

2024 community benefit report



dayton
children's

2024 community benefit report



At Dayton Children's, we know that most of a child's health is built in the community - the places where they live, learn and play. Therefore, our focus must extend beyond treating children within our hospital walls; it must flow into the neighborhoods that make up our great city and support families with the tools and skills they need to help their children thrive every day.

To identify where we focus our efforts and what support we provide, we undertake a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years. This comprehensive evaluation surveys those who interact with children the most: parents, primary care pediatricians, teachers, coaches and many more groups of care givers. Their shared experiences allow us to identify the most pressing health concerns affecting children in our region.

In our most recent assessment in 2023, the key health concerns stayed relatively similar to previous surveys - mental health and addiction, chronic diseases (including obesity, food insecurity and asthma), and maternal and infant health. It can seem frustrating that all the efforts we are making in these areas over the years haven't seemed to make a difference in solving some priorities and revealing others. However, when you look at the issues we are trying to impact, they require global shifts across a spectrum of sectors. We have to remember that we are making progress. It is the sometimes small but consistent steps that lead to the greatest and most lasting change.

We also know that we cannot, and should not, do this work alone. The Dayton region has so many amazing groups that also support our families. I have the deepest gratitude for the people behind these groups whose commitment and collaboration with us are making a difference. By sharing the load, combining resources and bringing partners to the table together, we amplify our efforts.

In this report, you will find detailed information about the steps we are taking to benefit our community, our families and our children to be the anchor that provides stability while they learn to soar. After all, you can have both roots and wings.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Feldman".

Deborah A. Feldman, *President and CEO*

\$63 million invested in



mental health and addiction



access to care



maternal and infant health



community conditions



chronic disease (including obesity, food insecurity and asthma)



and so much more!

2024 at a glance

To focus our community work, Dayton Children's conducts a community health needs assessment (CHNA) every three years to identify the critical health challenges children in our region face. We have been tackling challenges facing our children including mental health and addiction, chronic disease (including obesity, food insecurity and asthma), and maternal and infant health. We also know the importance of addressing community conditions and access to care which have a huge impact on health. From July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, Dayton Children's invested over \$63 million in community benefit activities. Beyond the financial numbers, this report features "moments of impact" that illustrate how each dollar translates into meaningful change.

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priority health issue 1: mental health

Children's mental health is the crisis of our generation. At Dayton Children's, we're dedicated to addressing this crisis through a comprehensive continuum of care. While we are expanding and innovating in the typical hospital spaces for mental health care – inpatient, crisis and outpatient therapy, these only treat an issue once it has become an unmanageable problem.

What if we could prevent the crisis? What if we could get ahead of an issue and give children tools to better cope with setbacks and situations? As Desmond Tutu says, **“There comes a point where you have to stop pulling people out of the river, get upstream and see why they are falling in the water in the first place.”**

This is why we created the Center for Emotional Wellbeing. All our programs that support prevention and early intervention of mental health issues live here. We partner with parents, schools, childcare centers, afterschool programs, other mental health providers and many more groups to teach resiliency skills and coping mechanisms.

Getting upstream is difficult work. It requires a substantial investment, as it's not funded the way that traditional hospital services are. Insurance doesn't cover each visit, as it does for an inpatient stay, an emergency department visit or a therapy appointment. And yet, we know it's crucial work. It's work that can prevent the much more devastating, time-consuming and expensive impact of a mental health crisis.

The following includes just three of the programs within the Center for Emotional Wellbeing that are making a difference in our community.

1. On Our Sleeves™

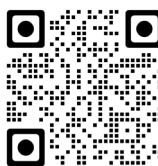
Kids don't wear their thoughts on their sleeves. We, as trusted adults in their lives, need to provide a safe space for our kids to share, develop and understand their thoughts and feelings.

The On Our Sleeves program provides tools and tips that encourage conversations between adults and kids to break the stigma around children's mental health. In partnership with the Kids Mental Health Foundation this program aims to create a world where mental health is a vital part of every child's upbringing.



how do we engage?

- **12,800 people joined the movement.** Joining the movement gives access to monthly mental wellness topics and free resources through email.
- **4,000 conversations starter cards distributed.** The most popular On Our Sleeves resource, these cards are a tool to help adults build a foundation of health conversation with kids.
- **400 Classroom Champions signed up.** On Our Sleeves supports educators with free classroom activities, lesson guides and resources to boost the mental wellness of kids in all grade levels



To learn more about On Our Sleeves impact in our community, scan the QR Code!



2. student resiliency coordinators

The new three “Rs” of education - reading, writing and resiliency! The Student Resiliency Program places therapists and counselors in the schools to help students grow and become successful in seven areas: competence, confidence, connection, character, contribution, coping and control. The coordinator is also there to provide in-the-moment support when a student faces a challenging situation, guiding them through with the skills they've learned and the strengths they've built to manage the issue. The coordinators also connect families to basic resources that help build stability and mental strength, such as food, housing, bedding and other essentials.

Not only does resiliency training lead to better mental health, it also allows students to better engage in learning. The more we can overcome obstacles outside the classroom, the better the focus inside the classroom. Providing these skills and tools to students, families, and staff support a strength-based focus for managing challenges.



58+

On Our Sleeves
community partners



1,291

students served by Student
Resiliency Coordinators



59

schools with Student
Resiliency Coordinators

3. suicide prevention training for everyone

The biggest concern we hear when discussing mental health is that people feel ill-equipped to recognize or handle a conversation with someone who is suffering. To overcome this concern, we offer several classes to provide the training and tools people need to provide the right assistance.

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches participants to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges in kids ages 12 to 18.

Question. Persuade. Refer. (QPR) is another course which emphasizes three simple steps anyone can learn to save a life from suicide. These courses are free and offered monthly to anyone who is interested.



206

people trained
in Youth Mental
Health First Aid and
suicide prevention



None of these programs have a stable funding source. All of these programs are supported by a combination of Dayton Children's resources, partner resources, grants and donations.

moments of impact

how Student Resiliency Coordinators support students beyond the classroom

When a high school student's mental health struggles left him on the verge of dropping out, it was the Student Resiliency Coordinator (SRC) at his school who helped him find his way back. His mother reflects on the life-changing support they received:

"My son in high school would not be in recovery without the Student Resiliency Coordinator's support," she shares. "Their guidance was the key to helping our son reintegrate into school. As someone who works on the frontline of mental health, I see how vital it is to have professionals like SRCs who are trained to support kids in crisis."

The impact of SRCs extends far beyond high schools. At one elementary school, a veteran master teacher close to retirement praised the SRC at their school for her dedication and compassion: "She was an advocate for these students, not only directly but also by inspiring staff through her conversations."



The teacher shared powerful examples of the SRC's influence as she worked one-on-one with fourth-grade students. One student, once gloomy and withdrawn, began to smile and participate regularly in class. Another student eagerly asked every day if it was her turn to meet with the SRC.

"As a veteran, master teacher who is close to retirement, the Student Resiliency Coordinator program is one of the best programs I've ever seen," this teacher reflected.

priority health issue 2: chronic disease



In March of 2024, the Dayton Children's food pantry hit a major milestone of giving out more than 100,000 pounds of food to families in our community! The food pantry serves over 200 families every month!

Children with chronic illnesses, such as asthma or diabetes, face additional layers of challenge in every moment of their lives. While one child can grab whatever he or she wants from the lunch line, a child with diabetes or allergies has to carefully weigh the food choices. A child with asthma may not be able to join recess if the pollen count is too high, while most other children skip outside with no worries about what the trees, grass or plants are doing that day.

Dayton Children's aims to make it better for kids with chronic diseases through proactive programs and initiatives. We focus on addressing the root causes and triggers for a variety of chronic conditions, including childhood obesity, asthma and the health effects of food insecurity. Our dedicated efforts aim to create healthier futures for children in our community, ensuring they receive the support and resources they need to thrive.

Here are just a few ways we are reaching into the community to help.

improving food access

Research consistently links food insecurity to poor health and behavioral outcomes in children, highlighting the urgent need for intervention. As more than one in five children experience food insecurity in Montgomery County alone, Dayton Children's has two initiatives aimed at addressing food insecurity.

The "Food Pharm" provides a boxed, shelf-stable, three-day supply of healthy food when a provider uncovers the need during a visit and "prescribes" the resource. The family picks up the food directly after their doctor's appointment to reduce the need for further travel or delay. This highlights the importance of screening for social determinants of health such as food insecurity during all visits to Dayton Children's Pediatrics. This way work done inside the hospital can better serve the health needs outside its walls.

Dayton Children's also partners with The Dayton Foodbank, Inc. to host a food pantry at the Connor Child Health Pavilion twice a month, supplying critical nutrition to hungry families. Items tend to be different each week, but will range from frozen meat, eggs, milk, bakery goods/bread, produce and shelf stable products.



200
families served every month



1 in 5
children experience food insecurity

addressing asthma triggers one home at a time

Children with asthma need an environment free from triggers to function at their best, but many families may be unaware of all the triggers that are commonly found in the home environment or how to get rid of them.

Dayton Children's community health workers visit a family at home to look for triggers, such as dust, mold or even cleaning products that may be contributing to asthma flare-ups. Then the worker provides ways to remove the triggers and prevent them from returning such as allergen-proof mattress and pillow covers, using HEPA filters on vacuums or green cleaning products. Improving these factors can lead to better control of a child's asthma, fewer emergency department visits, fewer missed school days and a kid just getting to be a kid more often.

moments of impact

Mekayla helps Mason chase his dream

When 8-year-old Mason Miller was diagnosed with asthma, his mom Tabitha was a little overwhelmed, and rightly so. Luckily the family got their very own champion in community health worker, Mekayla Pullins. "What I think most are unaware of when it comes to asthma, is that it can be deadly. Asthma is a life-threatening disease and should be treated as such."



Not only did Mekayla work with the family on improving their home environment, she also shows up at doctor visits when Mason is feeling nervous and checks in on his progress. "I started crying when she called me and shared how she could help. I thought this was a blessing to have that extra help when going to the doctor," shared Tabitha Miller, Mason's mom. "She met up with us last minute when Mason needed extra shots to help his asthma. She printed patient education materials that explained everything to us and now he's been breathing better since! A handle on his asthma allowed Mason to achieve his dream of joining his school football team. Go Mason, Go!

priority health issue 3: maternal and infant health

An important part of keeping our community healthy is focusing on keeping moms and babies healthy as well! Dayton Children's has implemented an integrated approach to improving maternal and infant health outcomes in response to the alarming rates of infant mortality. We're focusing efforts and creating programs to help moms and babies thrive!

safe sleep

More than 3,500 babies die each year while sleeping. Even one is too many. To keep babies as safe as possible during sleep, Dayton Children's has multiple activities that focus on safe sleep education for families.

Every staff member who cares for a baby at Dayton Children's is not only trained in safe sleep practices, but in how best to educate families about them. We teach the ABCs of safe sleep – place baby Alone, on his or her Back, in a Crib. We also encourage new parents to teach grandparents and other caregivers who may have used different methods, ensuring a safe cocoon of sleep practices around the baby.



Dayton Children's also collaborates with Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County to deliver the Safe Sleep Ambassador program, offering monthly training sessions to parents, caregivers and the community. Through this program, parents can be offered pack-and-plays that are approved for sleep as well as sleep sacks which are safer than blankets for keeping baby cozy.

support for breastfeeding

The hospital recognizes the importance of breastfeeding for infant nutrition and is focused on making sure breastfeeding mothers have consistent lactation support while their baby is admitted at Dayton Children's. We also collaborate with local partners to further strengthen breastfeeding support and nutrition security initiatives in the community where services had not been available.

prenatal care

Dayton Children's is working to improve access to prenatal care, particularly for teen mothers. The emergency department developed specialized resources that provide important prenatal care guidance, to help new mothers get early access to care and have healthier pregnancies.

maternal mortality

Through a quality improvement project in collaboration with Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, Dayton Children's is taking steps to address rising maternal mortality rates, particularly among minority populations. This project focused on enhancing postpartum care by identifying key areas of improvement based on community feedback that can be used in the process to improve health care practices.



"I have a deep passion to advance outcomes for mothers and infants because I believe every baby deserves a healthy start in life, and that begins with a healthy mom."

- Maleka James, Infant and Child Wellness Initiatives Project Manager



Rendering of Kinship Housing Development Project expected to open in 2026

addressing the root causes of poor health

Addressing the root causes of poor health is crucial for achieving lasting improvements in health and well-being. Our programs at Dayton Children’s focus on identifying and tackling these underlying issues, such as socioeconomic factors, lack of access to healthy food, inadequate physical activity and access to education. By offering targeted interventions and support, we aim to address these root causes directly, fostering a healthier environment for children and families. We not only treat symptoms but also work toward preventing health problems before they arise.

kinship housing development project

In fall 2024, Dayton Children’s broke ground on a new initiative to provide housing for care givers who find themselves suddenly caring for a relative’s child. It’s called kinship care and often those stepping up to raise a child struggle with finding the right housing, especially if they are grandparents who live in a retirement community that doesn’t allow children.

In 2026, there will be 26 safe and affordable kinship family homes in the Greater North Dayton Neighborhood near the hospital. The development will offer shared spaces to gather, including a community room and play areas, designed to foster optimal child development and alleviate feelings of isolation among families.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program

Filling out tax forms isn’t easy for most of us, but for those with additional challenges such as a disability or limited English fluency, it can be nearly impossible. That’s why Dayton Children’s partners with the Earned Income Tax Credit Assistance (EITC) program run through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grant. This IRS initiative is designed to support free tax preparation service for the underserved through various partner organizations.

By assisting low- to moderate-income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly and those who speak limited English in filing their taxes each year, Dayton Children’s is working to reduce barriers to health and overcome poverty in our community.

Montgomery County Imagination Library

Research shows that reading to a child consistently, which helps them to develop strong reading skills early, is one of the strongest predictors of higher cognitive abilities later in life. In essence, reading early and often makes you smarter!

So, to give our kids the earliest and best exposure to books and encourage the reading habit, Dayton Children’s partners the Ohio Governor’s Imagination Library initiative to offer Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library for all children ages 0-4 years in Montgomery County. This program sends free books to local children each month to help them build home libraries.

By giving parents the tools, we supply a critical building block that sets a child up for kindergarten readiness, success throughout their school years and a basis for lifelong health.

school partnerships

Dayton Children’s partners with Kiser Neighborhood School Center to enhance student performance, engage families and improve the quality of life in the Greater Old North Dayton neighborhood. To aid in this partnership, Dayton Children’s employs a Family Resource Coordinator who works to remove the non-academic barriers to success students may have. In the school year 2023-2024, Dayton Children’s also partnered with Dayton Public Schools to provide a 21st Century Learning Center after school and summer learning program, Panthers Taking FLIGHT (future leaders innovating and growing healthier together).



\$27k

estimated savings in tax filing fees for local families



20,611

children currently enrolled in Imagination Library



82

students served in Kiser afterschool and summer programs



moments of impact

helping local students take FLIGHT to their dreams

The Taking FLIGHT Summer Program at Kiser Elementary School is part of the hospital's commitment to children's health and educational equity. We want to give the kids in the neighborhood surrounding the hospital the best opportunities possible to achieve their goals and dreams.

The six-week summer program offers local kids a chance to explore their creativity, embark on new adventures and dream about their future careers.

By helping students meet state and local standards in core subjects like reading and math while also engaging in enrichment activities, the program bridges the gap between academics and personal growth.

"We want to connect the families in and around Old North Dayton to resources that go beyond annual check-ups," shares Rue Gray, the program's site

coordinator. "Through a flexible curriculum free from the pressure of grades and tests, we create an environment to teach values, diversity, and critical life skills.

The program's impact goes beyond academics. "To me, the work being done at the hospital and at the school go hand in hand. "The families we serve at Kiser need the same care and support as those seen in the hospital."

Taking FLIGHT is more than a summer program it is an opportunity to support children in the community, ensuring they soar into a brighter future.



improving access to care

Every child deserves quality health care, no matter their zip code or family circumstances. Dayton Children's is committed to improving children's access to care through our community. These programs are focused on helping families see providers when they can and ensuring that all children in our community receive the support they need to achieve optimal health.

serving west Dayton's children

Dayton Children's Hospital is excited to announce the creation of a West Dayton Urgent Care which will be strategically located in West Dayton and serve as a cornerstone for community health and collaboration. Through many conversations with community partners and members, it was determined that an on-demand services for acute illness such as vomiting or diarrhea, ear pain, sore throat, infected bug bites, mild allergic reactions and more was needed in the West Dayton community. Dayton Children's will also partner with local organizations in this space to address key community concerns such as children's mental health and the health of moms and babies.

school-based health care

Too many children are struggling to thrive and grow because of a lack of access to health care services but school-based health care can be a part of the solution. By bringing health care directly to where students spend most of their time—at school—we can make a significant difference. For students managing chronic illnesses, this approach not only reduces the number of days they miss but also helps them establish ongoing care with easily accessible providers.

Dayton Children's has opened two student-focused wellness centers to focus on school-based health care: The Dayton Children's Health and Wellness Clinic at Xenia Community School's Warner Middle School and The Connor Wellness Center at the Greater Dayton School.

Since their inception in 2022, these wellness centers have positively impacted students' health by offering care during school hours. This initiative not only decreases absences and ensures students are up to date with their vaccinations but also connects them with behavioral health treatment when needed. By prioritizing student well-being, we are helping to create a healthier and brighter future for our community's children.

"A facility in west Dayton allows us to address the key concerns that families expressed in our latest community health needs assessment, which include access to care, community conditions, care of chronic disease, mental health and the health of mom and baby."

-Debbie Feldman, president and CEO of Dayton Children's



by the numbers: Xenia Community Schools health and wellness clinic



2,045

encounters since health and wellness clinic opened in August 2022



443

well visits



61%

of students return to class following their visit to the clinic

decreasing injury

Early Childhood Safety Program

Injuries are the leading cause of death and disability to children in the United States. Dayton Children's is dedicated to preventing childhood injury in our region. To address this urgent issue, we have launched an Early Childhood Safety Program, funded by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, designed to educate parents and caregivers about the most serious early childhood injuries, including choking, falls, unintentional poisoning and unsafe sleep practices.

Through this program families receive the safety equipment needed to prevent injuries including home childproofing kits, cribs, highchairs, portable cribs, safety gates, sleep sacks and strollers.

In addition, our robust injury prevention program uses data from our level one trauma center to inform and develop injury prevention interventions. By combining education and resources, we strive to create a safer environment for children.

moments of impact

taking action to help kids get ready to roll safely!

With a nearly 100% increase in injuries related to wheeled vehicles over the past year, Dayton Children's injury prevention team saw an urgent need to take action. Recognizing that kids today ride more than just bicycles (choosing scooters, skateboards, hoverboards, and even ATVs instead), the team launched the "This is How We Roll" campaign. This initiative focuses on equipping families with the knowledge and tools needed to keep kids safe, no matter how they choose to roll.

"A leading cause of death for children is head trauma from crashes where a helmet was not worn," explains Abbey Pettiford, community relations prevention coordinator. To combat this, Dayton Children's and

Safe Kids Greater Dayton provide helmets to protect children's heads during crashes.

Alongside distributing helmets, the campaign offers education on safe practices for biking, skating, and other wheeled activities, ensuring kids can enjoy their adventures while staying out of harm's way.

"This is How We Roll" is just one example of how Dayton Children's is expanding its injury prevention efforts to meet kids where they are. By addressing the growing popularity of various wheeled sports, the campaign is helping to create safer play environments and prevent life-altering injuries—one helmet at a time.



child passenger safety

Dayton Children’s addresses one of the leading causes of injury, motor vehicle crashes, by providing education and child safety seats throughout the community. Dayton Children’s car seat safety program provides periodic car seat checks by appointment through licensed car seat technicians. During an inspection, car seats are checked for recalls, then the technician works with caregivers to make sure the car seat is properly installed in the vehicle. Our technicians also connect caregivers with free car seat checks in the community so they can be assured their child is riding safely.



community contributions

Dayton Children’s is committed to supporting community programs that address the critical issues identified in the community health needs assessment. Through our community contribution program, we proudly supported the following initiatives.

FY24 grantees	
<i>organizations</i>	<i>their programs</i>
Cross Over Community Development	Family Mentoring Program
Old North Dayton Neighborhood Association	Community Outreach to reduce possible contamination and resulting health impacts at the behr dayton and valley pike superfund sites
El Puente Educational Center	Abriendo Caminos
Ebenezer Healthcare Access	Better Health for All
Omega Community Development Corporation	Project Hope
Dayton Dream Center	Roadmap for Recovery - Family Health Initiative
Fairview Church Food Pantry	Fairview Church Food Pantry
The National Conference for Community and Justice of Greater Dayton	Mobile Opportunity Center
Girls on the Run of Dayton, Inc.	Increasing access to our programs for girls and families in underserved communities

community benefit and investment

investing in kids...investing in our community

As a non-profit children's hospital, our mission requires us to reinvest hospital profits into community-based initiatives. This requires us to move outside of the hospital walls and come to places where children live, learn, play. Any hospital profits are reinvested back into the health and well-being of kids through a variety of activities that go above and beyond traditional health care. While quantifying this number is challenging, in fiscal year 2022-2023 Dayton Children's reported more than \$63 million in community benefit activities. This report covers audited financial numbers for fiscal year 2023 along with current community focused programming.

community benefit categories

subsidized health services

Dayton Children's supports several clinical programs despite financial loss because they meet an identified community need.

community health improvement

Community health improvement programs allow us to prevent injuries, improve health literacy, address mental wellness and engage the community to promote health and wellness

health professionals education

To ensure we have the workforce that meets the health care needs of the future, we provide clinical and educational experience for many students throughout our community.

cash and in-kind

Dayton Children's contributes cash and in-kind gifts to not-for-profit organizations that share our mission and focus on children and families.

research

Dayton Children's engages in medical and health-related research that generates knowledge that is made available to and benefits the public, enhancing the future of health care and improving the long-term welfare of the community at large.

financial assistance

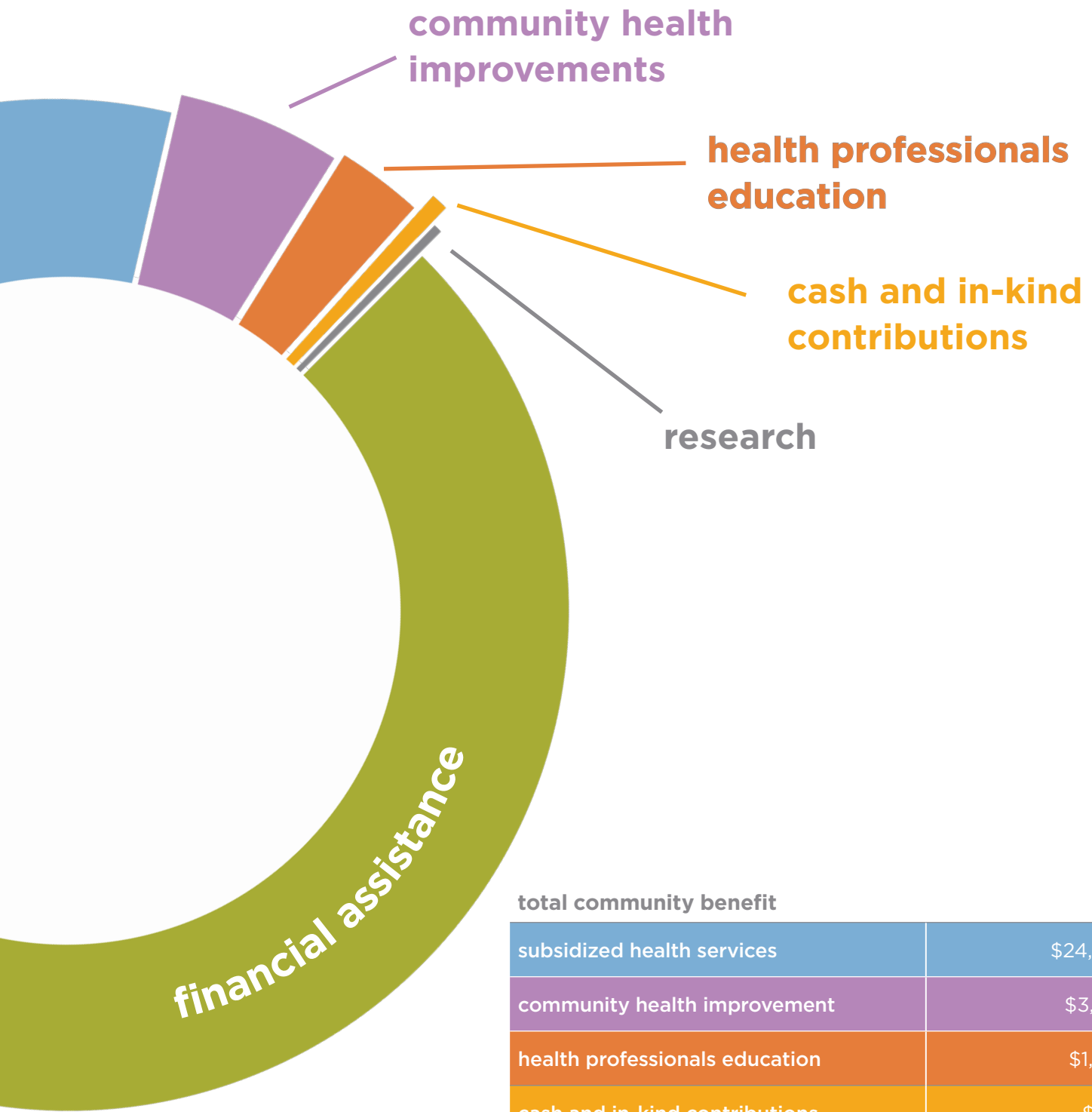
We report the unreimbursed costs from providing care to patients enrolled in Medicaid and other government programs reflecting payment shortfalls versus our actual costs to provide the care.

community-building activities

Reported separately from community benefit, community-building activities include environmental improvements, workforce development and community health improvement advocacy efforts which are critical to our role as an anchor institution and community leader.



subsidized health services



total community benefit

subsidized health services	\$24,874,248
community health improvement	\$3,414,966
health professionals education	\$1,705,037
cash and in-kind contributions	\$292,575
research	\$129,060
financial assistance	\$32,771,067
total	\$63,186,953
community building activities	\$277,083

*Financial data is for the year 2022-2023. Note: This report includes amounts expended by Dayton Children's Hospital as reported on Schedule H of the IRS Form 990. Health professionals' education expenses totaled \$0 after accounting for direct offsetting revenue through the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program

For more information on Community Benefit and Dayton Children's Center for Health Equity contact Jessica Salem at salemj@childrensdayton.org

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