

Mercy Oklahoma City Community Benefit Report

Food for Health Pilot Program



According to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma (RFB), Oklahoma is the sixth hungriest state in the nation. One in six Oklahomans struggle with hunger with one in four children going hungry each day.

In September 2018 Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City entered into collaboration with the RFB and other local hospital systems to feed hungry patients in hopes of improving health outcomes. Patients who are food insecure struggle to manage chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension.

Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City identified two sites for the pilot: Coletta Cancer Center and Mercy Clinic Primary Care-Bethany. Both sites serve a large number of high-need patients.

In early November 2018 the RFB provided training to Coletta and Bethany Clinic co-

workers who will be screening patients for food insecurity. The training discussed the screening tool and how to assist patients in accessing food resources in the community.

Both sites will use a two question food insecurity screening tool to determine if a patient is in need of food. If it is found that a patient is food insecure, Mercy will provide that patient with a supplemental food box and assist in identifying food resources and supplemental nutrition assistance programs.

Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City dietitians will work alongside the RFB and dietitians from other local hospitals to determine appropriate foods for the shelf-stable pantry boxes provided to patients during this pilot. The dietitian workgroup will ensure that chronic disease patients are provided healthy foods that will aid in their healing.

The Food for Health pilot is set to go live in January 2019.

Total Community Benefit
\$5,402,000.00

Charity Care

Includes the actual cost of providing free or discounted care to persons who cannot afford to pay and who are not eligible for public programs. Charity care does not include bad debt.
Benefit: \$2,745,000

Community Outreach Services

Includes activities carried out to improve community health and services that are subsidized because they are needed in the community. Examples: education, support groups, health screenings, and immunizations.
Benefit: \$318,000

Health Professionals

Education and Research

Includes the cost of providing clinical placement for physicians, nurses and other health professionals plus the costs of the nursing anesthesia, EMS and radiology schools.
Benefit: \$191,000

Cash, In-Kind Donations, Workforce

Enhancement and Fundraising

Includes cash, in-kind donations, fundraising costs, food & supplies to shelters, use of Mercy rooms and facilities, donated office space and recruitment of health professionals in medically underserved areas.
Benefit: \$162,000

Medicaid Subsidies

Includes the actual unpaid cost of providing care to Medicaid patients and represents the shortfall between cost of care and the payments received by the government.
Benefit: \$1,985,000