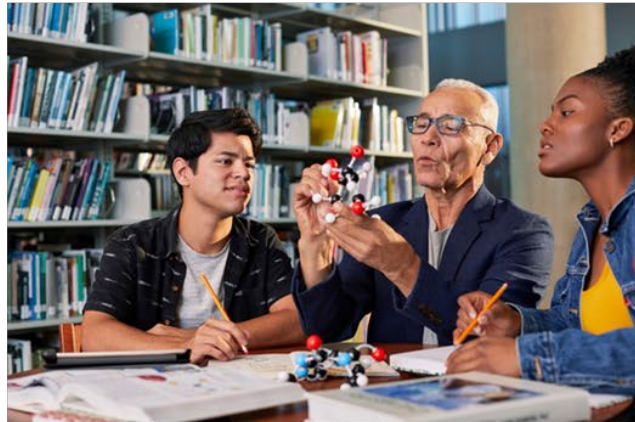


# 2022 Implementation Strategy



Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center

License number: 110000026

Approved by Kaiser Foundation Hospitals Board of Director's Community Health Committee

September 27, 2022



# Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Medical Center 2022 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

## CONTENTS

General information	2
Summary	3
Introduction/background	4
Community served	6
Significant health needs identified in the 2022 CHNA report	7
Kaiser Permanente's IS process	8
Health needs Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center plans to address	8
Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center implementation strategies	11
Health needs Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center does not plan to address	15

## General information

Contact Person	Elsa Flores, Public Affairs Director
Date of written plan	May 11, 2022
Date written plan was adopted by authorized governing body	September 27, 2022
Date written plan was required to be adopted	May 15, 2023
Authorized governing body that adopted the written plan	Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Board of Directors, Community Health Committee
Was the written plan adopted by the authorized governing body on or before the 15 <sup>th</sup> day of the fifth month after the end of the taxable year the CHNA was completed?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Date facility's prior written plan was adopted by organization's governing body	March 18, 2020
Name and EIN of hospital organization operating hospital facility	Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, 94-1105628
Address of hospital organization	One Kaiser Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612

# Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center 2022 Implementation Strategy

## Summary

Kaiser Permanente is an integrated health care delivery system comprised of Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, and physicians in the Permanente Medical Groups. For 75 years, Kaiser Permanente has been committed to shaping the future of health and health care — and helping our members, patients, and communities experience more healthy years. We are recognized as one of America's leading health care providers and nonprofit health plans.

Every three years Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center conducts a community health needs assessment (CHNA) and identifies significant health needs. To address those needs, Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center has developed an implementation strategy (IS) for the priority needs it will address, considering both Kaiser Permanente's and the community's assets and resources. The CHNA-IS process is driven by a commitment to improve health equity and is intended to be transparent, rigorous, and collaborative.

For the 2023-2025 IS, Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center has identified the following significant health needs to be addressed in the IS, in priority order:

1. Access to care
2. Mental & behavioral health
3. Income & employment
4. Housing

Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center's CHNA report and three-year IS are publicly available at <https://www.kp.org/chna>.

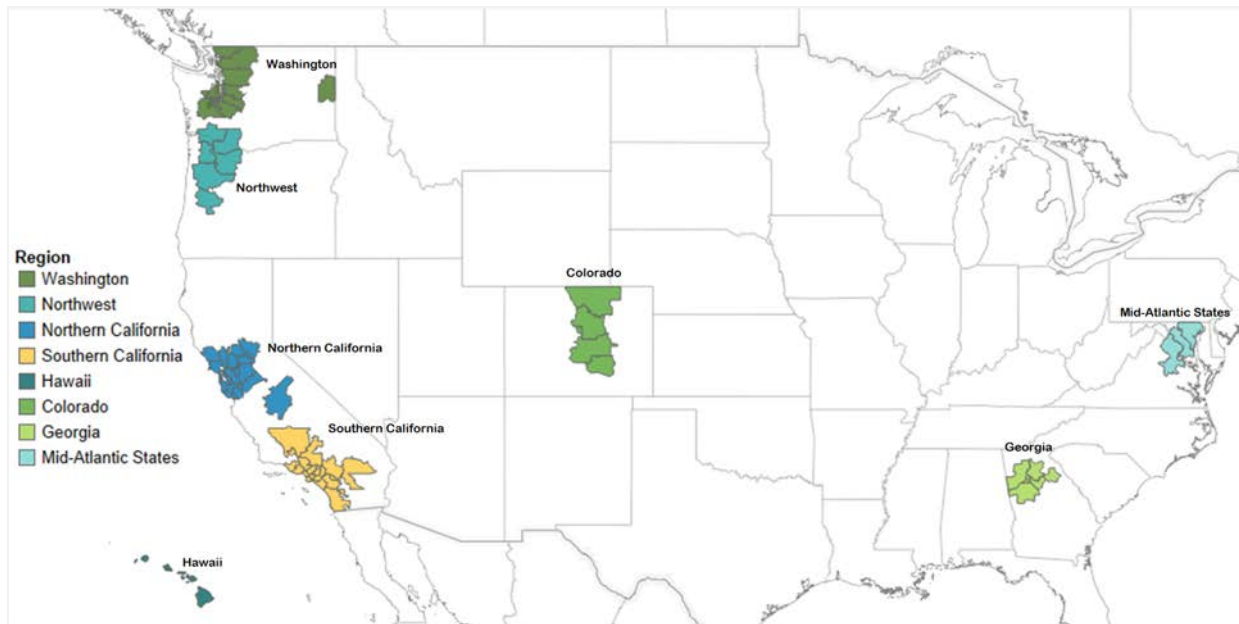
# Introduction/background

## About Kaiser Permanente

Kaiser Permanente is an integrated health care delivery system comprised of Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, and physicians in the Permanente Medical Groups. For 75 years, Kaiser Permanente has been committed to shaping the future of health and health care — and helping our members, patients, and communities experience more healthy years. We are recognized as one of America’s leading health care providers and nonprofit health plans.

Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care. Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente has a mission to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We currently serve 12.5 million members in 8 states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal Permanente Medical Group physicians, specialists, and team of caregivers. Our expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery, and world-class chronic disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education, and the support of community health.

Kaiser Permanente regions and CHNA service areas



## About Kaiser Permanente Community Health

At Kaiser Permanente, we recognize that where we live and how we live has a big impact on our health and well-being. Our work is driven by our mission: to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and our communities. It's also driven by our heritage of prevention and health promotion, and by our conviction that good health is a fundamental right.

As the nation's largest nonprofit, integrated health system, Kaiser Permanente is uniquely positioned to improve the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve. We believe that being healthy isn't just a result of high-quality medical care. Through our resources, reach, and partnerships, we are addressing unmet social needs and community factors that impact health. Kaiser Permanente is accelerating efforts to broaden the scope of our care and services to address all factors that affect people's health. Having a safe place to live, enough money in the bank, access to healthy meals, and meaningful social connections is essential to total health. Now is a time when our commitment to health and values compel us to do all we can to create more healthy years for everyone. We also share our financial resources, research, nurses and physicians, and our clinical practices and knowledge through a variety of grantmaking and investment efforts.

As we reflect on how 2020 changed the world, we must recognize that communities everywhere are coping with unprecedented challenges magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic and a renewed struggle for racial equity and social justice.

Through our continued focus on expanding our community health approach we laid the foundation for an acceleration of work to meet the challenges posed by the public health crises we now face. We dedicated ourselves to improving the social health of our 12.5 million members and the millions of people who live in the communities we serve.

Learn more about Kaiser Permanente Community Health at <https://about.kaiserpermanente.org/community-health>.

## Kaiser Permanente's approach to community health needs assessment

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was enacted in March 2010 to make health insurance available to more people, expand the Medicaid program, and support innovative medical care delivery to lower health care costs. The ACA also requires that nonprofit hospitals conduct a community health needs assessment (CHNA) every three years and develop an implementation strategy (IS) in response to prioritized needs.

Kaiser Permanente's CHNA process is driven by a commitment to improve health equity. Our assessments place a heavy emphasis on how the social determinants of health — including structural racism, poverty, and lack of access to health-related resources such as affordable housing, healthy food, and transportation — are affecting the health of communities. By analyzing community-level data and consulting individuals with deep and broad knowledge of health disparities, the Community Health team in each KP service area has identified and prioritized needs unique to the community served. Each service area has developed an IS for the priority needs it will address, considering both Kaiser Permanente's and the community's assets and resources.

The Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center 2022 CHNA report and three-year IS are available publicly at <https://www.kp.org/chna>. In addition, the IS will be filed with the Internal Revenue Service using Form 990, Schedule H.

## Community served

Kaiser Permanente defines the community served by a hospital as those individuals residing within its hospital service area. The Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center hospital service area includes residents in a defined geographic area surrounding the hospital and does not exclude low-income or underserved populations.

### Vallejo service area

 Kaiser Permanente hospital    Kaiser Permanente medical offices



## Vallejo service area demographic profile

Total population:	281,811
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.4%
Asian	16.1%
Black	10.5%
Hispanic	29.0%
Multiracial	4.0%
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.6%
Other race/ethnicity	0.2%
White	39.2%
Under age 18	20.7%
Age 65 and over	17.4%

## Community health needs

### Significant health needs identified in the Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center 2022 CHNA report

Each Kaiser Permanente service area analyzed and interpreted the primary and secondary data to determine what constitutes a health need in the community. Once all the community health needs were identified they were prioritized, resulting in a list of significant community health needs in the Vallejo service area, listed below.

1. Access to care
2. Income & employment
3. Mental & behavioral Health
4. Housing
5. Family & social support
6. Transportation



## Kaiser Permanente's implementation strategy process

Identifying the highest priority needs with an equity lens informs our community investments and helps us develop strategies aimed at making long-term, sustainable change, allowing us to deepen the strong relationships we have with other organizations that are working to improve community health.

To identify the significant health needs that Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center will address in the 2022 three-year Implementation Strategy, Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center Community Health considered a set of criteria that includes:

- Severity and magnitude of need: How health measures compare to national or state benchmarks, the relative number of people affected, impact of COVID-19 on the need
- Community priority: The community prioritizes the issue over other issues
- Clear disparities or inequities: Differences in health factors or outcomes by geography, race/ethnicity, economic status, age, gender, or other factors
- Leveraging Kaiser Permanente assets: Kaiser Permanente can make a meaningful contribution to addressing the need

## Health needs Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center plans to address

The health needs in the Vallejo service area that will be addressed during 2023-2025 are:

**1. Access to care:** Access to comprehensive, quality health care services — including having insurance, local care options, and a usual source of care — is important for ensuring quality of life for everyone. Insurance by itself does not guarantee access to appropriate care, and many community members experience barriers related to language, transportation options, and differential treatment based on race, as well as access to fewer health care resources. In the Vallejo service area, there is an urgent need for more linguistically and culturally responsive care to address the significant racial/ethnic and other disparities in access to care. There are disparities such as unequal access to a usual source of care for Pacific Islander and Black residents compared to white residents. Interviewed community leaders shared that there are insufficient specialty care options, too few providers for Medi-Cal and uninsured populations, and health services which have limited hours of operation and are inaccessible via public transportation. They also identified strategies to address access to care such as supporting vulnerable communities in accessing care; enhancing training for providers on culturally and linguistically responsive care; expanding access to specialty care providers across hospital systems; and strengthening cross-sector collaboration and coordination to integrate and improve care for individuals across providers.

**2. Mental & behavioral Health:** Mental health affects all areas of life, including a person’s physical well-being, ability to work and perform well in school and to participate fully in family and community activities. Anxiety, depression, and suicide ideation are on the rise due to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly among Black and Latinx Americans. Communities across the country are experiencing a critical lack of capacity to meet the increased demand for mental health services. In the Vallejo service area, rates of death due to suicide, alcohol related disease, and drug overdoses per 100,000 are higher than state averages. There are disparities such as disproportionate suicide attempts among LGBTQ+ students compared to straight students and stigma related to mental health concerns among Black, Latinx, and Native American communities. The interviewed community leaders shared that there are insufficient mental health services to meet the needs of the community, including for moderate mental health needs, on-site services, specialty care, and mental health services for underinsured people. They also expressed an urgent need for more linguistically and culturally responsive services, and identified strategies to address mental and behavioral health such as applying place-based and community specific strategies; hiring mental health providers who are culturally- and linguistically-responsive to the communities they serve; and expanding the use of peers and trusted messengers in delivering care.

**3. Income & employment:** Economic opportunity provides individuals with jobs, income, a sense of purpose, and opportunities to improve their economic circumstances over time. People with steady employment are less likely to have an income below poverty level and more likely to be healthy. Those not having enough resources to meet daily needs such as safe housing and enough food to eat are more likely to experience health-harming stress and die at a younger age. In the Vallejo service area, an increasing cost of living amid stagnant wages has put pressure on low-income workers, who often have to choose whether to prioritize housing, food, or health care. There are disparities such as high rates of child poverty in the City of Vallejo and significant racial disparities in per capita income for Black and Latinx residents. Interviewed community leaders shared that frontline workers such as migrant seasonal farm workers and those in the hospitality industry have been disproportionately impacted by economic insecurity. They also identified strategies to address income and employment such as paying nonprofit workers a living wage; subsidies to ease economic pressures for low-income families; and addressing the root of economic insecurity issues through advocacy and systems change efforts.

**4. Housing:** Having a safe place to call home is essential for the health of individuals and families. American families’ greatest single expenditure is housing, and for most homeowners, their most significant source of wealth. Housing costs have soared in recent years, with many families experiencing difficulty paying for housing. Black and Latinx renters in particular are more likely to live in cost-burdened households and face housing instability. In the Vallejo service area, high rental costs and the destruction of recent wildfires have led to a lack of affordable housing. There are disparities such as a lack of affordable housing options for households with lower incomes, and high-cost burden for Latinx and Black renters in particular. The interviewed community leaders shared that local wages have not kept pace with rising costs of living, leading to the displacement of long-term residents, younger families, and service workers who can no longer able to afford to live and work in the area. They also identified strategies to address housing such as expanding housing stock to include more affordable options, addressing barriers to economic security by increasing local wages, and collaborating across sectors towards advocacy and systems change efforts.

## Kaiser Permanente's approach to implementation strategies

As the nation's largest nonprofit integrated health care organization, Kaiser Permanente is mission-driven to improve health and well-being in the communities we serve. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored deep-seated inequities in health care for communities of color and amplified the social and economic disparities that contribute to poor health outcomes.

We will continue to work to improve the conditions for health and equity by addressing the root causes of health, such as economic opportunity, affordable housing, health and wellness in schools, and a healthy environment. We carry out work in our focus areas through a lens that includes deepening our commitment to equity and inclusion.

Kaiser Permanente strategic focus areas include:

### Increasing health access

- **Charity care:** Transforming Charitable Health Coverage and Medical Financial Assistance approaches to continue supporting coverage and care needs for our communities and patients
- **Medicaid:** Growing our Medicaid participation in a financially sustainable way through innovative operating models that support whole person care and coverage
- **Safety Net Partnerships:** Ensuring that communities have access to a strong safety net that can equitably meet patients' needs and improve health outcomes

### Social health needs

- **Thrive Local:** Establishing bi-directional electronic community networks that enable health care providers, safety net clinics, social service agencies, government programs, and other participants to make, receive, and track patient and client referrals
- **Food for Life:** Transforming the economic, social, and policy environments to improve health and food security for the communities we serve
- **Intergenerational healing and trauma:** Acknowledging and addressing trauma across the life course, including trauma related to exposure to racism

### Improving community conditions

- **Economic opportunity:** Increasing income, improving financial security, and reducing economic inequities through our business operations and community partnerships
- **Housing for Health:** Transforming housing and homelessness systems to improve housing stability for the communities we serve
- **Thriving Schools:** Fostering healthier school environments for students, staff, and teachers
- **CityHealth:** Advancing local policies that improve conditions for health
- **Environmental stewardship:** Reducing and eliminating environmental contributors to disease and illness

## Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center implementation strategies

Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center Community Health has identified the strategic focus, strategies, and expected impact for each priority health need, described in the table below. While we recognize that IS strategies can address multiple health needs, each strategy in the table is associated with the needs where we expect to see the greatest impact.

To implement the strategies identified, Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center will draw on a broad array of organizational resources, such as grantmaking and leveraged assets, as well as internal Kaiser Permanente programs. Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center Community Health also recognizes the importance of joint planning and collaboration with community stakeholders and leaders and welcomes opportunities to build on the strong partnerships we currently have in place.

Priority health need	Expected impact	Focus	Strategy
1. Access to care	Increased access to care for low-income at-risk populations	Medicaid & Charity Care	Charitable Health Coverage: Provide access to comprehensive health care and to coverage for low-income individuals and families who do not have access to public or private health coverage
			Medicaid: Provide high-quality medical care services to Medicaid participants who would otherwise struggle to access care
			Medical Financial Assistance: Provide temporary financial assistance to low-income individuals who receive care at KP facilities and can't afford medical expenses and/or cost sharing
			Support organizations that build capacity, provide information about coverage options, assist with eligibility screening, application and enrollment, and advocate for increasing coverage options for low-income individuals
	Improved quality of care for patients of safety net organizations	Safety Net Partnerships	Provide core support to safety net organizations, allowing these organizations to implement initiatives appropriate for the needs of their population (e.g., expansion of specialty care, providing more virtual care for nonsurgical specialties)
	All people have access to a robust network of community organizations to meet their social health needs	Thrive Local: CBO Capacity Development	Support community-based organization capacity building, including but not limited to, staffing, training, leadership development, and policy advocacy
			Thrive Local: Community Network Development
Thrive Local: Maximizing the Value of the Network			Strengthen community networks by supporting community or navigation centers, community advisory councils, and interoperability with other systems

Priority health need	Expected impact	Focus	Strategy
2. Mental & behavioral health	All community members experience social emotional health and wellbeing and have access to high quality behavioral health care services when needed	Mental Health & Wellness	Contribute to the mitigation of the effects of trauma related to gun violence, community violence, family violence and other ACEs related to traumatic events for populations living in adverse environments
			Increased access to behavioral health care services for low-income and vulnerable populations
			Prevent and support healing from toxic stressors, ACEs and intergenerational trauma associated with systemic racism
	Develop a diverse, well trained behavioral health care workforce that provides culturally competent care	Mental Health & Wellness	Support organizations providing trauma-informed and trauma-responsive trainings for staff/providers
3. Income & employment	Reduced structural barriers and improved opportunities for inclusive economic mobility	Economic Opportunity: College & Career Readiness	Support programs that improve high school attendance, achievement, and/or graduation for students of color in low-income areas
		Economic Opportunity: Quality Jobs & Careers	Enhance career pathways by partnering with workforce development organizations to develop and implement job training and placement programs, including pre-apprenticeship programs
	All people have consistent access to affordable healthy food	Food for Life: Meal/Nutrition Distribution	Support organizations that distribute food such as medical tailored meals, prepared food, produce, or other food and meals to school children, families, and those in underserved communities
		Food for Life: Increasing Purchasing Power	Support organizations that increase enrollment in programs that extend food dollars such as in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and federal school meal programs
	Improved job readiness for people with barriers to employment	Income & employment	Support programs providing job training, wrap around services, and employment services for vulnerable populations (e.g., homeless, reentry, foster youth, transition age youth)

Priority health need	Expected impact	Focus	Strategy
4. Housing	All people have access to safe, affordable, and stable housing and homelessness becomes a rare, brief occurrence	Housing for Health: Increase Affordable Housing Supply	Provide resources for preserving or enhancing the supply of affordable housing
		Housing for Health: Prevent Homelessness	Support evidence-based housing stabilization assistance
		Housing for Health: Transform Care	Support improved coordination among Continuum of Care programs, social service organizations, and housing providers

Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center will monitor and evaluate the strategies listed above to track implementation and document the impact of those strategies in addressing significant health needs. Tracking metrics for each prioritized health need include the number of grants made, the number of dollars spent, the number of community-based organizations supported, and the number of people reached/served.

In addition to the strategies developed as part of the CHNA/IS process, many health needs are addressed by Kaiser Permanente business practices that contribute to community well-being, including environmentally responsible purchasing, waste reduction, and purchase of clean energy for facilities. We procure supplies and services from a diverse set of providers and partner with workforce development programs to support a pipeline for diverse suppliers, and we build the capacity of local small businesses through training on business fundamentals. We also conduct high-quality health research and disseminate findings intended to increase awareness of the changing health needs of diverse communities, address health disparities, and improve effective health care delivery and health outcomes.

## Health needs Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center does not plan to address

The significant health needs identified in the 2022 CHNA that Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center does not plan to address are shown in the table below, along with the reasons for not addressing those needs.

Reason	Family & social support	Transportation
Community does not prioritize this need over other issues	x	x
Less feasibility to make an impact on this need	x	x
Less ability for Kaiser Permanente to leverage expertise or assets to address this need	x	x
Less ability to leverage community assets to address this need		x
This need is incorporated into other needs selected	x	x
Aspects of this need will be addressed in strategies for other needs	x	x