



**Community Benefits Report inclusive of RUSH University Medical Center
and RUSH Oak Park Hospital**

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

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RUSH University Medical Center and RUSH Oak Park Hospital Community Benefits
Report
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Organizational background

RUSH University System for Health (RUSH) has a long history of community engagement and is committed to improving the health of the communities it serves. RUSH maintains a unique organizational structure that allows it to thrive: It is a not-for-profit health care, education and research enterprise comprised of RUSH University Medical Center (RUMC), RUSH University, RUSH University Medical Group (RUMG), RUSH Oak Park Hospital (ROPH) and RUSH Copley Medical Center. For fiscal year 2022, all RUSH entities fell under the leadership of K. Ranga Rama Krishnan, MB, ChB, chief executive officer of RUSH University System for Health. Dr. Omar Lateef became CEO of RUSH in July 2022. He was appointed president of RUSH University System for Health in 2021 and has been president and CEO of RUSH University Medical Center since May 2019.

Though all academic medical centers in the Chicago area are affiliated with medical schools, the hospital and the medical school are often separate corporate entities that support one another via formal operating agreements. RUSH is unique in that all its entities exist as one comprehensive organization. This unified structure allows for a system wide strategy for community benefit.

In 2016, Rush University Medical Center adopted a health equity strategy to tackle life expectancy gaps across its service areas. The strategy aims to measurably reduce inequities across our communities, organization, people, learners and patients. Central to this strategy was the adoption of an anchor mission, a place-based business strategy to invest in population health and wealth through intentional hiring, investing, purchasing, and community engagement. In addition, the medical center has established the Rush BMO Institute for Health Equity to coordinate health equity efforts across Rush business units. This community benefits report reflects the commitment of Rush to these to these long term efforts.

This report captures the community benefit activities of RUSH University Medical Center and RUSH Oak Park Hospital. RUSH Copley Medical Center (RCMC) has its own tax identification number and will submit its own report for fiscal year 2022.

Mission, vision, and values

Mission: The mission of RUSH is to improve the health of the individuals and diverse communities we serve through the integration of outstanding patient care, education, research and community partnerships.

Vision: RUSH will be the leading academic health system in the region and nationally recognized for transforming health care.

Values: RUSH's core values — innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect, and excellence — are the road map to our mission, vision, and themes. These five values, known as our ICARE values, convey the philosophy behind every decision RUSH employees make. RUSH employees commit themselves to demonstrating these values with compassion. This translates into a dedication shared by all members of the RUSH community to provide the highest quality of patient care.

RUSH also includes taglines along with the values statement: **Just, Ethical, Diverse, and Inclusive**. These guide all that we do.

National recognition

RUSH has received much national recognition for its work, some of which is highlighted below.

American Hospital Association: Equity of Care

RUSH received the American Hospital Association's (AHA) Equity of Care Award for the fifth time in 2021. The award is presented annually to hospitals or care systems that are noteworthy leaders and examples to the field in equitable care. Honorees demonstrate a high level of success in

reducing health care disparities and promoting diversity in leadership and staff within their organizations.

Beacon Award for Excellence: Recognizing exemplary hospital units

The intermediate care area and intensive care unit at RUSH Copley Medical Center, the intensive care unit at RUSH Oak Park Hospital and the neuroscience intensive care unit at RUSH University Medical Center all received a gold level Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). The award recognizes individual hospital units that set the standard for excellence by using evidence-based information to improve patient outcomes and patient and staff satisfaction.

Disability Equality Index

RUSH's commitment to accommodating people with disabilities, for the second year in a row, RUSH University Medical Center is among the top-scoring organizations on the Disability Equality Index (DEI). With a score of 80%, RUSH again has earned the honor of being named one of the nation's "Best Places to Work for Disability Inclusion."

Gartner Healthcare Supply Chain

RUSH University System for Health has been included in the annual Gartner Healthcare Supply Chain Top 25. RUSH ranked 15th on Gartner's 2022 list, moving up from its No. 21 ranking last year. Gartner combined quantitative measures of organizational performance and qualitative assessment of value chain leadership and demonstrated supply chain performance to create a composite score for each organization.

Healthgrades Patient Safety Award

RUSH Oak Park Hospital was one of only 456 hospitals across the nation to earn the Healthgrades Patient Safety Excellence Award, placing it among the top 10% of all short-term acute care hospitals reporting patient safety data.

Human Rights Campaign Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality

RUSH has been named a Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality in the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) report. The HEI is an annual survey of U.S. hospitals regarding treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) patients and their families, as well as hospital employees. RUSH has consistently received a perfect score for patient nondiscrimination, employee nondiscrimination, equal visitation and staff training around sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. This year's designations mark the 12th consecutive year RUSH University Medical Center has been designated as an LGBTQ leader, the seventh consecutive designation for RUSH Oak Park Hospital and the second consecutive designation for RUSH Copley Medical Center.

Lown Institute Hospitals Index

RUSH University Medical Center ranked No. 1 among all Illinois hospitals in the 2022 Lown Institute Hospitals Index for social responsibility, and among the top 4% of 3,606 hospitals nationally. The index also ranked the Medical Center highest for social responsibility among the 20 hospitals on *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Hospitals Honor Roll.

Newsweek: Top 25 hospitals in the United States

A recent survey of peers and patients by *Newsweek* ranked RUSH University Medical Center No. 19 among hospitals in the United States. *Newsweek's* "World's Best Hospitals" rankings compare more than 280 hospitals around the globe. The rankings are based on recommendations from medical professionals, results from patient surveys and key medical performance indicators.

The Leapfrog Group: top rating for patient safety

RUSH University Medical Center and RUSH Oak Park Hospital have been named top teaching hospitals by The Leapfrog Group. They are among 36 hospitals to receive this designation

nationwide. To receive this honor, hospitals need to meet The Leapfrog Group's rigorous standards of quality care related to categories such as inpatient care management, medication safety, maternity care and infection rates.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance: Patient-Centered Medical Home Level 3

Seven primary care offices at RUSH have been recognized as medical homes by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). These are the first physician practices at an academic medical center in Illinois to receive the NCQA's prestigious Physician Practice Connections — Patient-Centered Medical Home Level 3 designation, the highest level awarded by NCQA. The criteria emphasize keeping patients healthy, preventing illness and making the right care available to the patient at the right time.

U.S. News & World Report: Honor Roll

In *U.S. News & World Report's* 2022-2023 Best Hospitals rankings, RUSH University Medical Center ranked 20th out of more than 4,500 hospitals evaluated, qualifying for the Honor Roll. RUSH ranked among the top 50 hospitals in 10 specialties, with two in the top five nationally; three are the highest-ranked programs in Illinois.

Vizient: Quality Leadership Award

RUSH University Medical Center has again been recognized as one of the top academic medical centers nationwide in the annual ranking by Vizient, Inc. Of the 101 comprehensive U.S. academic medical centers assessed in the Vizient Quality and Accountability Ranking, the Medical Center was ranked No. 3 for excellence in delivering high-quality care. RUSH University Medical Center ranked No. 1 in the Vizient ratings in 2019 and has been in the top five for eight consecutive years.

Accreditations (<https://www.RUSHu.RUSH.edu/education-and-training/graduate-medical-education>)

RUSH offers 90 postgraduate residency and fellowship programs in medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), as well as 13 non-ACGME-accredited fellowships. RUSH also offers a podiatry residency program and a psychology pre-doctoral program.

Recently, the RUSH cancer program earned three-year accreditation status from the Commission on Cancer. The commission also awarded the cancer program a best-in-class gold commendation.

RUSH is one of the first academic medical centers in Illinois to receive accreditation from the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP). AAHRPP accredits organizations that conduct human research and can demonstrate that their protections exceed the safeguards required by the U.S. government. To date, only select institutions have earned AAHRPP's accreditation, which is widely regarded as the gold standard worldwide.

RUSH holds national accreditation for continuing medical education through the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and national accreditation for continuing nursing education (CNE) through the American Nurses Certification Center (ANCC). ANCC awarded RUSH's CNE unit accreditation with distinction, which reflects the high quality of health care education delivered. Both national accreditations have been in place for well over 20 years with a rigorous reaccreditation review process every few years.

Continuing education

RUSH is committed to providing ongoing education for licensed health care professionals, including those who work at RUSH and those who are part of the greater health care community. In fiscal year 2020, RUSH established the Center for Innovative and Lifelong Learning (CILL) to expand our already extensive educational programs. Having joint accreditation for medicine, nursing, pharmacy, psychology and six other allied health professions allows RUSH to provide a framework for CILL to provide high-quality education and training to licensed health care professionals, and to promote safe and effective

interprofessional patient care. In fiscal year 2022, RUSH provided continuing education training to more than 20,000 individuals across 10 professions; 60% of the programs were interprofessional.

Community health and benefit

This community benefits report assigns a financial value to legally defined community benefit categories and provides a breadth and scope of community benefit activities inherent in the RUSH mission. The report details activities that fall into unreimbursed care, partnerships to provide access to care and each of RUSH's Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP) strategies.

COVID-19 impact

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated health inequities, clearly illustrating how decades of disinvestment in many neighborhoods mean that people have less access to the resources and opportunities we all need for good health. The social conditions in which we are born, live, learn, work and play have an enormous impact on overall well-being. In many neighborhoods, those conditions are shaped by systemic racism and the generational trauma it causes. The pandemic has called for social services to identify and address social needs; accessible and trauma-informed mental health treatment; health promotion activities that support continued chronic care management during the pandemic; and outreach targeted to communities most impacted by the harmful effects. Our approach has mostly focused on those populations particularly impacted by COVID-19, including but not limited to:

- African American and Latinx communities
- Immigrants
- Individuals with disabilities
- LGBTQ+ individuals
- Older adults
- People experiencing homelessness

The public health crisis quickly galvanized teams across the institution to achieve one overarching goal: to advance and align initiatives and maximize the effectiveness of RUSH's response to COVID-19, among communities most vulnerable to the virus' adverse outcomes. **In FY2022, RUSH staff time dedicated to these efforts was equivalent to \$172,693.**

RUSH BMO Institute for Health Equity

The Rush BMO Institute for Health Equity was launched in May 2021 with the mission to build, evaluate and sustain scalable approaches that improve health and eliminate inequities through the integration of community partnerships, clinical practice, education, research and policy. BMO Financial Group's \$10 million grant formally founded the Institute, continuing more than a decade of investment and work to correct systemic health, education and economic inequities. The Institute coordinates RUSH's health equity initiatives across all clinics, hospitals, departments and colleges, giving them the funding and resources to thrive.

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP)

As described in our Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), RUSH took a comprehensive, collaborative approach for its 2020-2022 CHNA, working as part of the Alliance for Health Equity (AHE). The AHE is one of the largest CHNA collaboratives in the country, consisting of 26 hospitals, seven health departments, and more than 100 community-based organizations at the time of assessment. Collaboration and alignment with additional partners are essential to improve health, so RUSH helped organize community focus groups and a county-wide survey to discuss the health needs of our constituents.

RUSH defined its service area as the communities between RUSH University Medical Center and RUSH Oak Park Hospital. This service area includes the following neighborhoods: Near West Side, Lower West Side, West Town, Humboldt Park, East Garfield Park, West Garfield Park, North Lawndale, South Lawndale, Austin, Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park.

The West Side faces some of the greatest hardships in the city, with rates of heart disease, cancer and diabetes among the highest in Chicago. On a single ride on the Blue Line L train from downtown to the West Side, life expectancies in the neighborhoods the train passes through vary by up to 14 years. RUSH's CHNA identifies these disparities, and its Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP) outlines strategies to address them.



RUSH's defined community areas for its 2020-2022 CHNA and CHIP

The collaboration identified the following five goals:

- Reduce inequities caused by social, economic, and structural determinants of health.
- Improve mental and behavioral health.
- Prevent and reduce chronic disease risk factors.
- Increase access to care and community services.
- Improve maternal and child health outcomes.

To deepen impact in these areas, all AHE members adopted the same five goals for their CHNAs. RUSH's CHNA identifies our community's top health needs, and the accompanying CHIP outlines strategies and metrics to address and alleviate them.

RUSH's CHNA and CHIP fully comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service and the Affordable Care Act. A copy is available on the RUSH website at https://www.rush.edu/sites/default/files/2020-09/CHNA-CHIP-ONLINE-REV8-8_FNL.pdf

Goal 1: Reduce inequities caused by the social, economic, and structural determinants of health.

Fiscal year 2022 highlights:

- The RUSH Education and Career Hub (REACH) is a cradle-to-career pipeline program with a mission of increasing diversity in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and health care professions. Its goals are to increase high school graduation rates, college matriculation and interest in health care/STEM careers, and to build skills students need for the 21st-century workforce, including communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and leadership. Through enrichment, engagement, skills training and high-quality work-based learning, RUSH is preparing underrepresented youth for success in STEM and health care fields. RUSH's dedication to promoting a healthy community has fostered a strong commitment to supporting the growth and development of our neighborhoods, including school communities. **In FY2022, REACH served approximately 3,400 students, educators and community members across its pipeline**

programs for learners from preschool to post-college. REACH also provided more than 200 high school and college students with more than 20,000 paid, work-based learning hours.

- b. **Identify, measure and mitigate the social determinants of health among those at risk – particularly children, young adults and people with chronic illness.** RUSH uses a screening tool to identify non-medical barriers to good health, such as food insecurity, homelessness, lack of utilities, transportation barriers and lack of primary care or insurance. This tool is used in the RUSH University Medical Center emergency department, primary care settings and community-based settings.

Patients screened for these social determinants of health (SDOH) are connected to services via a partnership with NowPow, a locally based resource directory company that provides curated, personalized resources that are shared with patients. **In FY2022, 25,783 SDOH screenings were completed system-wide, including 3,955 in the emergency department and 315 in the community.**

We have launched the Epic SDOH screening module in five pediatric primary care practices and aligned it with the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) screening tool, which detects traumatic events strongly related to the development and prevalence of a wide range of health problems throughout a person's lifespan. Rollout of this module is expected to continue in the following areas: the RUSH University Medical Center emergency department, select inpatient units, adult primary care, RUSH Oak Park Hospital and RUSH Copley Medical Center (rollout at Copley is currently suspended due to the pandemic response).

- c. **Participate in regional community health improvement collaboratives.** RUSH joined the AHE early on and is a member of its steering committee. In addition, a RUSH representative chairs several work groups, including one devoted to food security and social determinants. RUSH also has a leadership role in the work groups for data, policy, and trauma-informed care.

Supporting program information:

RUSH Education and Career Hub (REACH)

REACH provides programming across the educational continuum, from pre-kindergarten through college, through the initiatives highlighted below.

Elementary school outreach (grades pre-K through 5)

The STEMagineers program for elementary school students helps establish a foundational interest in STEM and health care. The program builds awareness of STEM and health care education and careers, teacher professional development, family engagement, classroom curriculum resources and alignment with standards and research that support best practices in early childhood education. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, resources were delivered through digital lessons and interactive STEM and health care kits designed to support STEM learning and social-emotional wellness at home. **In FY2022, 2,459 students, 357 educators and 487 families participated in REACH elementary school programs.**

Middle school outreach (grades 6 through 8)

In fiscal year 2022, REACH continued with two programs for students in grades 6 through 8, shifting both programs to virtual delivery beginning in the early spring of 2021.

Vitals for STEM Success is a 10-week after-school enrichment program for middle school students interested in STEM and health care careers. In addition to STEM learning experiences, the program includes career exploration, mentoring and tutoring.

Future Ready Learning Labs, supported in part by the Michael Reese Health Trust, is an enrichment elective focused on building interest and awareness of careers in the STEM and health care fields,

increasing sense of self-efficacy, developing 21st-century learning skills and transitioning to high school. REACH's partner school for this program is Nathaniel Dett Elementary.

High school outreach (grades 9 through 12)

MedSTEM Pathways, one of our signature high school programs, is designed to introduce teens to a wide range of clinical and non-clinical health care careers, develop leadership skills and build academic skills. MedSTEM Pathways provides pre-internships for rising sophomores and juniors, and internships for rising juniors and seniors. By leveraging resources from across RUSH University Medical Center, we provided students with comprehensive, engaging experiences, including personal development workshops, industry-recognized certifications and networking with career professionals. Half of the summer's MedSTEM Pathways interns and 100% of MedSTEM Explorers earned one or more industry-recognized credentials: CPR, first aid/basic lifesaving, phlebotomy and ECG technician.

College and Beyond

The Center for Community Health Equity Scholars program offers a paid, eight-week summer internship at RUSH University Medical Center for four highly motivated college juniors and seniors who have a strong interest in research, health disparities and community relations. The internship mixes workshops and instruction in research methods with field trips to sites that include Cook County Hospital, the Sue Gin Health Center that RUSH operates at the Oakley Square mixed-income residential complex, the DuSable Museum of African American History and Garfield Park. Students who complete the internship gain an understanding of historic structural inequities that have an impact on health outcomes; they also learn how to conduct research that engages with community members and develop a team-based research project centered on education equity.

The College and Career Pathways program supports underrepresented young people beyond high school for immersive work-based learning experiences in targeted career paths. The program includes paid internships, college and career advising, and professional and technical skills training, which helps participants find jobs with STEM and health care employers. Interns learn skills in several RUSH University Medical Center departments, including labor and delivery, the surgical ICU, outpatient psychology and pathology. **In FY2022, 158 students each earned more than 250 hours of paid, work-based learning experience through College and Career Pathways.**

Oak Park River Forest High School

RUSH Oak Park Hospital started a collaboration with Oak Park River Forest High School (OPRFHS) to have their certified nursing assistant student's complete clinicals at ROPH. Currently, one of ROPH nurses serves as liaison and clinical faculty for this program. **In FY22, 232 students fulfilled educational requirements for licensing and increased the larger communities' healthcare educational attainment.**

RUSH Oak Park Hospital also collaborates with Oak Park River Forest High School in the CITE II: Community Integrated Transitional and Educational Program. ROPH is a host site for the OPRFHS CITE II Program. This program is a partnership between ROPH and OPRFHS that serves local students with developmental disabilities and/or Autism who have received a diploma from high school but still need additional assistance after graduation. The program assists the students within ROPH's professional environment by helping them move toward their desired post-school outcomes - particularly with an emphasis on learning job skills, providing coaching on social skills, and helping to acquire gainful employment within the community. **In FY22, nine out of ten students in the program found jobs in the community at the culmination of the program, while also providing a total of 2,304 volunteer hours in the hospital.**

Malcolm X College partnership

Malcolm X College (MXC) and RUSH have a rich, multi-year history of collaboration. The partnership includes hosting students' clinical rotations in nursing, surgical technology, radiologic technology, EMT/paramedic, and respiratory care at RUSH University Medical Center and providing anatomy labs

for MXC health occupations students. RUSH also provides guest lecturers and recently began offering a monthly interprofessional lunch and learn series for MXC students and faculty. MXC wants to ensure that its graduates have the knowledge, skills, and professional attributes to function in the health care system now and in the future. To help achieve that goal, RUSH participates in MXC advisory committees and provides transfer programs for graduates of the MXC radiologic technology and respiratory care programs to allow students the opportunity to obtain bachelor's degrees in their fields.

Mini Medical School

The RUSH Community Services Initiatives Program (RCSIP) Mini Medical School is one Saturday a month throughout the academic school year program for fourth- and fifth grade from Chicago Public Schools that aims to expose young students to the health sciences. The summer camp is held at RUSH University and includes anatomy and physiology lectures, activities on the five major body systems and dissections. RUSH student and physician volunteers plan the curriculum, implement activities, and assist the youth during these sessions. **In FY22 RCSIP Mini Medical School continued the remote learning. There were seven remote sessions held with 489 students engaged.**

Goal 2: Improve access to mental and behavioral health services

Fiscal year 2022 highlights:

- a. Address psychological trauma through screening tools and referral programs in school-based health centers and faith-based organizations.** RUSH is working to address the mental and behavioral health needs of our patients and communities by offering social work services to our primary care, inpatient and emergency department patients. In addition, the College of Nursing and RUSH Community-Based Practices team offer mental health services in the community at Simpson Academy for Young Women and College of Nursing Faculty Practice sites. RUSH also offers mental and behavioral health services through the Health Legacy Program for Women. This program focuses on behavioral change and addresses psychosocial issues through referral for direct services offered through Social Work and Community Health.

School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs)

After pausing in fiscal year 2020 due to the pandemic, in fiscal year 2021 RUSH's three SBHCs resumed age-appropriate risk screening and evaluation for mental health issues. Students identified with mental health issues were referred for in-SBHC or community-based counseling and psychiatric services. **In FY22, 859 risk screenings were completed and 265 patients received in-SBHC mental health services.**

Throughout FY22, SBHC staff remained connected to school administrations, students, and families by engaging in **61** meetings with school staff and **52** with school partners. **Fifty-nine** outreach events were conducted either virtually or in person for students or the larger school community.

Mental Health First Aid

In community listening sessions, West Side residents told us that their neighborhoods lack sufficient mental health resources — a major contributor to health disparities. In response, RUSH launched Mental Health First Aid training, which trains people to recognize signs and symptoms of mental illness, respond appropriately when someone needs help, support fellow community members, and help remove the stigma that persists around mental health services. **Facilitated Thirty community Mental Health First Aid training. Trained 525 RUSH and community members in mental Health First Aid.**

- b. Expand access to other screenings and services.**

Through a partnership with the RUSH Department of Psychiatry, psychiatric services are provided both in the SBHCs and by telehealth. **During FY22, there were 47 students who received SBHC-provided psychiatric care.**

SBHC staff delivered **4,590** minutes of group education that focused on healthy relationships, COVID-19, nutrition, mental health, transition of care, sexual health, and wellness to **1,712** students through school outreach activities. Finally, **46** parents, teachers and staff members participated in educational sessions on the same topics.

Supporting program information:

RUSH School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs)

RUSH has a 30-year history of providing health care at SBHCs. RUSH currently has three SBHCs located in Chicago Public Schools: Orr Academy High School, Richard T. Crane Medical Preparatory High School, and Simpson Academy for Young Women. Crane and Orr have students in grades 9 through 12, and Simpson serves girls in grades 6 to 12 who are pregnant, parenting or both. All three schools have student bodies from underserved populations and are in neighborhoods with extreme poverty levels and hardship.

a. Adolescent Family Center (AFC)

The RUSH Adolescent Family Center has existed for more than 46 years. The AFC provides reproductive health care, prenatal care, gynecologic care, pregnancy prevention programs, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment and community health education to underserved Chicago-area youth. All the AFC's services are provided regardless of income or ability to pay for care.

Although the AFC draws patients from over 100 Chicago-area ZIP codes, most patients served live in the West Side communities of East Garfield Park, West Garfield Park, North Lawndale, Austin, Humboldt Park, and the Near West Side. As part of the AFC's community education program, staff members regularly travel to Chicago-area high schools and middle schools to provide community education on pregnancy prevention, reproductive anatomy, contraception, sexually transmitted infection prevention and reproductive health. The AFC also offers free prenatal education to pregnant teens and their partners. **In FY2022, the AFC provided clinic services to 380 youth (in 1,533 healthcare encounters).**

During the fiscal year, 128 unintended adolescent pregnancies were prevented through patient-centered, adolescent-competent family planning services. Two-hundred and eleven adolescents received care for their pregnancies in the AFC; AFC patients had a 12% lower incidence of low birth weight than patients in RUSH's West Side communities overall.

Affirm: The RUSH Center for Gender, Sexuality and Reproductive Health launched in January of 2020 is continuously working to close gaps in the health care system for LGBTQ+ people. Longstanding internalized stigma, trauma and socioeconomic inequities contribute to health disparities in this community, so the Affirm team helps providers across the RUSH system provide affirming care and services for everyone **In FY2022, 970 LGBTQ+ patients worked with Affirm patient navigators who helped them connect with inclusive care and services at RUSH and in the community. As well, 70 letters of readiness written for trans and gender diverse patients seeking medical interventions. Affirm also provided 120 hours of cultural competency training to RUSH employees.**

b. The Road Home Program at the Center for Veterans and Their Families at RUSH

The Road Home Program provides care for the "invisible wounds of war" suffered by veterans and their families. Services for veterans include an adult mental health clinic that specializes in post-traumatic stress disorder; family and marital services such as support groups; counseling and guidance for parenting; a military sexual trauma clinic; and an Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP). The IOP is a three-week program where veterans receive intensive treatment Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **In FY2022, the Road Home Program provided clinical services to 997 unique veterans with 84% of veterans completing a 2-week intensive outpatient program.**

College of Nursing Faculty Practice Program

The RUSH College of Nursing (CON) has a 40-year history of providing health care services to historically underserved individuals, families, and communities at a variety of diverse community practice sites through the CON Faculty Practice Program. Most recipients of care are uninsured or underinsured and rely on the CON Faculty Practice sites as their main sources of health care. In addition to direct clinical care provided by RUSH CON faculty clinicians, the CON Faculty Practice facilitates RUSH University interdisciplinary student volunteer programs for students to develop and deliver health education programs in alignment with the clinical care provided. Nearly 100,000 clinical care and community service hours are provided to historically underserved communities per year through the CON Faculty Practice Program.

Goal 3: Prevent and reduce chronic disease by focusing on risk factors

Fiscal year 2022 highlights:

- c. Reduce risk factors through assessments, disease management programs, and improved access to healthy food.** RUSH created the Food Surplus Project to alleviate food insecurity in the community by redistributing unused food from hospitals to local food pantries and other community-based partners. This collaborative community effort arose from a RUSH Oak Park Hospital nurse's graduate work at Dominican University. Representatives from several local organizations, including RUSH Oak Park Hospital, the Oak Park-River Forest Day School, Oak Park-River Forest High School, Thrive Counseling Center, and the Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry, worked together to create the infrastructure of the program and implement strategies to reduce food insecurity. The Surplus Project continues at RUSH University Medical Center and RUSH Oak Park Hospital. Through a partnership with Franciscan Outreach, Beyond Hunger and the West Cook YMCA, **RUSH has provided more than 15,000 pounds of free meals annually.**

Many members of RUSH's "first community" of employees live on Chicago's West Side between the Medical Center and RUSH Oak Park Hospital — a swath that includes several neighborhoods without full-service grocery stores that sell healthy food. RUSH continues to commit to the community by collaborating with Top Box Foods to provide local produce to employees monthly at a discounted rate. **RUSH connected approximately 5,345 community residents with healthy meals.**

- d. Expand free and subsidized screenings.** The Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force launched in 2007 as an independent nonprofit based at RUSH, with the goal of reducing the disparity in breast cancer deaths between African American women and white women in Chicago. At the time, African American women were 68% more likely than white women to die of breast cancer. Mortality rates for African American and white women had been equal before white women's survival rates began to rise when better screening and treatment became available in the 1990s. After the task force launched, the disparities began to decrease. In addition, RUSH Oak Park Hospital provides free mammograms each October to uninsured or underinsured women who live in Oak Park, River Forest, and Proviso Township. This is made possible through a grant from the Westlake Foundation. **In FY2022, 32 women were screened.**

RUSH Oak Park Hospital's nursing-led community wellness program screens and connects individuals to resources such as Beyond Hunger, a local organization providing hunger-relief programs and services. During Beyond Hunger food distribution days, twice weekly, ROPH volunteer staff provides free blood pressure screenings to food pantry guests, to help community members lead healthier lives and address chronic disease.

Supporting program information:

5 + 1 = 20

5 + 1 = 20 is a RCSIP program that aims to educate high school students at Chicago Public Schools on five diseases prevalent in the surrounding underserved community (asthma, hypertension, HIV, diabetes, and cancer). The program's unusual name comes from the idea that knowledge of these five conditions, plus one informed student sharing what he or she knows, can extend by 20 years the life of someone who might not otherwise be screened. (People who lack health insurance and are therefore unlikely to be screened have a life expectancy that's 20 years shorter than those who are insured.)

Twice a month, RUSH student volunteers teach a health topic related to the five diseases, with content ranging from disease prevention to practical skills such as checking blood pressure. The students have opportunities to share their knowledge through 5 + 1 = 20 health fairs at their schools, where activities include body mass index calculations, blood pressure screenings, vision screenings, glucose level checks, referrals, and health education. Health fair participants include families and friends of the students and other members of their communities. **In FY2022, 5 + 1 = 20 continued its reduced programming to Benito Juarez, IHSCA RTC Med Prep, Whittier, and Ruiz elementary however transitioning their classes to in person sessions. There were 852 unique encounters by 14 RCSIP student volunteers.**

RUSH Department of Social Work and Community Health (SWACH)

The health promotion and disease prevention focus of the RUSH Department of Social Work and Community Health (SWACH) provides patients, their families and community members with access to programs that promote wellness through education, physical activity classes, support groups and workshops.

RUSH Generations, a free health affinity membership program with **approximately 18,000 members**, offers older adults and their caregivers the opportunity to benefit from health and wellness education. RUSH Generations offers its members a free quarterly newsletter, monthly e-newsletter, access to community health fairs and screenings and opportunities to become more active and engaged by joining the Generations volunteer ambassador program.

Other SWACH activities included:

- Transitional care to support patients and caregivers after hospital stays, addressing medical and non-medical issues as part of an interprofessional care team
- Outpatient social work care management with social workers integrated into primary and specialty care to assess and address psychosocial issues related to care
- Mental health and collaborative care, including psychotherapy, supportive services, and coordination with primary care to support patients 12 and older who screen positive for depression.
- RUSH@Home, a house calls program that offers patients primary care in the comfort of their own home. Comprised of primary care providers, certified medical assistants and consultative social workers, RUSH@Home provides crucial home-based medical services and support for patients and families who have difficulty going to a provider's office.

In addition, SWACH operates the Anne Byron Waud Resource Center and the Tower Resource Center (TRC), which are both open daily to the public. Each center is staffed by a licensed clinical social worker who is available to help with a myriad of issues related to health and chronic health issues that particularly impact adults and caregivers. SWACH is also leading RUSH's Social Determinants of Health initiative, which identifies, measures, and mitigates the social determinants of health of patients and community members by offering closed-loop referrals to services and resources to alleviate health disparities.

SWACH also operates the Center for Health and Social Care Integration, which provides technical assistance and a peer learning community to support practice and systems change with community-

based organizations and health systems across the country. The Center teaches lessons from research and applies them to clinical and community settings, improving how health professionals deliver care and prevent diseases.

West Side Walk for Wellness

The West Side Walk for Wellness, created and co-led by RUSH medical students, was developed to enhance exercise, and walking in West Side communities, create a sense of engagement and help people feel safe being outside in the community. **The program, which lasted eight weeks, engaged 381 community members from RUSH and the communities we serve.**

Goal 4: Increase access to care and community services

Fiscal year 2022 highlights:

- a. Expand access to primary care medical homes for people without insurance and for others without medical homes.** Patients in the RUSH University Medical Center emergency department or inpatient units who need help scheduling follow-up appointments are referred to RUSH's Transitional Care Program (TCP), where patient care navigators connect them to appropriate care post-discharge. This program has benefited from many community partnerships that RUSH has established, including a formal partnership with CommunityHealth, the largest free clinic in Chicago, where RUSH attending physicians, medical residents and students volunteer their time and skills through rotations. CommunityHealth offers everything from routine physicals and immunizations to a full laboratory and pharmacy and free medications and dental services. **In FY2022, 145 patients were referred to CommunityHealth.** This partnership also expanded to RUSH's work with Franciscan Outreach, where RUSH students screen shelter residents for primary care and insurance and refer them to the TCP if needed.
- b. Implement adverse childhood event screenings and referrals at school-based health centers.**
Please see Goal 2, Section B
- c. Expand access to insurance.** Please see Goal 4, Section A

Supporting program information:

RCSIP clinics

RCSIP clinics are run by RUSH volunteers: a physician lead and an interprofessional team of RUSH students. The clinics offer services such as physical exams, health education, free basic medications, and procedures such as wound care. Through referrals, they help patients establish primary and/or specialty care relationships. These clinics include:

RCSIP Haymarket, which serves adult men and women with primary care, health education; it also provided COVID-19 vaccinations during 13 vaccination days and seven clinic days. **More than 66 health care encounters were provided during FY2022.**

RCSIP Community Health Clinic, which provides physical exams, treatment, referrals, and health education to underserved adult patients. CHC is a fully equipped clinic with patient exam rooms, a pharmacy, lab, and an electronic medical record system, making it possible to provide comprehensive care. **The clinic provided health care to more than 233 individuals during FY2022.**

Community-building activities

(See pg. 36 for additional supporting information)

As an anchor institution on the West Side of Chicago, RUSH is committed to improving economic vitality, well-being and community health through cross-sector and community partnerships. The following highlights RUSH initiatives within IRS-defined categories.

Physical improvements and housing

RUSH launched the Center of Health and Homelessness, funded by the Chicago Trading Company in late-2020. The Center comprises the areas of education, clinical care, community partnership, and research initiatives to address the social determinants of health affecting the homeless population in Chicago. The Center is supporting the work of six student fellows and is aligned with the work of Chicago Homelessness and Health Response Group for Equity (CHHRGE). **In FY22 CHHRGE students' volunteers supported a CDPH in 205 vaccination events, administered more than 1,600 vaccinations and more than 17,000 tests.**

Economic development

- **Invest locally: RUSH University Medical Center partnered with other hospitals as part of the West Side United (WSU) collaborative to award \$390K in small grants to 39 small businesses on the West Side of Chicago.** As part of WSU, \$11.4 million was loaned through community development financial institutions to West Side social impact projects between July and December of 2020.
- **Purchase locally:** To advance RUSH University Medical Center toward its goals to increase purchasing with vendors from the West Side, RUSH has partnered with Together Chicago and Chicago Anchors for a Strong Economy to identify and contract with vendors at the hyper-local level. **RUSH University Medical Center spent \$6 million in purchase services in FY2022 using Anchor Mission (AM) vendors and launched a mentoring series for small local vendors to help them scale and grow.** RUSH University Medical Center spent more than \$5 million in Anchor Mission communities during fiscal year 2022 through strategic partnerships with Concordance Healthcare Solutions, Fooda and NoniPrint. Since the Concordance partnership began in 2018, 40% of its warehouse staff have been hired from Anchor Mission communities. RUSH University Medical Center is part of the West Side Anchor Committee with five other hospitals and health systems to share best practices and increase the use of local vendors. In FY22, the launch of the Go Local campaign to share success stories and work with the RUSH community was comprised of four initiatives: Buy Local, Invest Local, Hire Local, and RUSH Local.

Workforce development

- **Hire locally:** RUSH has established an organizational goal to increase hiring from the West Side and collaborates with two community-based partners (Skills for Chicagoland's Future and Cara) to increase local hiring for entry-level positions. RUSH also partners with other organizations to source local talent and, when necessary, refer candidates to other partners for employment and wraparound services. **In FY2022, RUSH University Medical Center hired 17.5% of all new hires from AM communities and held over 30 events to reach local applicants through community hubs in partnership with community-based organizations.**
- **Use local labor for capital projects: RUSH University Medical Center spent \$461,392 with Anchor Mission companies on the Joan and Paul Rubschlager Building and other capital projects through June 2022.** As part of the Joan and Paul Rubschlager Building's workforce development efforts, RUSH University Medical Center has had three job fairs with about 150 attendees.
- **Pathway programs:** Two cohorts of RUSH's Medical Assistant Pathway program, with 9 participants, graduated in fiscal year 2022. Five of nine people from this cohort who successfully completed the certification program were hired as medical assistants at RUSH University Medical Center. **RUSH University Medical Center's Patient Care Technician Pathway program graduated its sixth cohort in FY2022, with 12 participants.** All twelve people who completed the certification have been hired at RUSH University Medical Center.

- **Pipeline Programs:** *High school outreach (grades 9 through 12)* REACH's programs for grades 9 through 12 include academic, college and career development. Initiatives include specialized courses, site visits, job shadowing and summer internships at RUSH that expose students to a wide range of health care careers. REACH also supports dual-credit enrollment opportunities, helps students complete college applications, provides mentoring and more. **In FY2022, REACH provided over 25,000 paid, work-based learning experiences for more than 180 high school students.** Over 70% of participants are BIPOC and would be first-generation college students.

RUSH Oak Park Hospital works with local vendors and continues to expand local hiring initiatives. ROPH has a long-standing partnership with the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce, including ROPH board participation, contributions to monthly wellness newsletters, sponsorship of an annual health and wellness fair, identification of potential local job candidates, and future efforts to highlight local businesses in the ROPH gift shop.

Environmental improvements

In fiscal year 2022, the Environmental Sustainability (ES) team at RUSH University Medical Center earned a Partner for Change Award from Practice Greenhealth for program advances made in calendar year 2021.

Angelique Richard, PhD, RN, CENP, RUSH System for Health's chief nursing officer, attended an event at the White House to represent RUSH as a signatory to the Health and Human Services Health Care Sector pledge. By signing this climate pledge, the Medical Center has committed to the following:

- Reducing Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieving net zero by 2050
- Designating Omar B. Lateef, DO, president and CEO of RUSH University System for Health and RUSH University Medical Center, as the executive-level lead for work on reducing emissions and conducting an inventory of Scope 3 emissions by 2024
- Developing and releasing a climate resilience plan for continuous operations by the end of 2024, anticipating the needs of groups in our community that experience a disproportionate risk of climate-related harm

The ES team also hired a full-time sustainability coordinator and a part-time health systems management intern; completed Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas inventories for the Medical Center; continued its work on the 2025 sustainability goals of the Healthcare Anchor Network Impact Purchasing Commitment; and made advancements in waste diversion through new reuse and recycling programs. The team's Utilities Working Group continued identifying and implementing energy efficiency projects and returned the Medical Center to the ComEd energy efficiency program. **In FY2022, 34,800 pounds of furniture and 185 pounds of office supplies were diverted from the landfill through Reuse @ RUSH programs.**

Coalition Building

West Side United (WSU) (westsideunited.org)

WSU is a collaborative of six healthcare anchor institutions (Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Ascension, Cook County Health, RUSH University Medical Center, Sinai Chicago, UI Health), the American Medical Association, and other health care providers, education providers, the faith community, business, government and residents. This collaborative is working to improve neighborhood health by addressing inequities in health care, education, economic vitality and the physical environment, using a cross-sector, place-based strategy. The overarching aim is to reduce life expectancy gaps between the Loop and ten West Side neighborhoods by 50% by 2030.

WSU focuses on the following initiatives across four strategic pillars (health and health care; education; economic vitality; neighborhood and physical environment):

- Accelerating Anchor Mission accomplishments
- Social impact investing
- Local hiring
- Local procurement
- Small-business accelerator
- Employee professional pathways
- High school internships and college apprenticeships
- Aligning hospital efforts to community needs
- Distributing self-monitored blood pressure cuffs to West Side health care providers to support pregnant and postpartum patients with hypertension
- Strengthening direct support relationships between hospitals and local food pantries
- Supporting maternal and infant health through Westside Healthy Parents and Babies
- Coordinating community-based organizations to deliver community health worker screenings through Wellness West

Under the umbrella of Unite the West Side, WSU:

- Serves as the West Regional Lead for Chicago Department of Public Health Equity Zone
- Conducts a healthy food voucher program
- Houses the WSU Community Advisory Council
- Advances community engagement and vaccine equity
- Convenes partners and supports capacity building

WSU also pilots new ideas across domains with projects like a cluster of care community hub at Herzl School of Excellence in North Lawndale.

West Side ConnectED

RUSH continues to partner with the organizations in West Side ConnectED to improve our work to address the social determinants of health with support from Catholic Charities. The coalition has grown to include Lurie Children's Hospital and enjoys consistent representation by the Illinois Partners for Human Service, a coalition of 800 human rights organizations located in every legislative district in Illinois. Efforts continue to be focused on implementing screening for health care access (primary care/insurance), food security, housing/homelessness, utilities, and transportation, but have broadened to include each partner's entire hospital per their individual institutional goals.

Additional community partnerships and programs

RUSH maintains many partnerships and programs to improve the health of the communities that we serve. Programs related to community benefit are listed below.

Employee Volunteer Program (EVP)

EVP is a program to support volunteer activities that serve the communities where RUSH system employees work and live. RUSH specifically seeks to address issues that improve health, well-being, and quality of life for our neighbors, and to provide volunteer opportunities that enrich and inspire our employees. **In FY2022, 421 employees 3,256 volunteer hours working in the community and planning volunteer opportunities.**

Adopt-a-Family (AAF) and Adopt-A-RUSH-Family (AARF)

AAF is a program during the winter holiday season through which RUSH employees and friends adopt families from West Side communities to make their holidays a little brighter. Most of these families are experiencing poverty or homelessness and are living at 200% or more below the poverty line. AARF is a new addition to this platform, in which RUSH employees who are

experiencing hardships during the holiday season are adopted. **During FY2022, RUSH adopted 261 families (1,082 individuals).**

Charitable contributions

Charitable contributions to community-based organizations and nonprofits are determined by the senior leadership team on behalf of RUSH. The funds support community initiatives and events throughout the fiscal year. **In FY2022, RUSH corporate funds for the hospitals totaled \$599,160.**

Chicago Healthcare System Coalition for Preparedness and Response

Since 2008, RUSH has been an active member of the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. The HPP's mission is to improve the ability of hospitals and health care systems to respond to public health emergencies.

The heart of the HPP is the Chicago Healthcare System Coalition for Preparedness and Response (CHSCPR). Its purpose is to develop plans to unify, coordinate and manage emergency planning and response for the health care system in Chicago. During a planned event or unplanned disaster or emergency, CHSCPR participates and supports response efforts in coordination with the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Chicagoland Healthcare Workforce Collaborative

RUSH remains an active member of the Chicagoland Healthcare Workforce Collaborative (CHWC), administered by the Chicago Community Trust. The CHWC works with employers, higher ed institutions, training providers and community organizations to support an inclusive healthcare workforce, provide accessibility for unemployed and underemployed populations, and develop innovative responses to the evolving needs of the healthcare industry.

Extreme weather assistance

In conjunction with the Village of Oak Park, RUSH Oak Park Hospital is designated as a Severe Weather (warming/cooling) Center and for those without adequate air conditioning or heat in extreme temperatures. This effort helps prevent hypothermia and frostbite in extreme cold, and heat stroke and other heat-related illnesses when temperatures spike.

HEAL Initiative

The Chicago HEAL Initiative led by Sen. Richard Durbin is a historic commitment from the ten leading hospitals serving Chicago to recognize their roles as community anchors and collaborate on public commitments to reduce violence and health disparities in their neighborhoods. The effort has worked to improve coordination and communication across hospitals that aided in the COVID-19 response, and spur institutional change to elevate the importance of upstream, community-based engagements to prevent health challenges.

Housing Forward

Housing Forward is a recognized leader in suburban Cook County offering a coordinated response with RUSH Oak Park Hospital that allows people experiencing a housing crisis to quickly resolve their situation. They offer comprehensive, wrap-around support from the onset of a financial or housing crisis to its resolution, preventing homelessness whenever possible, and providing permanent, stable housing for the most vulnerable members of their community.

Illinois Medical District Hospital Emergency Preparedness Coalition (IMD HEPC)

RUSH is a founding member of the IMD HEPC. Its mission is to create and maintain a community-wide emergency management structure within one of the nation's largest urban health care, educational, research and technology districts, to achieve minimal loss of life and reduce collateral damage to surrounding structures and the environment during a disaster.

Medical Home Network Accountable Care Organization

The Medical Home Network (MHN) is a public-private partnership founded by the Comer Science and Education Foundation to address the health care needs of underserved individuals living on the South and Southwest sides of Chicago. MHN created the MHN Accountable Care Organization (MHN ACO), which is a partnership of three area hospitals (including RUSH) and nine federally qualified health centers working to improve access, quality and utilization for all their primary care Medicaid patients enrolled in County Care. MHN ACO uses best practices in the industry to reach the most vulnerable patients and provide care coordination enhancements to improve their lives. RUSH has two senior leader representatives on the MHN ACO board and one physician leader who chairs the MHN ACO Clinical Committee

RUSH University programming

RUSH University is committed to improving the health of the communities we serve by preparing the next generation of the health care workforce through graduate medical education and tuition assistance programs, both of which contribute to our community benefit.

RUSH University is the main contributor to RUSH's health care workforce development efforts by producing the next generation of highly trained health care professionals and health care research scientists. RUSH University is a recognized leader in health sciences education in Chicago and around the country and is nationally ranked by the *U.S. News & World Report* as a provider of top graduate programs. Each of its four colleges (RUSH Medical College, the College of Nursing, the College of Health Sciences, and the Graduate College) supports the research and patient care endeavors of the Medical Center.

The university enrolls an average of more than 3,150 students annually; more than 930 degrees were awarded in fiscal year 2022. In 2020, 50% of RUSH Medical College graduates secured residency programs in the Chicago metropolitan area. On average, 57% of RUSH College of Nursing entry-level nurse graduates and 62% of advanced practice nurse graduates begin careers in the Chicago area each year.

RUSH University Hospital and neighboring John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, one of the busiest public hospitals in the nation, have enjoyed a formal affiliation since 1994. With this partnership, Stroger Hospital became a primary training location for RUSH Medical College students and residents, and Stroger Hospital patients gained access to specialists from RUSH who rotate time at Stroger, as well as other clinical services that are not offered at Stroger. Each year, more than 400 RUSH students and postgraduate residents receive training at Stroger Hospital in areas ranging from cardiac and vascular surgery to breast cancer. Joint research projects in basic science, clinical science health services and epidemiology look for new ways to improve the health of vulnerable communities and bridge gaps in the health care system.

RUSH offers 75 Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs. The mission for GME at RUSH is to develop and provide training programs of the highest quality for resident physicians and fellows (medical school graduates seeking advanced training and board certification in a medical specialty area) with the aim to develop physician competencies and improve and promote patient care. A key goal of the GME programs is to link RUSH's academic resources with those of affiliated institutions to provide a widely diverse and representative educational environment and patient mix.

RUSH College of Nursing prepares nurse leaders in health care education, research, practice, and policy who will address the needs of an increasingly technologically advanced and global society. Our programs of study include the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) to educate nurses whose practice is socially responsive and informed by science. The College of Nursing consistently ranks among the top 3% of nursing schools nationwide, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

The College of Health Sciences is responsible for education and research in the allied health professions, including health care management. More than six of every 10 health care workers in the United States are

employed in an allied health field, and the demand for these professionals is expected to increase significantly because of the aging population. Faculty members of the College of Health Sciences serve the Medical Center as practitioner-teachers. All have patient care or service responsibilities while concurrently filling roles as teachers and investigators. Through the faculty, RUSH University students have access to managers and skilled clinicians employing the latest treatment and practice in a dynamic academic medical center.

The mission of the Graduate College of RUSH University is to promote and assure excellence in research education and mentoring programs responsible for training outstanding and diverse candidates in the basic and clinical sciences. At RUSH, the translation of bench research to the clinic is the primary focus of all divisions. Using the practitioner-teacher model, faculty work side by side with the students to cure disease and bring the newest treatments to patients.

Tuition forgiveness program

Through select tuition forgiveness programs, RUSH subsidizes the education and training of the next generation of physicians, nurses, allied health care professionals and health care research scientists whose tuition and grants do not fully cover the associated costs. **During FY2022, RUSH provided tuition forgiveness of \$1,942,438 for 61 students pursuing health science research doctoral degrees.**

Research to improve community health

RUSH physicians, nurses and other research scientists are actively involved in more than 1,800 research projects aimed at advancing scientific knowledge and optimizing patient care. Numerous programs are in place at RUSH — such as a research mentoring program and pilot project financial awards — to support and develop the next generation of health care researchers.

RUSH subsidizes health and medical research to improve patient care by covering expenses not funded by private or government grants. Investigators at RUSH are involved in many clinical studies to test the effectiveness and safety of new therapies and medical devices and many basic research studies designed to expand scientific and medical knowledge. As an academic medical center, RUSH brings together individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences to uncover new advances in patient care. In addition, RUSH University Medical Center promotes community involvement on its Institutional Review Boards (IRB). The IRB has one or more community members who represent the general perspective of participants; one or more community members who do not have scientific expertise; and one or more community members who have scientific or scholarly expertise. RUSH IRB community members must be knowledgeable of current federal regulations and guidance, RUSH research policy requirements, and recent interpretations and controversial issues as they relate to human subject research. RUSH IRB community members receive training upon joining the IRB and are offered opportunities to continue expanding their knowledge in human subjects' protection throughout their tenure with the IRB.

RUSH also is a member of multiple research consortiums. Joint research projects in basic science, clinical science and services and epidemiology look for new ways to improve the health of vulnerable communities and bridge the widening gaps in the health care system. Some of the research consortiums include:

1 Institute of Translational Medicine 3.0 (ITM 3.0)

RUSH is a full partner with the University of Chicago in the recently NIH-funded Institute of Translational Medicine 3.0 (ITM 3.0, a program in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical and Translational Science Awards consortium that helps convert biomedical research into health improvement. Working with other affiliates in the region (Loyola University Medical Center, NorthShore University Health System, Advocate, and Illinois Institute of Technology) the ITM 3.0 strives to improve health outcomes throughout Chicagoland by mitigating disease risk, morbidity and mortality through collaborative, multidisciplinary team science. RUSH will work as part of the consortium to achieve this vision by assembling scientific, institutional, and community stakeholders, and together focusing on the highest value propositions to improve mutually defined health concerns. The core conviction is that participating in health research is a matter of shared self-interest and social justice, a “new normal” prevailing viewpoint toward which we will

strive together over the next 20 years. ITM 2.0 will work with stakeholders throughout Chicagoland and the nation.

The Chicago Area Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Network (CAPriCORN)

CAPriCORN is a consortium committed to working with other Chicago area medical centers around the development, testing, and implementation of strategies to improve care for the diverse residents of the metropolitan Chicago region. The network of 10 regional health systems and multiple other partners works together to develop, test, and implement strategies to improve care for diverse residents in the metropolitan Chicago region to improve health care quality, health outcomes and health equity.

RUSH advances the following objectives through its work in CAPriCORN:

- Connect patients and their communities to data that is meaningful in informing their health decisions
- Support the evolution of faculty and staff to become knowledge managers who use data from clinical care to accelerate innovation and to drive continuous process improvement in patient-centered outcomes research
- Promote RUSH's role in health innovation as part of a unique consortium that is a national resource for improving patient-centered outcomes
- Sustain an infrastructure at RUSH to embed the principles of a learning health system

All of Us Research Program

The All of Us Research Program is a national longitudinal cohort program with repeated engagement of participants to create a research resource that enables a variety of future observational and interventional studies. RUSH began open enrollment in May 2018 and has enrolled over 2,700 participants to date. Enrolled participants receive a blood draw for common lab measures with the option to receive genetic return in the future. All services, information, and return of results are provided at no cost.

Community-based research studies at RUSH also include the following studies underway at the RUSH Alzheimer's Disease Center (RADC). The RADC was created in the early 1990s to investigate common chronic health problems of older people, especially cognitive decline, and Alzheimer's disease. The RADC conducts observational and interventional research in multiple, longitudinal community-based cohorts in Chicago, Cook and the collar counties and nationwide. The RADC also sponsors multicultural outreach programs to engage the Chicago community in research and provide patient care and support services. **RADC research projects include, but are not limited to:**

Center for Excellence on Disparities in HIV and Aging Research Core

The Center for Excellence on Disparities in HIV and Aging Research (CEDHA) is a disparities center focused on understanding the intersection of aging and HIV in diverse communities on the south and west sides of Chicago. CEDHA, a partnership between the Ruth M. Rothstein Core Center and the UIC School of Public Health, continues to work together to host an annual back-to-school fair each year in Englewood on the south side of Chicago. During the period, CEDHA also hosted an annual summer internship for high school and undergraduate students from under-represented backgrounds.

Minority Aging Research Study

The Minority Aging Research Study is a longitudinal clinical-pathologic study of aging and risk factors for cognitive decline among older African Americans. The study began in 2004 and includes 826 older people self-identifying as African Americans and living in metropolitan Chicago or surrounding suburbs. Detailed clinical evaluations are performed annually, including neuropsychological assessments, physical function testing, a lifestyle interview, and a blood draw. Participants are also introduced to brain donation as an optional component of the study and interested people are invited to sign an Anatomical Gift Act document. **To date, 59 autopsies have been performed. We are currently in follow-up year 18 and have conducted 6,933 evaluations and 6,915 blood tests at no charge to participants with all results provided to the participants.** Participants have recently been offered brain MRI scans at no charge; 253 scans have been performed at least one time and reports provided.

The RUSH Alzheimer's Disease Center Latino Core began in 2015. To date, **254 older** community dwelling Latinx people in the Chicago area who do not have dementia have been recruited.

The Religious Orders Study

The Religious Orders Study started in 1993 and has enrolled **1,497** older priests, nuns and brothers from more than 47 sites around the country, about a third of whom reside in Cook and the collar counties. Detailed clinical evaluations are performed annually on participants.

RUSH Alzheimer's Disease Center Latino Core

The RUSH Alzheimer's Disease Center Latino Core began in 2015. To date, **254** older community dwelling Latinx people in the Chicago area who do not have dementia have been recruited.

RUSH Alzheimer's Disease Core Center Clinical Core

The RUSH Alzheimer's Disease African American Clinical Core is one of eight cores within the Alzheimer's Disease Core Center. The overall goal of the Clinical Core is to generate clinical data and biospecimens from older African Americans without dementia to support high quality, cutting-edge studies that focus on the full spectrum of cognition from normal aging to dementia. Detailed clinical evaluations are performed annually on **390 participants**, including neuropsychological assessments, a medical history form and a blood draw.

The Anti-Amyloid Treatment in Asymptomatic Alzheimer's Study

The Anti-Amyloid Treatment in Asymptomatic Alzheimer's (A4) study, started in 2014, is an intervention study that enrolled 63 older individuals from around the greater Chicagoland area. This study continues to follow participants and will do so for several more years.

The ASPirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly Study

The ASPirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly (ASPREE) study, started in 2010, is an intervention study that has enrolled 267 older individuals in the greater Chicagoland area. ASPREE-XT is an extension of ASPREE that continues to follow participants, with 76 participants currently extended into ASPREE-XT.

The Pragmatic Evaluation of events And Benefits of Lipid-lowering in older adults (PREVENTABLE) Study

The Pragmatic Evaluation of events And Benefits of Lipid-lowering in older adults (PREVENTABLE) study, started in 2020, is an intervention study that has enrolled 125 older individuals in the greater Chicagoland area. The goal is to understand if taking a moderate dose statin therapy supports disability-free survival in healthy, older adults over 75 years of age.

The RUSH Department of Preventive Medicine has a long history of community research, teaching, training, and service dating back to the 1970's. Since 1990, the department has received well over \$50 million in National Institute for Health (NIH) funding to conduct community-based translational research. The RUSH Center for Urban Health Equity operates under a NIH-sponsored \$10 million grant. This center is devoted to reducing cardiopulmonary disparities in underserved Chicago residents through research, training, education, and service. Department of Preventive Medicine faculty and staff also generously donate their time and skills to give back to our communities. Their efforts include presentations and seminars where they collaborate with neighborhood clinics, churches, schools, and other organizations to provide health education on many topics, from diabetes care to asthma in children. **Examples of studies conducted by the Department of Preventive Medicine that directly address RUSH's CHNA findings include:**

ALIVE Study

Provides nutrition education through Bible study and short videos to congregants of five African American congregations.

CHART Study

Tests the value of a culturally sensitive, multilevel chronic care intervention for low-income patients with heart failure.

Financial commitments to patient care

RUSH believes that a patient's ability to pay for services should not impact the care they receive. As the largest part of RUSH's community benefit, RUSH provides free and subsidized services to patients at RUSH University Hospital and RUSH Oak Park Hospital.

As a nonprofit, RUSH reinvests excess revenue after paying expenses back into our institution to provide care for patients. A significant part of this reinvestment includes supporting services that benefit patients: free care for patients who qualify under our charity care program; care for patients whose government insurance does not pay all our costs; and critical medical services that operate at a financial loss but are necessary for the community's overall health.

During FY2022, RUSH provided \$305 million (located in the CBR FY Summary) in unreimbursed care to patients. Unreimbursed care consists of charity care provided to patients who lack the means to pay for services (at cost), bad debt, and unreimbursed costs for providing care to Medicaid and Medicare patients. RUSH recognizes the need to simplify charity policies and to aid the uninsured and underinsured individuals within our communities. To assist patients with their hospital bill, RUSH offers the following financial assistance programs:

Paid in Full Charity Care

Patients qualify for the RUSH Charity Care program if their income level is at or below 300% of the federal poverty level (the FPL). This means that individuals qualify if they earn less than \$83,250 and are supporting a family of four. These patients are eligible for a full write-off of their bill.

Discounts for Limited Income

RUSH assists families with limited incomes, defined as annual income less than 400% of the FPL. That means individuals earning less than \$111,000 and supporting a family of four are eligible for a write-off of up to 75% of their bill.

Discounts for Self-Pay Patients

RUSH offers a self-pay discount based on income for all residents of Illinois. Most patients qualify for an automatic 68% discount. Non-Illinois residents who do not have health insurance automatically qualify for a 50% discount. For patients who cannot pay their portion of the bill at the time of service, financial counselors work closely with them to set up an interest-free payment plan.

State and Federal Programs

This service focuses on providing patients who arrive at RUSH without insurance with the health coverage to which they are entitled under various federal programs and programs by the state of Illinois (the State). Financial counselors work with patients and alert them if they qualify for programs such as the State's Medical Assistance Non-Grant (MANG) program or the Social Security Disability program (SSDI). Because the paperwork required for these programs can be overwhelming, RUSH has specialists on site who assist patients with the application process. Through these efforts, RUSH qualified individuals for a social security disability not age 65, while ensuring payment for their hospital bill. RUSH maintained a patient-eligibility service throughout FY2022 at a cost of over \$590,527.

Payment plans

Interest-free payment plans are also available to patients. Payments can be made over a period of 12 months with a minimum payment of \$25 each month. RUSH is also offering an interest free patient financing solution where patients can access payment plans up to 48 months in length. RUSH does not assess interest on unpaid balances.

Presumptive Charity Care

RUSH uses an external service for its financial assistance programs to validate patients' ability to pay, and in the event that patients do not contact us or apply for financial assistance, we may extend

charity care for that episode of care. This program applies only to patients who are uninsured with estimated income under 200% of the FPL.

RUSH University Hospital and ROPH each provide a full range of medical services to the community including having 24-hour emergency departments that are open to everyone regardless of their ability to pay, as well as numerous services that operate at a loss. While the emergency department is a key driver of providing care to the uninsured in a hospital setting, RUSH University Hospital and ROPH continue to emphasize primary and preventive care for uninsured individuals and families. This approach relies on the services provided within physician clinics at RUSH University Hospital and ROPH as well as the community service projects operated by patient care staff. In this way, RUSH University Hospital and ROPH hope to have an impact on the health of patients before they get to the point of visiting the emergency department.

Interpreter services

During **FY2022, RUSH incurred \$3,026,077 in costs to maintain a staff of language interpreters, including sign language interpreter services.** These financial commitments are critical to facilitating accessibility of patient care to the diverse communities of the Chicago area. RUSH's interpreter program is nationally recognized.

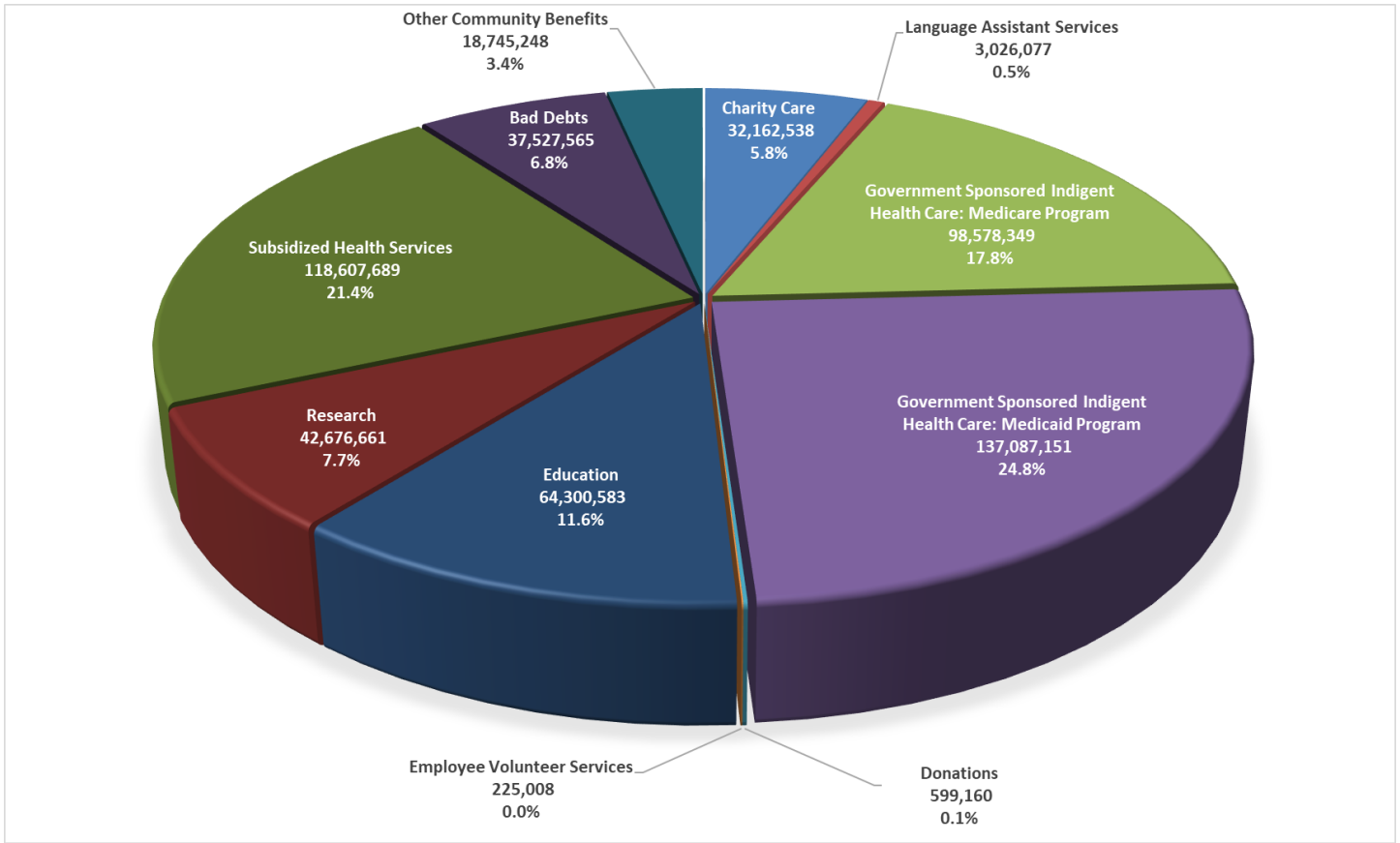
Charity care policy and fiscal year 2022 financial reports

The charity care policy for RUSH University Medical Center and RUSH Oak Park Hospital is located in Appendix G. The FY2022 Annual Non-Profit Hospital Community Benefits Plan Reports for RUSH University Medical Center and RUSH Oak Park Hospital are in Appendix F. The FY2022 Hospital Financial Assistance Reports for RUSH University Medical Center and RUSH Oak Park Hospital are located in Appendix I.

FY2022 Consolidated Financial Information

The Independent Auditor's Report for the financial information is in Appendix I.

Community Benefits Report Component	RUSH University Medical Center	RUSH Oak Park Hospital	Total Reportable Entity	Footnote Reference
Charity Care (at cost)	28,444,434	3,718,104	32,162,538	1,4,5,6
Language Assistant Services	2,914,023	112,054	3,026,077	
Government Sponsored Indigent Health Care: Medicare Program	84,256,015	14,322,334	98,578,349	1
Government Sponsored Indigent Health Care: Medicaid Program	124,849,448	12,237,703	137,087,151	1,2
Donations	591,840	7,320	599,160	
Employee Volunteer Services	217,937	7,071	225,008	
Education	64,153,161	147,422	64,300,583	
Research	42,676,661	0	42,676,661	
Subsidized Health Services	117,423,057	1,184,632	118,607,689	7
Bad Debts	29,629,775	7,897,790	37,527,565	3
Other Community Benefits	18,457,727	287,521	18,745,248	
Total	\$513,614,078	\$39,921,952	\$553,536,029	



Footnote #1:

The computation of charity care (cost) is based on the charity write-offs for FY 2022 and adjusted to cost based on IRS Worksheet 2, Ratio of Patient Care to Charges. The Medicare loss and Medicaid loss is also based on a discrete ratio of cost to charges utilizing the same IRS Worksheet 2. These amounts are consolidated to identify what the cost of care is and will differ from what is reported in the audited financial statements.

Footnote #2: During FY 2022, RUSH received payments related to the Provider Assessment Program which was approved by CMS and is administered through the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services. The program is designed to improve Medicaid payments to hospitals. In addition, during FY2016 the ACA Expansion Payment program was initiated by the State which provides additional federal matching payments related to the expansion of Medicaid eligibility per the Accountable Care Act. Without the payments from these programs, the FY2022 unreimbursed cost of the Medicaid program would have been \$216 million.

Footnote #3:

The amount of bad debt reported for purposes of the Community Benefits filing includes uncompensated care write-offs within RUSH University Medical Group, RUSH University Hospital and RUSH Oak Park Hospital. This amount is valued at actual write-offs net of recoveries.

Footnote #4:

The amount of charity care reported for purposes of the Community Benefits filing includes only uncompensated care meeting the strict definition of charity care as defined by the Office of the Attorney General as part of the 'Community Benefits Act Compliance Information'. As defined in the 'Community Benefits Act Compliance Information', "Only the portion of a patient's account that meets the organization's charity care criteria is recognized as charity. Although it is not necessary for the entity to make this determination upon admission or registration of an individual, at some point the entity must determine that the individual meets the established criteria for charity care."

Footnote #5:

In the discussion of RUSH University Medical Center's and RUSH Oak Park Hospital's provision of charity care to our patient population there are several factors which must be considered, in addition to the charity care number provided for purposes of the Community Benefits filing, to obtain a full understanding of the breadth of charity provided. These factors are outlined as follows:

Through utilization of a patient eligibility service RUSH University Medical Center and RUSH Oak Park Hospital are extremely proactive in enrolling patients, who present for service without insurance coverage, for coverage under various state and federal programs. The maintenance of this service for our patients has a significant impact on decreasing the amount of charity care provided. In addition to achieving appropriate, available coverage for our patients' medical services, this eligibility service also obtains eligibility for SSI or SSA benefits for applicable patients. Guiding the patient through this often time-consuming and arduous process is extremely beneficial to the patient, as once SSI/SSA eligibility is approved, the patient will begin receiving a monthly assistance check which provided a benefit well beyond their health care at RUSH.

Due to the process that RUSH and other hospitals must go through to prove a patient's eligibility for charity care, the precise amount of charity care often can be indistinguishable from other categories of uncompensated care. Without the cooperation of the patient in providing appropriate documentation, RUSH cannot correctly distinguish patients who meet the defined charity care policies and appropriately categorize those individuals as charity care write-offs. Instead, these patient cases are frequently classified as bad debt write-offs due to a lack of support information. This creates a reported charity care amount which is not representative of the true amount of care provided to low income and indigent patients.

A summary of the breakdown of charity care, solely for RUSH University Medical Center, for FY2022 follows:

Category	Approved Patient Applications	Pending Patient Applications	No Response / Denied Patient Applications
Charity Care (100% write-off): Number of Patients	1,579	29	581
Charity Care (100% write-off): Write Off Amount	(\$36,285,330)	0	0
Limited Income (75% Write-Off Amount): Number of Patients	227	0	0
Limited Income (75% write-off): Write-Off Amount	(\$2,442,411)	0	0
Presumptive Charity Care (100% write-off): Number of Patients	4,140	n/a	n/a
Presumptive Charity Care (100% write-off): Write-Off Amount	(\$25,232,373)	n/a	n/a
Other Programs: Number of Patients	2,966	0	0
Other Programs: Write-off Amount	(\$10,041,783)	0	0

A summary of charity care breakdown, for RUSH Oak Park Hospital, for FY2022 follows:

Category	Approved Patient Applications	Pending Patient Applications	No Response / Denied Patient Applications
Charity Care (100% write-off): Number of Patients	426	9	153
Charity Care (100% write-off): Write Off Amount	(\$1,639,500)	0	0
Limited Income (75% Write-Off Amount): Number of Patients	49	0	0
Limited Income (75% write-off): Write-Off Amount	(\$260,695)	0	0
Presumptive Charity Care (100% write-off): Number of Patients	2,367	n/a	n/a
Presumptive Charity Care (100% write-off): Write-Off Amount	(\$9,395,125)	n/a	n/a
Other Programs: Number of Patients	1,095	0	0
Other Programs: Write-off Amount	(\$2,472,616)	0	0

Footnote 6:

In recognition of the need to simplify policies, expand assistance to the ever-growing population of uninsured and remain compliant with State law, RUSH set the discount for all Illinois patients without insurance to 68%. Non-Illinois residents who do not have health insurance automatically qualify for a 50% discount. In addition, patients with an annual income between 300 and 400 percent of the federal poverty level may be eligible for a 75% discount. Patients with income less than 300 percent of FPL may receive a 100 percent discount. All charity care programs are evaluated annually to identify additional opportunity to support our patients.

Footnote 7:

Subsidized Health Services include the uncompensated costs of providing essential hospital and physician services that positively impact the wellness of the community. The uncompensated costs were calculated using the standardized methodology and offset by any reimbursement received for services provided. These services were provided despite a financial loss so significant that negative margins remained after removing the effects of charity care, bad debt, and Medicaid shortfalls. Nevertheless, the services were provided because they meet an identified community need and if no longer offered, they would either be unavailable in the area or fall to the responsibility of government or another not-for-profit organization to provide.

Highlighted community-building activities (*supporting information*)

Community-Building Activities	Programs within Activities	Dollar Value (Time)
Economic Development	Local Purchasing; Impact Investment; Retirement Readiness	\$3,128,440
Workforce Development	Employee Talent and Preference; Local Labor; Capital Projects;	\$2,316,800
Environmental Improvements	Plant-It-Green; Practice Green Health	\$625,036

