



**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
HEALTH-SPARROW**
MICHIGAN MEDICINE

University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Ionia
Community Health Improvement Plan
FY 2025 – 2027

Approved by Hospital Leaders in April 2025.

Created by:

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Hospital Information

University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Ionia is located in Ionia, Michigan. The hospital was originally built in 1953 and rebuilt in 2015. The new LEED certified space holds 22 licensed beds. It is an acute care hospital and a Level IV Trauma Designation offering 24/7 emergency care. Sparrow Ionia offers a variety of services including cancer and infusion care, cardiac rehabilitation services, cardiology, imaging/radiology, laboratory services, orthopedics and sports medicine, respiratory services, rehabilitation services, specialty care, and surgical services. Sparrow Ionia has also been recognized for being nationally ranked overall 5-star quality rating. The hospital also has the Roeser Walking Trail, a 1.2-mile outdoor walking path available to the community.

Our mission, vision and values reflect our legacy, shared purpose with University of Michigan Health, and stake a bold expectation of our future.

Our Mission

To advance health to serve Michigan and the world.

Our Vision

Our discoveries change care. Our care changes lives.

Our Values

- Caring: We will treat everyone with dignity, kindness and respect, promoting the well-being of self and others.
- Innovation: We will promote a culture of creativity, flexibility and curiosity that inspires new ideas and ways of thinking, behaving and improving the world.
- Inclusion: We will foster an environment where every individual has a sense of belonging, a voice that is heard and the opportunity to achieve and thrive.
- Integrity: We will adhere to the highest ethical standard, demonstrating courage, truth and transparency in our words and actions.
- Teamwork: We will work together with a shared purpose rooted in equity and fairness where diversity is celebrated, respected and valued.

Community Health Needs Assessment

The Affordable Care Act requires non-profit hospital systems to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years. This is followed by a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) or action plan to address the identified health needs. These requirements ensure that health systems are investing in population health, while showing that efforts are community-driven and based on the most recent data.

A CHNA was conducted by Healthy! Capital Counties collaborative in 2024. This collaborative is made up of hospital systems and health departments within the tri-county area.

Hospital partners include:

- Eaton Rapids Medical Center
- McLaren Greater Lansing
- University of Michigan Health-Sparrow

Health Department partners include:

- Barry-Eaton District Health Department
- Ingham County Health Department
- Mid-Michigan District Health Department

This partnership was created to achieve greater improvements in health outcomes in the tri-county region by conducting a joint CHNA initiative alongside community partners. The Healthy! Capital Counties CHNA surveys Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties. This collaborative process includes data collection, analysis of health indicator data, conducting focus groups for communities experiencing inequities, conducting a provider survey, creating an asset inventory, and prioritization of health needs.

Ionia County is included in the 2023 EightCAP, Inc. Community Assessment. This Assessment surveys Clinton County, Gratiot County, Ionia County, Isabella County, and Montcalm County. Information from this survey is considered when looking at needs in the community and prioritization, however, it is not the primary assessment tool due to the survey not being primarily focused on health indicators and outcomes.

To review the 2024 Healthy! Capital Counties CHNA:

Scan the QR code or:

[Click here to access the 2024 CHNA](#)



Identification Of Community Health Needs

The Healthy! Capital Counties collaborative had a steering committee that identified the top 8 health issues that were found through the data, focus group themes, and were feasible for the community partners to create positive impacts on the community. The steering committee was used to mitigate potential biases by using Strategy Grids and consensus-building to determine the following 8 possible priority issues:

- Housing
- Healthcare Access
- Mental Health
- Substance Use
- Access to Healthy Foods
- Social Connection
- Safety
- Child Health

The steering committee determined two priority areas: Access to Care and Behavioral Health. The committee could not come to a consensus for the following two priority areas: Housing and Food Access, so they brought in a larger stakeholder group and community partners for a Data Party to determine a final vote. The following were selected as the final list of health priorities:

- Access to Care
- Behavioral Health
- Housing

Addressing Priorities

These findings were presented to the UM Health-Sparrow Ionia executive leaders for review and approval. After careful consideration regarding the needs of the community and strategic deployment of resources to yield the greatest impact on health outcomes, UM Health-Sparrow Ionia will focus on the following health need:

- Access to Care

Determining Priorities, Strategies, and Outcomes

Upon the release of the 2024 Healthy! Capital Counties CHNA, top priorities and the corresponding data were reviewed and compared to internal hospital data. Stakeholders were brought in to identify key strategies to meet the needs identified in the 2024 report. Following stakeholder planning sessions, identified strategies were reviewed for feasibility and synthesized into a matrix and brought before stakeholders and leaders for final review and approval. The University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Ionia CHIP report was approved and adopted in April 2025.

Access to Care

Specific needs identified in the CHNA:

- In 2023, 4.4% of adults 18-64 years old in the Tri-County region had no health insurance. This decreased from 4.7% in 2021 and 4.6% in 2022.
- In Ionia County, 8.57% of adults 18-64 did not have health insurance in 2019 and 3.01% of children under 19 did not have health insurance.*
- In 2023, there were 272 residents per 1 mental health provider in the Tri-County region, which has decreased from 314 residents per provider in 2021 and 289 residents per provider in 2022.
- The Tri-County region had 1,218 residents per 1 primary care provider in 2021, which was similar when compared to previous years of 1,296 residents per provider in 2019, and 1,204 residents per provider in 2020.
- "I tried to renew it and they said my income was too much. And I'm like ... I'm part time. That was kind of stressful. And it ended up actually leading me and my family to being homeless."
- "But we can't even get in the door because we just don't even have \$55 to cover the appointment copay."

**From 2023 EightCAP, Inc. Community Assessment*

Other Needs Identified, Not Addressed

University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Ionia did not address behavioral health or housing which were two priorities within the Healthy! Capital Counties CHNA.

Monitoring of Implementation Strategy and Tracking of Outcomes

The Office of Community Health Advancement & Patient Experience will approve the strategies for implementation alongside hospital leadership. Further, each anticipated outcome has a mechanism for measurement. The implementation strategy that includes strategies and outcomes will be updated and distributed at the end of each year for the 2025-2027 cycle. Pending results, adjustments or changes will be made to strategies or anticipated outcomes as deemed appropriate.

Implementation Strategy

University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Ionia

FY 2025-2027

Last updated April 22, 2026.

Access to Medical Care:

Goal:

Increase availability and accessibility of specialty services for Ionia County.

Strategy:

Increase access to specialty services and increase school-based care through immunizations, pediatrics access, and school nurses.

Measurable Outcome:

Number of providers added.

Updates:

Increasing Specialty Services:

Gastrointestinal Clinic starting March 30, 2026, with increased endoscopies through block time with West providers. Urology may be starting over the summer of 2026. Cardiology and Urology operate as a specialty clinic within the UMH-Sparrow Ionia hospital. The organization is also planning to add a new Ionia ambulatory clinic/medical office building within the next 2.5 years to further expand access to care.

School-based Care:

School-based nursing, communicating and educating on the importance of vaccination. Athletic trainers actively engaged with schools to assist with ensuring wellness.