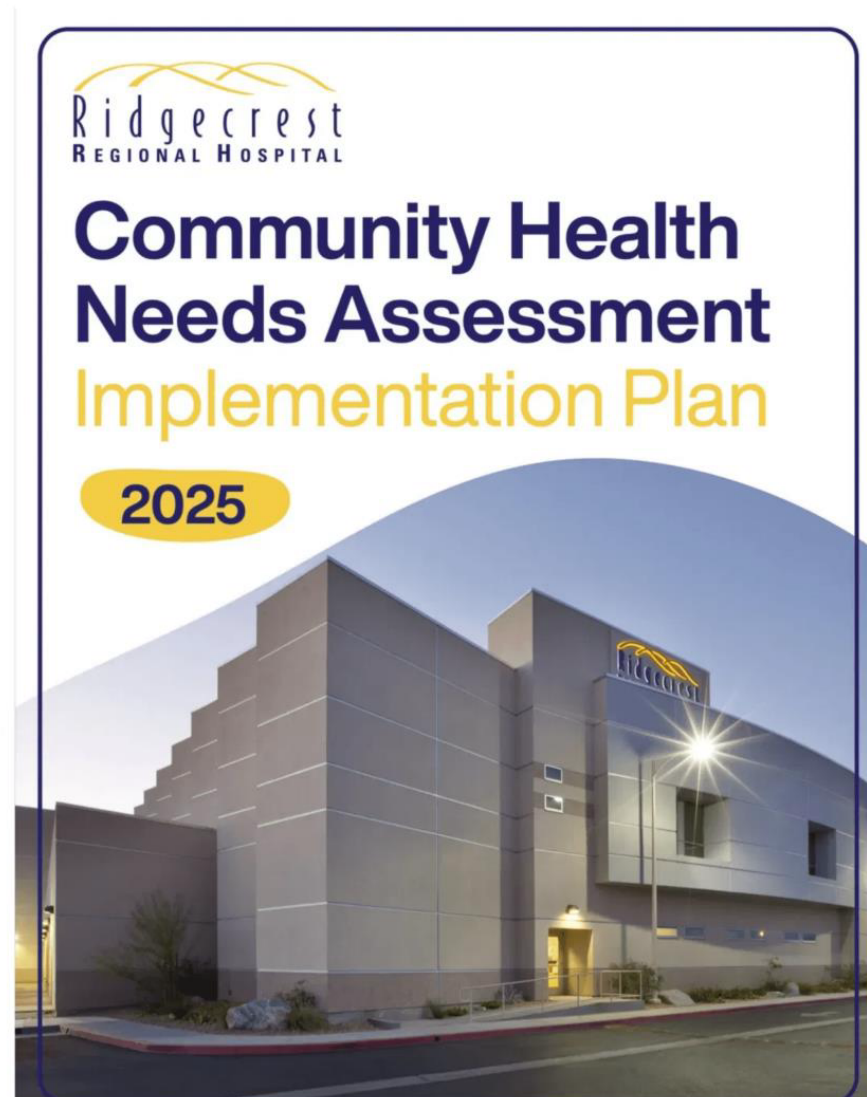


RIDGECREST REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Community Health Needs Assessment

Implementation Plan

2025



Introduction

Located in Ridgecrest, California, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital (RRH) is a nonprofit, full service, acute care hospital with 196 beds, including 25 inpatient and 125 Skilled Nursing Facility beds. RRH is the only regional healthcare system providing a variety of services to the rural communities of the Southern Sierra, serving residents from as far north as Big Pine, CA, which is over 100 miles north of Ridgecrest. Additional details about RRH can be found at <https://www.rrh.org/about-us/>

In addition to other requirements, Section 501(r3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) requires that a hospital organization conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years to maintain tax-exempt status. More information about the legal requirements of a CHNA can be found at <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/community-health-needs-assessment-for-charitable-hospital-organizations-section-501r3>.

Objective

The 2025 CHNA identifies and prioritizes the most significant community health needs through analysis of primary survey data (N=600), provider input, and public health indicators. This implementation plan outlines RRH's strategies for addressing these needs over the next three years, aligning hospital resources, partnerships, and capacity with the greatest areas of community impact.

Adoption and Comments

This Implementation Strategy was adopted by Ridgecrest Regional Hospital's Board of Directors in November 2025. This report is widely available to the public on the hospital website, <https://www.rrh.org/CHNA>

Written comments can be submitted to Ziad.Jureidini@rrh.org and James.Suver@rrh.org

2025 Community Health Needs Assessment Summary

Significant health needs were identified from issues supported by primary and secondary data sources gathered for the 2025 CHNA. The needs were indicated by secondary data sources, community stakeholder interviews and community surveys. Health indicators were considered significant health needs when they exceeded benchmark data, specifically county or state rates. Eight topics were selected for assessment for the 2025 CHNA. These topics were determined based on a number of factors, including continuity with the previous CHNAs, available data, and relation to emergent issues of broader public health concern regarding health disparities and the broader public health impact of recent events. These topics are used to organize the results in a subsequent section of this report.

List of Prioritized Significant Health Needs

- Access to Care
- Chronic Diseases
- Maternal Health / Women's Health
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- Elder/Senior Care
- Sexual Health
- Health Education, Wellness, and Disease Prevention
- Environmental Conditions



Criteria Determining the Significant Health Needs the Hospital Will Address

This Implementation Strategy provides details on how RRH plans to address the significant health needs identified in the 2025 CHNA. The hospital plans to build on previous CHNA efforts and existing initiatives, while also considering new strategies and efforts to improve health. The following criteria were used by the hospital to determine the significant health needs RRH will address in the Implementation Strategy:

- **Organizational Capacity**
- **Existing Infrastructure:** There are programs, systems, staff and support resources in place to address the issue.
- **Ongoing Investment:** Existing resources are committed to the issue. Staff time and financial resources for this issue are counted as part of our community benefit effort.
- **Focus Area:** Has acknowledged competencies and expertise to address the issue and the issue fits with the organizational mission.

As a result of the review of needs and application of the above criteria, RRH will prioritize the following health needs:

- Access to Care
- Maternal Health / Women's Health
- Elder/Senior Care
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse

CHNA Implementation Plan Priority Needs and Specific Areas to Address

For each significant health need that Ridgecrest Regional Hospital plans to address, the objectives are listed along with key programs and collaborations it plans to commit to in the next three years.

Community Health Needs Assessment Priorities

Health Need	2022 Priority	2025 Priority	Rationale for 2025 Decision
Access to Care	1	1	Most significant community challenge; aligns with hospital mission and capacity
Mental Health	2	4	Continued priority with expanded tele-psychiatry and school partnerships
Health Education	3	-	<i>Not selected: Existing community programs adequately address this need</i>
Substance Abuse	4	4	Integrated with mental health services; contingent on financial sustainability
Sexual Health	-	-	<i>Not selected: Primary responsibility of county public health services</i>
Maternal Health	-	2	New priority: Opportunity to rebuild services with OBGYN program reopening
Chronic Disease	-	-	<i>Not selected: Effectively addressed through primary care provider expansion</i>
Elder / Senior Care		3	Growing population need; focus on awareness and transportation barriers
Acute Illness and Injury			<i>Not selected: Core emergency department function; no additional initiative needed</i>
Environmental Conditions			<i>Not selected: County public health responsibility; low priority in community feedback</i>

Access to Care

Identified Need

Provider shortages, long wait times, and demand for local primary care and specialists.
No other community organization or solo practice is able to sustain the financial challenges of recruiting.

Why Selected

Existing infrastructure and ongoing investment. Most significant community health challenge.
Recruitment and retention challenges due to remoteness and quality of life in the community.

Internal Tactics

Provider recruitment and retention. Enhanced online portal and call center. Staff training.

External Tactics

Collaborate with city. Partner with transportation services. Targeted marketing.
Seek advocacy for additional funding for primary care funding to reduce hospital subsidy.

Status

Recruited 7 PCPs • Online portal 6/26 • Call center ongoing



Maternal Health / Women's Health

Identified Need

Rebuild maternal health services and establish sustainable OB/GYN program.

Why Selected

Hospital has OB unit and only residency program in region.

Residency statement is not true right now. Existing infrastructure.

Internal Tactics

Onboard new OB/GYN physician Q1 2026. Improve privacy in clinic space & waiting rooms. Enhanced patient experience.

External Tactics

Advocate for increased women's health funding. Marketing campaign.

Community partnerships.

Status

Recruitment ongoing • Facility planning in progress • Marketing plan development



Elder / Senior Care

Identified Need

Transportation barriers and lack of awareness of senior services.

Why Selected

Aging population requires local providers. Hospital capacity to address awareness gaps. Need for geriatric-psych and substance abuse for seniors

Internal Tactics

Communication campaign on senior services and insurance coverage.

External Tactics

Partner with senior centers and church groups. Collaborate with social service agencies. Explore transportation partnerships. Explore large federal grants to build facility

Status

Campaign planning • Partnership discussions initiated • Transportation study underway



Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Identified Need

Opioid crisis and mental health access challenges

Why Selected / Why Not

Capacity to expand tele-psychiatry and school partnerships. **If not financially sustainable, will focus on county advocacy.**

Internal Tactics

Expand tele-psychiatry services. Recruit psychiatry providers if needed. Enhanced coordination.

External Tactics

Partner with social service agencies. Collaborate with treatment providers. County advocacy. Seek grants for facility

Status

Tele-psychiatry expanding • Social service agencies partnership active • Recruitment ongoing

Issues Not Being Addressed

Ridgecrest Regional Hospital acknowledges the vast number of health needs that emerged from the CHNA process. RRH chose to address those areas where it could most effectively use its knowledge and resources to make an impact. For those three areas not being addressed, it was determined that addressing those needs were best served by others in the community who have the expertise, capacity and adequate resources. Accordingly, RRH will continue to support strong partners in the community to effectively address those needs.

Next Steps

As a community hospital in a medically underserved area, RRH is fundamentally committed to make an impact in the community. Continuous review of the CHNA implementation plan is a process that is active throughout the three-year period. For each of the health needs, RRH will work with community partners to strengthen existing services and where gaps exist, identify new collaborative initiatives to better serve at-risk and vulnerable communities.

