

## **Executive Summary**

### **Purpose**

PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend conducts this Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years as required by the 2010 Patient Care and Affordable Care Act. The assessment identifies community health priorities and informs the Implementation Strategy to improve health and well-being in Lane County, Oregon.

### **Service Area**

The Eugene-Springfield service area has a population of 239,162, with 10.78% growth from 2010-2020. The community is predominantly non-Hispanic white (75.7%), followed by Hispanic/Latino (12.3%), with growing diversity including individuals identifying with two or more ethnic groups (6.3%).

### **Key Findings**

The assessment identified critical needs aligned with national trends:

- Health equity gaps for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities, rural residents, and vulnerable populations
- Housing availability, affordability, and services for unhoused and medically fragile individuals
- Access to timely health care, wrap-around services, and transportation
- Mental health care and substance abuse treatment, with worsening trends among youth (Oregon ranks 12th highest for youth suicide nationally)
- Support services including childcare, after-school programming, and food security
- Work force shortages affecting crucial community roles

### **Poverty and Health Equity**

Eugene-Springfield faces significant economic challenges with 17.49% at or below the federal poverty level and 49% below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold. Food insecurity affects 14.6% of Lane County residents, with higher rates among Black and Hispanic/Latino populations.

### **Community Health Pillars**

PeaceHealth addresses needs through four pillars:

- **HOME:** Improve access to service-enriched housing
- **HOPE:** Increase education and access to treatment and prevention of dependence
- **CARE:** Expand knowledge, access, and engagement with community caregivers
- **NOURISH:** Address food insecurities to enhance family and child well-being

### **Community Benefit Contributions**

In fiscal year 2024, PeaceHealth contributed over \$1.2 million in cash donations to community partners, \$600,000 in property leases for clinical and administrative workspaces, and \$810,000 to health care work force development programs. Total community benefit investments support partnerships addressing youth in crisis, homelessness, behavioral health, physical fitness, and food insecurity.

### **Facility Developments**

PeaceHealth is expanding services with a 42-bed inpatient rehabilitation facility (opening 2026) and partnering with LifePoint Health on a 96-bed behavioral health hospital (opening 2027), nearly tripling current inpatient behavioral health capacity. Lane County is developing an adjacent stabilization center to create a comprehensive behavioral health campus.

### **Biggest Gaps in Service and Barriers to Care**

### **Access to Mental Health and Behavioral Health Services**

Mental health resources are severely limited, particularly for low-income families, with 24% reporting high anxiety levels nearly every day. Oregon has the 12th highest youth suicide rate nationally (14.2 per 100,000 vs. 10.0 nationally). Current inpatient behavioral health capacity is insufficient to meet demand.

### **Housing Instability and Homelessness**

Investment needed in housing availability and affordability for families, with critical gaps in housing access and options for unhoused and medically fragile community members. Youth homelessness rose sharply in 2023, with approximately 500 homeless youth ages 0-17 and 317 ages 18-24 in Lane County. Approximately 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+.

### **Timely Access to Health Care**

Community needs include getting care in a timely manner, wrap-around services for frequent health care utilizers and individuals in crisis, and transportation for health care needs.

### **Health Equity Disparities**

Critical gaps exist in health equity for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities, those living in rural and remote areas, and other vulnerable populations. Black and Hispanic/Latino populations experience significantly higher rates of food insecurity compared to white individuals.

### **Substance Abuse Treatment**

Limited access to substance abuse treatment and prevention services, with unintentional opioid overdoses in Oregon rising from 280 in 2019 to 1,416 in 2023.

### **Child Care and Support Services**

Lane County is considered a child care desert, with more than three children for every regulated child care slot. Gaps exist in child care, after-school programming, and support services for working families.

### **Food Security**

Food insecurity affects 14.6% of Lane County residents (exceeding state and national levels), with disparities among racial and ethnic groups contributing to increased risk for chronic health conditions.

### **Work Force Shortages**

Decreased work force and strain on filling crucial roles throughout the community and health care system.

## **The Unique Needs of the Community**

### **Youth Mental Health Crisis**

Oregon ranks 12th highest for youth suicide rate in the United States (14.2 per 100,000 vs. 10.0 nationally), with worsening mental health trends among Lane County youth requiring specialized residential crisis services and treatment programs.

### **LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness**

Approximately 40% of homeless youth in Lane County identify as LGBTQ+, with 26% of homeless LGBTQ+ youth nationally forced out of homes solely due to sexual orientation or gender identity, requiring targeted housing and support services.

### **Geographic Challenges**

Rural and remote area residents face unique barriers to accessing health care services, requiring transportation solutions and outreach to underserved populations outside urban Eugene-Springfield.

### **Rapid Population Growth and Diversity**

The Eugene-Springfield area experienced 10.78% population growth (2010-2020), creating increased demand for services while the community becomes more ethnically diverse, requiring culturally responsive care and language-accessible services.

#### **University and Downtown Population**

Following the closure of PeaceHealth University District in late 2023, the community needed a new centralized urgent care location to serve downtown Eugene and University of Oregon populations with walk-in and same-day care.

#### **Child Care Desert**

Lane County has more than three children for every regulated child care slot, with working families requiring innovative solutions like care on no-school days and professional development days when parents cannot miss work.

#### **High ALICE Population**

49% of Eugene-Springfield households fall below the ALICE threshold (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), representing families earning above federal poverty level but less than the cost of living, who don't qualify for assistance yet struggle with rising costs of housing, child care, food, transportation, and health care.

#### **Frequent Emergency Department Utilizers**

Need for alternative care options and wrap-around services for individuals who frequently present to emergency departments with social rather than medical needs, requiring partnerships between health care providers and social service agencies.

### **Strengths of the Community**

#### **Strong Network of Nonprofit Organizations**

The community has a robust network of nonprofit service organizations delivering programs to improve physical and mental health and increase access to care, with over 151 partner agencies working with Food For Lane County alone.

#### **Collaborative Partnerships**

PeaceHealth has established strong partnerships with diverse organizations across multiple sectors including White Bird Clinic, NAACP of Eugene/Springfield, Catholic Community Services, Food For Lane County, Eugene Family YMCA, Looking Glass Community Services, Meals on Wheels People, Pearl Buck Center, St. Vincent De Paul, HIV Alliance, and Volunteers in Medicine.

#### **Volunteer Engagement**

Significant volunteer support with 20,140 volunteer hours contributed to Food For Lane County programs in 2024, plus volunteer medical providers donating time and services at Volunteers in Medicine clinic.

#### **Innovative Public-Private Partnerships**

Lane County Health and Human Services and PeaceHealth created an innovative public-private partnership to co-locate a behavioral health campus, including PeaceHealth's new 96-bed behavioral health hospital and Lane County's stabilization center.

#### **Caregiver Resource Groups**

PeaceHealth supports Caregiver Resource Groups (CRGs) - voluntary, employee-led groups that create inclusive environments, advocate for shared interests, build awareness, engage in community partnerships, enhance culturally responsive care, and build a culture of belonging.

#### **Investment in Health Care Work Force Development**

Commitment to health care work force development through \$810,000 in cash investment to nursing and career technical education programs, plus academic partnership with University of Oregon Knight Research Campus for cutting-edge research and diverse fellowship opportunities.

**Access to Natural Spaces**

Eugene Parks Foundation maintains and enhances parks and natural spaces for recreation, sustainability, and wellness, with PeaceHealth recognizing the connection between outdoor recreation and physical and mental health.

**Major Employer Stability**

PeaceHealth is one of the largest employers in Lane County with over 4,000 employees throughout the Sacred Heart Medical Center service area, providing economic stability and demonstrating commitment to the community since 1936.

**Financial Assistance Programs**

Over \$1.1 million in financial assistance helped 6,400 households access memberships, child care, and programs at Eugene Family YMCA, with PeaceHealth providing substantial community benefit contributions totaling over \$2.6 million annually.

**Priorities and Goals****Behavioral Health Expansion**

Partnering with LifePoint Health to open a 96-bed standalone behavioral health hospital in 2027, nearly tripling current 35-bed inpatient behavioral health capacity. Collaborating with Lane County to create a co-located behavioral health campus including the Lane Stabilization Center for immediate access to care for youth and adults.

**Inpatient Rehabilitation Services**

Building a new 42-bed inpatient rehabilitation facility near RiverBend Hospital with space for future expansion, with groundbreaking planned for spring 2025 and opening in 2026.

**Youth Crisis Services**

Donated \$250,000 from Community Impact Fund to Looking Glass Community Services Regional Crisis Center to expand residential crisis services for youth. Additional \$5,000 from Community Collaboration Committee supports youth nutrition programs.

**Homeless Youth Support**

Providing \$90,000 over three years (starting 2025) to Hosea Youth Services Resource Center to support homeless and vulnerable young people through meals, clothing, showers, laundry, computer access, life skills classes, counseling, and transitional housing.

**Physical Fitness and Mental Health**

Signed 10-year \$1.25 million contract with Eugene Family YMCA to develop educational, wellness, and health programming for youth, adults, and families, including initiatives like 5-2-1-0 Move More, Eat Better for families and Bingocize® fall prevention for older adults. Initially invested \$1 million for facility capital campaign and \$250,000 for operations.

**Food Insecurity**

Investing \$100,000 (\$25,000 per year since 2021) in partnership with Food For Lane County for pediatric meal kit program, distributing 1,387 meal kits to families identified through Social Drivers of Health screening at three pediatric clinics.

**Child Care Solutions**

Partnering with Kidsports to provide "PeaceHealth Play Days" child care for first through fifth graders on no-school days, serving up to 80 children per day with scholarships available for qualifying families.

**Health Equity and Community Partnership Support**

Contributed over \$1.2 million in community benefit cash donations to partner organizations in 2024, plus \$600,000 in no- and low-cost property leases for clinical and administrative

workspaces, including support for Volunteers in Medicine clinic serving low-income, underserved adults.

#### **Health Care Work Force Development**

Invested \$810,000 in nursing and career technical education programs to create pathways to health care careers for underserved communities and address work force shortages.

#### **Emergency Department Alternatives**

Made progress with state and local partners on care options for individuals who frequently present to emergency department with social rather than medical needs. Opened new centralized urgent care in Eugene after closing University District location to better serve downtown and University of Oregon populations.

#### **Research and Innovation**

Maintaining academic partnership with University of Oregon Knight Research Campus with \$50,000 investment in 2024, led by PeaceHealth Oregon Heart and Vascular Institute, to conduct projects improving care delivery and outcomes while achieving equity in research fellowship opportunities.

#### **Internal Culture of Belonging**

Supporting Mission Integrity and Cultural Fulfillment department's Caregiver Resource Groups (CRGs) to create inclusive environments, advocate for shared interests, build awareness, engage in community partnerships, and enhance culturally responsive care.