

AdventHealth Ocala

2026 – 2028 Community Health Plan



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Acknowledgements

This community health plan was prepared by Alison Grooms, with contributions from members of the Marion County Steering Committee representing health leaders in the community and AdventHealth Ocala leaders.

We are especially grateful for the internal and external partners who helped guide the development of the community health plan which will enable our teams to continue fulfilling our mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ.

Executive Summary



Executive Summary

Florida Hospital Ocala, Inc.d/b/a AdventHealth Ocala will be referred to in this document as AdventHealth Ocala or the “Hospital”.

Community Health Needs Assessment Process

AdventHealth Ocala in Ocala, Florida, conducted a community health needs assessment in 2025. The assessment identified the health-related needs of the community, including low-income, minority and other underserved populations. The priorities were defined in alignment with Healthy People 2030, the national initiative aimed at improving the health and well-being of people in the United States.

In order to ensure broad community input, AdventHealth Ocala participated in the All4HealthFL Collaborative, referred to as the Collaborative, to help guide the Hospital through the assessment process. The Collaborative included representation from the Hospital, public health experts and the broad community. This included intentional representation from low-income, minority and other underserved populations.

The Collaborative met seven times in 2024 – 2025. The members reviewed the primary and secondary data, helped define the priorities to be addressed and helped develop the Community Health Plan (CHP) to address those priorities. Learn more about Healthy People 2030 at health.gov/healthypeople.

Community Health Plan Process

The Community Health Plan (CHP), or implementation strategy, is the Hospital’s action plan to address the priorities identified from the CHNA. The plan was developed by the Marion County Steering Committee and input was received from stakeholders across sectors, including public health, faith-based, business and those individuals directly impacted.

The CHP outlines targeted interventions and measurable outcomes for each priority noted below. It includes resources the Hospital will commit and notes any planned collaborations between the Hospital and other community organizations and hospitals.

The defined goals and activities were carefully crafted, considering evidence-based resources and sought to align with AdventHealth’s organizational and strategic plans. AdventHealth Ocala is committed to addressing the needs of the community, especially the most vulnerable populations, to bring wholeness to our communities.



Executive Summary

Priorities Addressed

The priorities addressed include:

1. Mental Health
2. Nutrition and Healthy Eating
3. Health Care Access and Quality

See page 10 for the defined strategies and next steps for each priority selected to be addressed.

Priorities Not Addressed

The priorities not addressed include:

1. Cancer
2. Heart Disease and Stroke
3. Injury Prevention
4. Economic Stability
5. Neighborhood and Built Environment

See page 21 for an explanation of why the Hospital is not addressing these issues.



The Community Health Plan is a three-year strategic plan and may be updated during implementation based on changing community needs and priorities. AdventHealth recognizes community health is not static and high-priority needs can arise or existing needs can become less pressing. The Hospital may pivot and refocus efforts and resources to best serve the community.



Executive Summary

Board Approval

On February 19, 2026, the AdventHealth Ocala Board approved the Community Health Plan goals, activities and next steps. A link to the 2026-2028 Community Health Plan was posted on the Hospital's website on May 15, 2026.

Ongoing Evaluation

AdventHealth Ocala's fiscal year is January 1 – December 31. For 2026, the Community Health Plan will be deployed beginning February 19, 2026, and evaluated at the end of the calendar year. In 2027 and beyond, the CHP will be evaluated annually for the 12-month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Evaluation results will be attached to the Hospital's IRS Form 990, Schedule H. The collective monitoring and reporting will ensure the plan remains relevant and effective.

For More Information

Learn more about the Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Plan for AdventHealth Ocala adventhealth.com/community-health-needs-assessments.

About AdventHealth

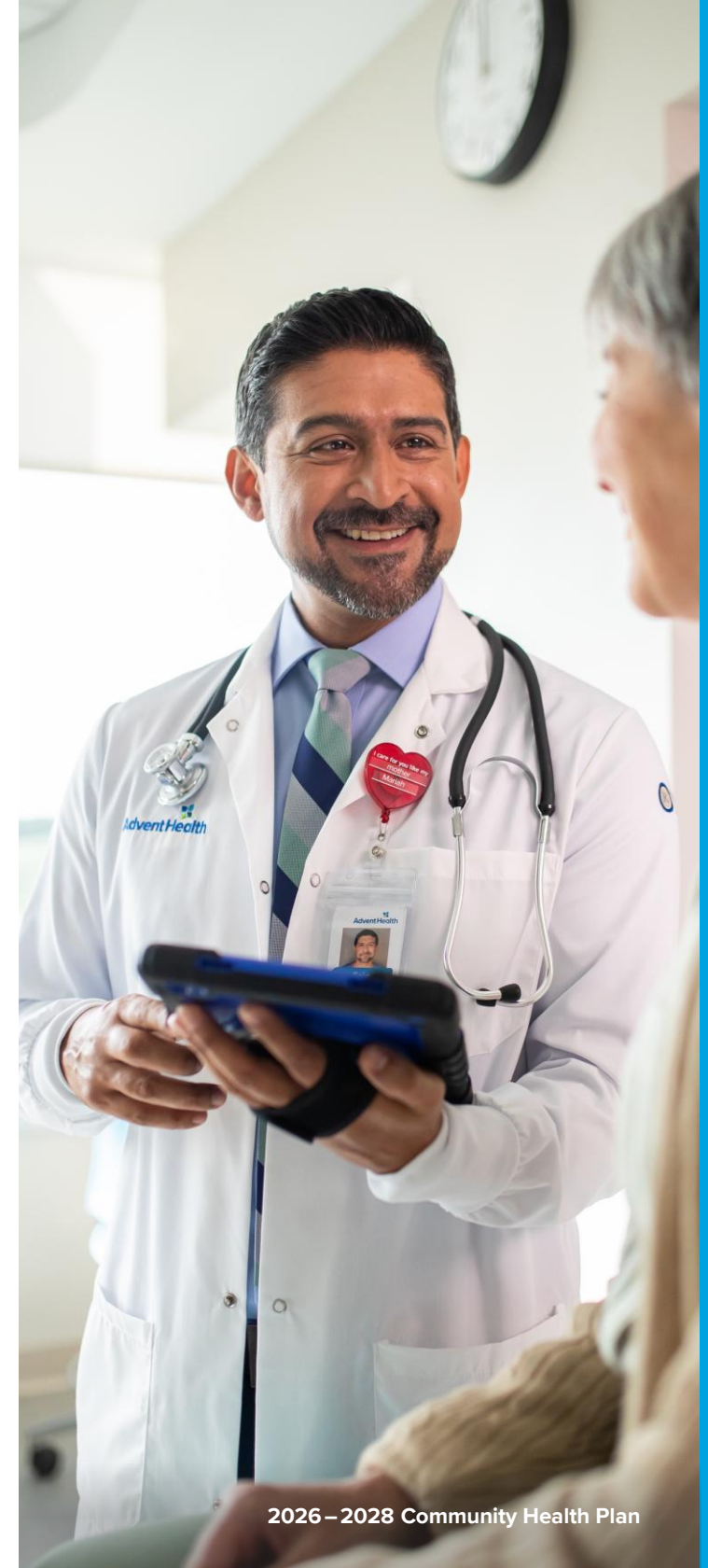


About AdventHealth

AdventHealth Ocala is part of AdventHealth. With a sacred mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, AdventHealth strives to heal and restore the body, mind and spirit through our connected system of care. More than 100,000 talented and compassionate team members serve over 8 million patients annually. From physician practices, hospitals and outpatient clinics to skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies and hospice centers, AdventHealth provides individualized, whole-person care at more than 50 hospital campuses and hundreds of care sites throughout nine states. Committed to your care today and tomorrow, AdventHealth is investing in new technologies, research and the brightest minds to redefine wellness, advance medicine and create healthier communities.

In a 2020 study by Stanford University, physicians and researchers from AdventHealth were featured in the ranking of the world's top 2% of scientists. These critical thinkers are shaping the future of health care. Amwell, a national telehealth leader, named AdventHealth the winner of its Innovation Integration Award. This telemedicine accreditation recognizes organizations that have identified connection points within digital health care to improve clinical outcomes and user experiences. AdventHealth was recognized for its innovative digital front door strategy, which is making it possible for patients to seamlessly navigate their health care journey. From checking health documentation and paying bills to conducting a virtual urgent care visit with a provider, we're making health care easier — creating pathways to holistic care no matter where your health journey starts.

AdventHealth is also an award-winning workplace aiming to promote personal, professional and spiritual growth with its team culture. Recognized by Becker's Hospital Review on its "150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare" several years in a row, this recognition is given annually to health care organizations that promote workplace diversity, employee engagement and professional growth. In 2024, the organization was named by Newsweek as one of the Greatest Workplaces for Diversity and a Most Trustworthy Company in America.



About AdventHealth Ocala

AdventHealth Ocala is a 385-bed full-service community hospital that opened in 1898. In August 2018, AdventHealth Ocala became a part of the AdventHealth network. The facility is 640,000 square feet and sits on 15-acres. Within the hospital network there are three 24/7 ER facilities, one onsite and two offsite, to better meet the needs of Marion County. The onsite ER has both an adult and children's emergency department that has over 50 combined beds with the ability to treat many conditions and injuries. The two offsite ER's, AdventHealth TimberRidge ER and AdventHealth Belleview ER are both 24-hour full-service emergency departments with all private rooms and AdventHealth TimberRidge ER was the first offsite ER in the state of Florida. The hospital offers many inpatient services including, labor and delivery through The Baby Place®, level II NICU, Orthopedic unit, comprehensive cardiovascular surgery unit, neuro unit and a wound care center. AdventHealth Ocala is accredited with The Joint Commission and has received recognition from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. They are accredited by the American College of Cardiology in Chest Pain, Heart Failure, Cardiac Cath Lab, Electrophysiology, Transcatheter Valve Certified and awarded the HeartCARE™ Center designation. They are also a Certified Advanced Primary Stroke Center as well as a Center of Excellence in Robotic and Hernia Surgery.



Priorities Addressed



Mental Health

Mental health and mental disorders, including behavioral health and substance misuse, were identified as top health needs from the secondary data, community survey, and focus groups. About 37.8% of survey respondents have been diagnosed with depression or anxiety. Additionally, focus group participants cited a need for increased affordable mental health programming and services. Secondary data showed an increased trend in the percentage of middle school (31.6%) and high-school (50.6%) students who reported using any alcohol or illicit drugs in their lifetime. Over fifty percent (58.4%) of community survey respondents ranked mental health as a problem in the community. Awareness and the need to address mental and behavioral health has been growing in the country and locally. By including mental health and mental disorders as a priority, the Hospital can align to local, state, and national efforts for resource collaboration and to create better outcome opportunities over the next three years.

Goal

Reduce the impact of mental health and substance use disorders in Marion County.

Activity

Provide support for Mental Health First Aid classes in Marion County through a partnership with the Marion County Children’s Alliance

Output

- Number of people certified in Mental Health First Aid
- Number of Mental Health First Aid classes
- Amount of funding

Outcome

By December 31, 2028, through a partnership with the Marion County Children’s Alliance, 540 Marion County residents will become certified in Mental Health First Aid.

Hospital Contributions

- Cash donation
- Community Relations Manager will refer organizations inquiring about classes to Marion County Children’s Alliance

Community Partnership

- Marion County Children’s Alliance

Mental Health

Goal

Reduce the impact of mental health and substance use disorders in Marion County.

Activity

Provide support for caregivers providing care to individuals with mental health conditions

Output

- Number of Dementia Caregiver Workshops supported
- Number of caregivers supported

Outcome

By December 31, 2028, there will be a 10% increase in support for caregivers to individuals with mental health conditions in Marion County.

Hospital Contributions

- In-kind room donation for workshops and support groups
- Cash donation

Community Partnership

- Empath Marion County Hospice
- Organizations supporting caregivers

Nutrition and Healthy Eating

In Marion County, 38.4% of adults are obese. This is higher than the state values, although not significantly. Additionally, the food insecurity rate in Marion County is 14.9% according to Feeding America’s 2023 data.¹ According to Feeding America, food insecurity is when people cannot access the food they need to live healthy and good quality lives. Thirty-five percent (35.8%) of Marion County residents surveyed reported themselves as food insecure and 84.4% stated that they do not eat at least three servings of fruits and vegetables every day. An unhealthy diet can lead to lifelong chronic and costly illnesses, thereby choosing this as a priority, the Hospital can collaborate with other community organizations to address this issue.

Goal

Improve health by promoting healthy eating and making nutritious foods available to community members.

Activity

Provide produce to community members through partnerships with the Florida Department of Health – Marion County, the Marion County Hospital District, and Farming 4 U.

Output

- Number of educational class series
- Number of classes
- Number of people receiving \$10 worth of free produce
- Pounds of produce distributed
- Amount of funding

Outcome

By December 31, 2028, AdventHealth Ocala will increase access to produce for Marion County residents participating in health and nutrition classes by 10% through a partnership with the Florida Department of Health – Marion County, the Marion County Hospital District, and Farming 4 U.

Hospital Contributions

- Cash Donation

Community Partnership

- Florida Department of Health-Marion County
- Marion County Hospital District
- Farming 4 U

¹Map the Meal Gap 2023 | Feeding America

Nutrition and Healthy Eating

Goal

Improve health by promoting healthy eating and making nutritious foods available to community members.

Activity

Support local organizations addressing food insecurity

Output

- Tracking outcomes related to activities of community organizations
- Amount of funding

Outcome

By December 31, 2028, AdventHealth Ocala will increase support to local non-profit organizations working to combat food insecurity by 10%.

Hospital Contributions

- Cash donation

Community Partnership

- Marion County non-profits combating food insecurity

Health Care Access and Quality

Access to quality health care was ranked number one in the prioritization session amongst the other identified health needs affecting Marion County. An important factor in access to care involves having an adequate number of providers in a community. The rate of primary care providers in Marion County is 164.5 (per 100,000 population) which is slightly lower than that of the state at 261.2 (per 100,000 population). Marion County has a rate of dental providers at 37.1 compared to Florida at 61.5. Similarly, the rate for mental health providers in Marion County is 84.1 compared to the Florida rate of 133.2. Inadequate health insurance coverage is one of the largest barriers to health care access and the unequal distribution of coverage contributes to disparities in health. The percentage of adults ages 19-64 that do not have health insurance coverage in Marion County is 20.3%, slightly higher than the state of Florida at 17.5%. By focusing on access to care, the Hospital will align local efforts and resources to create targeted strategies to improve access for Marion County residents.

Goal

Increase access to high-quality health care services in Marion County.

Activity

AdventHealth Harnessing Health mobile medical unit program

Output

- Number of farms visited by Harnessing Health’s mobile clinic
- Number of farm workers seeing a health care provider through the Harnessing Health mobile clinic
- Number of total health care visits per farm worker
- Amount of funding
- Number of team member hours donated

Outcome

By December 31, 2028, there will be a 10% increase in primary care visits for farm workers participating in the Harnessing Health program.

Hospital Contributions

- Allocate funding for a full-time coordinator
- Allocate funding to purchase and fit a mobile medical unit as needed
- In-kind donation of time to provide clinical services, logistics, and tracking
- In-kind donation of medical supplies
- Foundation/Philanthropy contribution

Community Partnership

- Marion County horse farms

Health Care Access and Quality

Goal

Increase access to high-quality health care services in Marion County.

Activity

Provide free health screenings to Marion County residents

Output

- Number of individuals receiving free health screenings
- Number of team member hours donated

Outcome

By December 31, 2028, there will be a 30% increase in free health screenings to residents of Marion County annually.

Hospital Contributions

- In-kind donation of supplies (blood pressure cuffs, glucose tests and testing strips, scales, and A1C meters for screenings)
- In-kind donation of time to perform health screenings

Community Partnership

- Marion County Hospital District
- Florida Department of Health – Marion County

Health Care Access and Quality

Goal

Increase access to high-quality health care services in Marion County.

Activity

Support the Community Paramedicine Programs in Ocala and Marion County

Output

- Number of chronically and acutely ill residents of Marion County receiving care for conditions
- Number of program patients graduated from program
- Number of health care visits per patient
- Amount of funding

Outcome

By December 31, 2028, there will be a 10% increase in visits by a health care provider to address social drivers of health in patients suffering from congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or diabetes.

Hospital Contributions

- Cash donation
- Care Management and Care 360 team members provide referrals into program
- EMS Specialist acts as hospital liaison for operations and communications with Fire Rescue teams

Community Partnership

- Marion County Fire Rescue
- Ocala Fire Rescue

Health Care Access and Quality

Goal

Increase access to high-quality health care services in Marion County.

Activity

Expand health care services to underserved patients at the Estella Byrd Whitman Community Health Center

Output

- Number of patients serviced annually
- Amount of funding

Outcome

By December 31, 2028, there will be a 10% increase in the number of underserved patients seeing a primary care provider at the Estella Byrd Whitman Clinic.

Hospital Contributions

- Cash donations

Community Partnership

- Estella Byrd Whitman Community Health Clinic

Health Care Access and Quality

Goal

Improve workforce development through increased access to health care career education opportunities.

Activity

Support local middle and high school Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) clubs

Output

- Number of Marion County Public School HOSA clubs supported
- Number of HOSA students supported
- Number of conference room space funded for HOSA conferences
- Amount of funding

Outcome

By December 31, 2028, selected Marion County Title 1 schools will see an increase in participation in their HOSA programs by 30%.

Hospital Contributions

- Cash donation

Community Partnership

- Marion County Public Schools

Health Care Access and Quality

Goal

Improve workforce development through increased access to health care career education opportunities.

Activity

Support the College of Central Florida's Nursing Program

Output

- Number of nurses graduated
- Amount of funding

Outcome

By December 31, 2028, AdventHealth Ocala will support the College of Central Florida's nursing program leading to a 10% increase in newly graduated health professionals.

Hospital Contributions

- Cash donation

Community Partnership

- College of Central Florida

Priorities Not Addressed



Priorities Not Addressed

AdventHealth Ocala also identified the following health needs during the CHNA process. In reviewing the CHNA data, available resources and ability to impact, the Hospital determined these needs will not be addressed.

Cancer

Though cancer is the second leading cause of death, and the death rate in Marion County due to cancer is slightly higher than that of the state, (148.8 versus 138.3 per 100,000 population respectively), the Collaborative did not select it as a top issue to address. Other priorities were voted as more important and feasible for the Hospital to make impact through collaborations and partnership programming.

Heart Disease and Stroke

Heart disease and stroke as a topic on its own did not come through as one of the top three issues to be addressed. Though, it is the leading cause of death, and 39.1% of survey respondents were told by a medical provider that they have hypertension and/or heart disease, the Collaborative did not perceive this a top issue to be addressed. The Collaborative did not select this as a priority as there are already several other community organizations actively addressing this need in the community who are better positioned to make an impact.

Injury Prevention

Throughout the assessment, unintentional injuries, specifically due to falls, was a common concern among participants. Survey respondents noted that Marion County was number one in the state due to deaths from falls. With the large elderly population that resides in Marion County, increasing cases of falls are a concern for many residents. The Collaborative agreed that this is an issue but decided that some of the other priority areas were more concerning and should be prioritized over falls to be addressed.

Economic Stability

In the Hospital's community, 26% of residents are housing cost burdened, or paying over 30% of their income to housing costs. According to the community survey, 37.9% of respondents reported being worried they would not have stable housing in the next two months. Additionally, 14.6% of Marion County residents are living below the federal poverty level and 37% fall into the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Household category. ALICE households are those earning above the federal poverty level but still struggling to afford necessities for optimal quality of life. The exceeding cost of living in the community is significant, however, the Collaborative did not perceive the ability to have a measurable impact on the issue within the three years allotted for the Community Health Plan with the current resources available to the community and the Hospital at this time

Neighborhood and Built Environment

Marion County is the 5th largest county by land in the state. There are many rural areas throughout the area, making neighborhood and built environment an issue for many residents. During the assessment transportation was often cited as a barrier to receiving care. In Marion County 4.9% of households do not own a vehicle. Access to transportation significantly limits access to health and health care, and while this is an issue, the Collaborative felt addressing other needs was more feasible.



**Florida Hospital Ocala, Inc. dba
AdventHealth Ocala**

CHP Approved by the Hospital Board on: February 19, 2026

For questions or comments please contact:
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