantries, food banks, CalFresh, etc.) in their communities.
- Increase access to age-appropriate books for children of all ages.
- Educate parents on the importance of engaging with children and reading to them.

## Chronic Disease Prevention (including asthma, obesity, and Type II diabetes)

Valley Children's will address chronic disease prevention by taking the following actions:

- Participate in regional collaboratives focused on asthma and asthma issues.
- Provide education to families, community providers and organizations on how to prevent and/or treat asthma.
- Develop and implement a regional strategy for preventing and/or managing childhood obesity.
- Provide education to primary care providers and community-based organizations regarding childhood obesity and diabetes prevention management.

## Infant Health (including developmental disabilities, pre-term birth and infant mortality)

Valley Children's will address infant health by taking the following actions:

- Participate in community coalitions focused on improving identification/treatment of infants with developmental delays.
- Participate in Help Me Grow initiatives in Fresno, Kern, and Merced counties.
- Screen for developmental delays in primary care practices.
- Provide technical assistance to primary care physicians regarding screening tool.
- Participate in community coalitions focused on improving birth outcomes.
- Provide education to community providers regarding care for infants born pre-term. This is in addition to the education provided as part of Valley Children's regional CCS role.

## Behavioral Health

Valley Children's will address behavioral health by taking the following actions:

- Advocate for county-led Mental Health Services Act initiatives that increase access to services for children and adolescents.
- Facilitate a regional strategy in response to the Pediatric Mental Health Services funding included in the state budget.
- Provide education to school-age children on issues such as bullying and suicide prevention.

## Violence and Injury Prevention (including child maltreatment)

Valley Children's will address violence and injury prevention by taking the following actions:

- Participate in local and regional collaboratives focused on prevention and system integration.
- Provide education and technical assistance to community providers and organizations regarding prevention and child maltreatment, including promotion of best practices.
- Participate in coalitions that promote childhood injury prevention.
- Provide education to community providers and organizations.
- Provide professional development for community providers and organizations to increase their capacity to provide education and/or training on pediatric injury prevention issues



## Significant Needs Valley Children's Does Not Intend to Address

Taking existing hospital and community resources into consideration, Valley Children's will not directly address the remaining health needs identified in the CHNA including:

- Alzheimer's disease
- Climate and health/environmental pollution
- Communicable diseases
- Dental health
- Economic security
- Education
- Housing and homelessness
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Substance use

Knowing that there are not sufficient resources to address all the community health needs, Valley Children's chooses to concentrate on those health needs that can most effectively be addressed given the organization's areas of focus and expertise. It is also important to note that this plan is not exhaustive of everything Valley Children's does to enhance the health of the communities we serve. Valley Children's will continue to look for opportunities to address community needs where it can appropriately contribute to addressing those needs, either directly or in collaboration with others.

## Evaluation of Impact

Valley Children's will monitor and evaluate the programs and activities outlined above. The hospital has a system that tracks the implementation of the strategies. The reporting process includes the collection and documentation of tracking measures, such as the number of people reached/served and collaborative efforts to address health needs. An evaluation of the impact of the hospital's actions to address these significant health needs will be reported in the next scheduled Community Health Needs Assessment.

## Fostering Community Partnerships

Valley Children's is committed to fostering partnerships with community-based organizations, community clinics, government agencies, schools and school districts, the faith community, public health, and public safety agencies. Our community benefit plan includes maintaining current partnerships and exploring opportunities to engage with new partners.

## VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION

### Address of Hospital Campus

Valley Children's Hospital  
9300 Valley Children's Place  
Madera, CA 93636

### Web Address

[valleychildrens.org](http://valleychildrens.org)

### Community Benefit Contact

Tim Curley, Director  
Community and Government Relations  
(559) 353-8610  
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