



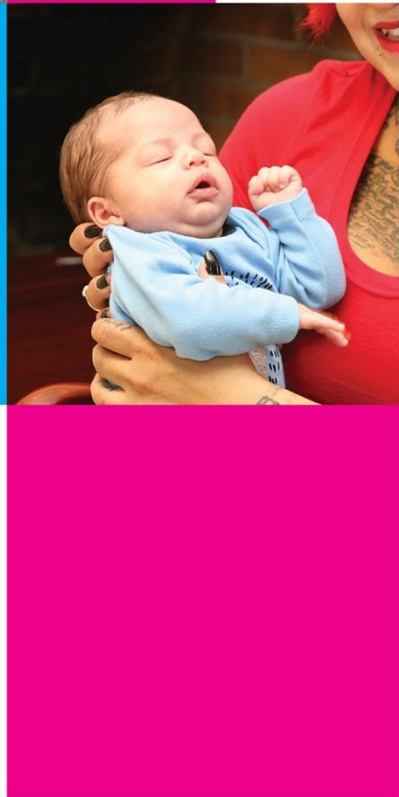
Community Benefits Report

to the Attorney General

Fiscal Year 2022

 Southcoast® Health

More than medicine.





Community Benefits Report

FY22: October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

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Executive Summary

As a not-for-profit community-based health system, Southcoast Health is committed to our mission to provide healthcare that extends beyond direct patient care and significantly invests in programs and services that improve the health and wellness for all residents living in our communities. In fiscal year 2022, Southcoast Health invested \$23.6 million in community benefits initiatives including charity care, hospital-based programs, collaboration with federally qualified community health centers, regional health and human service partnerships, and support of community health programs designed to address pressing health and related social needs across our region.

Throughout the year, Southcoast collaborates with a number of community partners to implement our community benefits programs, also known as our Southcoast CARES initiatives. Southcoast CARES works to address the most pressing health and social needs of our region though focusing on developing community wellness initiatives, increasing community engagement and impact, and facilitating strategic community health improvement planning.

During FY22 Southcoast supported and administered programs that addressed the following issues in our region: behavioral health, mental health, substance use disorder, maternal/child health, chronic disease, health access and health equity. This has involved work in health systems and environment change, such as addressing issues like food insecurity, homelessness, and economic opportunity. The following are program highlights from fiscal FY22.

Behavioral Health/Substance Use Intervention

The New Beginnings Program had a 36% increase in referrals from the previous year, with 143 individuals referred in FY22. We observed a 20% higher likelihood of babies being discharged home with their mom for individuals who are engaged prenatally in the program compared to those unengaged.

Cancer Outreach

In collaboration with Junior Achievement of SE MA, an Oncologist and Hematologist provided an educational lecture about the harmful effects of vaping and smoking to the students. In addition to this, Southcoast provided seven (7) cancer education, awareness, and prevention virtual seminars open to the public.

Community Wellness Program

During FY22 the Community Wellness Program (CWP) received its' licensure from the MA Department of Public Health. The CWP breaks down traditional barriers to care by improving accessibility for health access through mobile capabilities and supports Southcoast's ongoing population health initiatives.

Coalitions to End and Prevent Homelessness

Southcoast has representation on the Executive committee of the Homeless Service Providers Network (HSPN). The HSPN addresses the most pressing issues around the complexity of homelessness and toward ensuring every individual and every family has access to appropriate, sustainable safe, decent, and affordable housing. We work in coalition with community organizations and members throughout our service area to identify short- and long-term solutions to homelessness.

Economic Opportunity

As part of our work to improve early childhood development we remained the lead implementation

partner of the Basics. For this initiative, Southcoast works in partnership with NorthStar Learning Center & The Southcoast Coalition for Early Childhood Development. Through this collaboration, the Basics Southcoast Coordinator role was developed and filled to focus on community engagement, assist with trainings and work one-to-one with service providers to embed the Basics into their organization

Health Access & Equity

Southcoast continued its' partnership with Coastline Elderly to provide translation services for their monthly Senior Scope Newsletter articles into Spanish and Portuguese. Articles focused on health education for seniors with topics that ranged from COVID-19 vaccine information to accessing nutritious foods.

Healthy System and Environment Change

In partnership with the United Way of Greater New Bedford, 13 Mobile Markets were held distributing over 500 pounds of affordable, local, and healthy food in Wareham. There were 310 households served with 2,753 total residents benefiting from the market. In addition, Southcoast staff participated in almost 150 hours of volunteer time to support these markets.

Maternal Child Health Education and Outreach

Baby Cafés are friendly and comfortable weekly hybrid drop-in sessions for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers to learn more about breastfeeding. Mothers can relax, share tips and techniques, and socialize with other moms. Peer support and one-on-one help from specially trained health professionals is available, including professional lactation support. There were 527 individuals who attended at least one session.

Community Benefits & Mission Statement

At Southcoast Health we are committed to our mission of providing healthcare that extends beyond direct patient care. We know socioeconomic and environmental factors are among the greatest drivers of our ability to maintain health and overall wellness.

We are accomplishing this through:

- Identifying the unmet health-related social needs of the community through a needs assessment process that includes collaboration with relevant community health coalitions and networks and other community representatives and providers.
- Prioritizing health care needs and identifying which needs can most effectively be met through the resources of Southcoast Hospitals Group and its affiliated corporations, particularly the needs of the uninsured and the medically underserved who require enhanced access to care.
- Collaborating with local health providers, human services agencies, advocacy groups and others to develop cooperative plans and programs to address pressing community health needs.
- Developing community benefits plans that incorporate social determinants of health, including environmental, social, and other demographic factors that may influence health status.

Health Equity & Population Health

At Southcoast Health, we understand that the social determinants of health (SDoH) such as income, education, race, housing, food insecurity, and other socioeconomic factors are among the best predictors of health outcomes, accounting for approximately 70% of a person's health status. Because of this, inequitable access to resources can lead to disparities in health outcomes.

Poverty is a key driver of health status. Community members in the Southcoast service area experience higher poverty rates and lower levels of formal educational attainment compared to other regions in Massachusetts. Census data demonstrates that residents of the region earn incomes below the statewide median. Poverty affects 20% of the residents of the region and is particularly prevalent in the cities of Fall River and New Bedford.

At present, racial, and ethnic minorities face significant disparities in access to and utilization of care. As a health system that serves a diverse and changing region, our providers must ensure that they meet the needs of different racial and ethnic groups as the region's population grows increasingly more diverse. Notably, Fall River's and New Bedford's student population is much more diverse than the population as a whole, which foreshadows that the region will become more racially diverse. For example, only 46.2% of students in the Fall River Public Schools identify as White (compared to 73.4% of all residents) and only 37.5% of students in the New Bedford students identify as White (compared to 60.8% in the city as a whole).

As we have come to realize--especially over the last few years and with the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting vulnerabilities--addressing social and economic factors, not just health conditions, is necessary to improve the health and wellness of our community. While we will continue to address health needs that arise, we will also implement upstream strategies that are proactive and focused on improving long-term outcomes.

To do this work, we have restructured to locate our Community Health & Wellness Department with our Southcoast Health Network team. With this new alignment, there will be a stronger population health focus with additional resource and supports to improve regional health equity. In addition, Southcoast has developed a dedicated role to improve health equity through monitoring a streamlined data collection processes, participating in community engagement, and developing programs in coordination with Community Health & Wellness to address the inequities in our community.

It is critical that Southcoast maintain a robust strategy to manage our region's health and provide outreach to achieve equitable access to preventative health services and education for all residents in our region.

External & Internal Leadership

The Community Health & Wellness Department is under the overall direction of the Community Benefits Advisory Council (CBAC). The CBAC oversees and guides community benefits programming and focused efforts. Those who serve on the council are representatives from the various communities served by Southcoast and represent the diversity of our region with members who are active leaders in minority communities including the Cape Verdean, Hispanic, and Portuguese communities. Our council members have expertise in matters concerning the health and welfare of the community and are active members of local and regional coalitions. The council meets quarterly to review, plan, and advise on activities and expenditures related to community benefits activities.

An internal committee, called the Southcoast CARES Champions meets quarterly to plan and coordinate community benefit projects and activities as guided by the CBAC. This team consists of representatives from departments that regularly engage in community outreach including staff from our Social Services, Diabetes Management, Behavioral Health Services, Patient Access and Financial Services, Cancer Outreach, Smoking Cessation, Southcoast's VNA, the Physicians Group (SPG) and Southcoast Health Network (SHN). Senior management responsible for the Program rests with Southcoast's Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, who also serves as a member of the CBAC.

The Manager of Community Health & Wellness, who reports to the Executive Director of Operations for Southcoast Health Network, manages the day-to-day community benefit activities. Updates and presentations on community benefit activities to Southcoast leadership at Vice President, Director, and Manager level meetings are given on a regular basis. Messaging of these activities are delivered to all employees through an internal e-newsletter.

CBAC – Community Members		
Name	Title	Organization
Helena DaSilva Hughes	CBAC Chair & Trustee Southcoast Health, Executive Director	Immigrants Assistance Center (IAC)
Dr. Ilana Feinerman	Trustee Southcoast Health, Physician of Otolaryngology	Southcoast Health
Beth Purdue	Editor, Senior Scope	Coastline Elderly Services, Inc
David Borges	Principle	Springline Research Group
Rev. David Lima	Executive Director	Interchurch Council of Greater New Bedford (ICC)
Dennis Demarinis	Director; Chairperson; Patient & Family Advisory Council (PFAC)	Director of Day Services, Lifestream, Inc. Commission for Citizens with Disabilities New Bedford
Erik Rousseau	Administrator	Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA)
Gaelen Adam	Librarian/Editor/Senior Research Associate, Center for Evidence Synthesis in Health Program Manager	Brown Evidence-Based Practice Center

James Reid	Executive Director	Veterans Transition House
Jeffery Pelletier	Executive Director	Junior Achievement of SEMA
Kathy Downey	Retired Public Health Nurse	Board of Health, Marion
Katlyn Auty	Director of Business Development	Southcoast Behavioral Health
Michelle Hantman	President & CEO	United Way of Greater New Bedford
Robert Mendes	Executive Director	Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford
Ron Ponte	Patient & Family Advisory Council (PFAC)	Community Member
Sandi Montour	Partner Experience Director; Patient & Family Advisory Council (PFAC)	Mitel
Sylvia Nobre-Hilton	Chief Operating Officer	Coastline Elderly Service, Inc

CBAC - Southcoast Health Members	
Name	Title
Alison LeBert	Manager, Community Health & Wellness
Katelyn Ferreira	Health Equity Program Manager
Lauren DeSimon	Senior Vice President, Chief Human Resource Officer
Lauren Melby Nieder	Executive Director of Operations for Southcoast Health Network
Stephen Canessa	Senior Vice President, Chief Brand & Strategy Officer
Wade Broughman	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
William Burns	Executive Director, External Affairs & Planning

Community Benefits Plan & Documented Health Priorities

Southcoast's Community Benefits Strategic Action Plan was first formulated in 1998 as the result of an extensive needs assessment and since is updated annually.

Our current plan is based on the FY22 CHNA. Through the needs assessment process, five priority health issues were identified based on the available health data, surveys of providers and community members, and interviews with key community leaders.

The activities of Community Benefits are completed in accordance with the FY22 CHNA's Identified priorities. These activities include conducting on-going community health needs assessments, coalition-building and collaborating with community partners in the planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating of Community Benefits programs. In FY22 Southcoast administered 8 overarching programs.

The five identified priority areas are:

Economic Opportunity:

- Social Mobility, Income, Education

Behavioral Health:

- Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, Youth Trauma, NAS

Housing:

- Affordability, Stability, Homelessness

Wellness & Chronic Disease:

- Unhealthy Behaviors, Health Outcomes, Prevention, Food Insecurity

Health Access & Equity:

- Underserved Populations, Obstacles to Care, Health Literacy

Target Populations

From the findings of the 2022 CHNA, Southcoast will focus our community benefits programs and initiatives on individuals and families who are most vulnerable¹ and experiencing health disparities due to racial, ethnic, or economic factors such as:

- Those who live with chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and respiratory disease
- Those who are suffering from poverty or are otherwise socioeconomically disadvantaged
- Those who lack access to regular primary health care due to being underinsured or uninsured
- Those who face barriers to care due to limited English proficiency, other language and cultural barriers, documentation status, and health literacy
- Those who are impacted by behavioral health issues, including mental health and substance use disorders
- Those who suffer from homelessness, lack of access to affordable housing, and other housing insecurity
- Those who are most at-risk/suffering from domestic violence, sexual abuse, other forms of violence and trauma
- Those who suffer from or are at-risk of food insecurity

¹ *Vulnerable populations: racial/ethnic minorities, low-income individuals & families, homeless, high-risk youth, LGBTQA+ community, elderly, disabled, those with mental health needs and/or substance use disorder (including expecting mothers), maternal/child health*

Coalition Building

Coalition building is an important activity that promotes coordination and collaboration through the effective use of limited community resources and every year Southcoast staff lead and participate in a number of community coalitions across the region.

These coalitions are comprised of various stakeholders from the community including health providers, teachers, law enforcement, businesses, religious leaders, and others who come together with a shared goal to improve the health and wellbeing of those in our community.

Name	Health Need Focus	Area Served
Building Our Lives Drug Free (BOLD) Coalition	SUD, Youth development	Greater Fall River
Bristol County Regional Alliance to End the Opioid Crisis	SUD, Mental health	Bristol County
Bristol County District Attorney's Youth Substance Use Prevention Task Force	Youth, SUD, Mental Health	Bristol County
Confronting Discrimination Coalition	Racial/ethnic/minorities/LGBTQ+ inequities, advocacy	Greater Fall River
Coalition Against Period Poverty (CAPP)	Menstrual inequities, advocacy	Greater Fall River
ERASE–Human Trafficking Coalition	Human Trafficking, homelessness, SUD	Southern New England
Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community (CHNA 25)	Health & wellness, health equity, advocacy	Greater Fall River
Greater New Bedford Allies for Health & Wellness (CHNA 26)	Health & wellness, health equity, advocacy	Greater New Bedford
Greater New Bedford Opioid Task Force	SUD, Mental Health	Greater New Bedford
Greater New Bedford Suicide Prevention Coalition	Mental health, SUD	Greater New Bedford
Greater New Bedford Youth Alliance	Youth, health & wellness, advocacy	Greater New Bedford
Homeless Service Providers Network (HSPN)	Homelessness, housing, advocacy	Greater New Bedford
Let's Talk Tuesday	Health & wellness, health equity, advocacy	Greater Fall River
Mental Health Providers Network	Mental Health	Bristol County
Near North End Alliance	Youth, economic development, recreational development, advocacy	Greater New Bedford
SE MA Community Health Worker Collaborative	Advocacy, education, workforce development	Southeastern MA
Southcoast Coalition for Early Childhood Education	Early childhood education, advocacy	South Coast - Regional
Southcoast Community Response Corps	Health & wellness, health equity, advocacy	Greater New Bedford
Southcoast Food Policy Council	Food insecurity, food access	South Coast - Regional
Substance Abuse Task Force of Greater Fall River	SUD, Mental Health	Greater Fall River
Substance Exposed Newborn Committee of Southeast MA (SENSE)	SUD, Maternal Health, Mental Health, Infants	South Coast - Regional
Wareham Community Services Collaborative	Health & wellness, health equity, advocacy	Wareham
Worksite Wellness Collaborative	Well-being, health & wellness, DE&I initiatives	South Coast - Regional
Zero Suicide Coalition	Mental Health, SUD,	Bristol County

Community Health Needs Assessment

As a community-based health delivery system, Southcoast continually strives to identify the priority health needs of the community and to ensure that its services align with these needs. Every three years, we conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) that assists with this goal by documenting the major demographic, socioeconomic and health trends among South Coast residents. The overarching goal of this effort is to inform data-driven goals, objectives, and strategies that can be implemented by the health system to improve the health outcomes of South Coast residents, particularly among the region's most vulnerable marginalized, at-risk populations.

The 2022 CHNA was produced in collaboration with the New Bedford Health Department, the Fall River Health Department, and Springline Research Group using a social determinants of health framework and adopting a health equity lens. The CHNA identifies the region's top health priorities through a collaborative approach that incorporates socioeconomic and health data along with community input.

The major components of this analysis include:

1. **Socioeconomic Profile:** Understanding the community by describing its residents in terms of population, age, gender, and other demographic indicators. The analysis, where possible, presents these data in the context of social determinants of health by highlighting disparities in terms of income, education, and race, all of which are factors that affect health outcomes.
2. **Health Data Assessment:** Identifying major health issues and needs by presenting a variety of health indicators from sources such as the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New Bedford Health Department, Fall River Health Department, and Southcoast Health.
3. **Qualitative Activities:** Engaging community leaders and residents through surveys, interviews, and events to add context to the health data and refine our understanding of the region's primary health issues and challenges.

The South Coast region is composed of thirteen communities located in the Southeastern portion of Massachusetts. This regional definition coincides with Community Health Network Area 25, Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community and Community Health Network Area 26, Greater New Bedford Allies for Health and Wellness.

Fall River and New Bedford are two of the state's many Gateway Cities, which are defined as midsize urban centers that anchor regional economies. These cities are primarily former industrial centers that were traditional gateways for immigrants. As has been the case across most of the state's Gateway Cities, Fall River, New Bedford, and surrounding communities have not experienced benefits from the Boston metro area's knowledge economy, with many of the region's service-related jobs requiring relatively low levels of formal training or education and paying comparatively low wages. Accordingly, Fall River and New Bedford, and some of the region's suburban communities, fall below state averages on most socioeconomic metrics.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought many pre-existing issues to light, particularly those related to health equity and social determinants of health. Food insecurity, homelessness, and access to care for immigrant populations all became increasingly apparent, as did barriers in access to mental health care.

As we work to address these issues and advance health equity, the 2022 CHNA will serve as the blueprint for the next three annual Community Health Benefits Implementation Strategies. Southcoast's CBAC will engage in an ongoing evaluation of progress made on the short- and long-term goals of the Implementation Strategy, recommending adjustments to the plan as needed to positively impact and advance the health-related needs of the populations to be served.

The complete 2022 CHNA is available by request or for viewing online:

<https://www.southcoast.org/community-benefits/community-benefits-reporting/>

Program: Behavioral Health/Substance Use Intervention

Documented health need: Mental health emerged throughout the CHNA as one of the region's most prominent health issue. Behavioral health examines how a person's habits affect their mental and physical well-being. This includes behaviors related to nutrition, exercise, smoking, sleep, and stress. Behavioral health is also a blanket term that includes mental health and substance use disorder. As one might expect, COVID-19 exacerbated mental health and substance use issues significantly. Substance use disorder (SUD) continues to be identified as a major challenge in the region, particularly in terms of the links between substance use disorder, other mental health issues, poverty, and homelessness. Another outcome of the opioid crisis is the rate of newborns born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). NAS is a group of conditions that babies experience after being exposed to narcotics in the womb.

Services offered:

- The **New Beginnings Program** provides support to opioid exposed newborns and their mothers with the goal of improving long-term outcomes. provides a seamless course of care and treatment for newborns and their caregivers with the goal of improving long-term outcomes for both mother and child. This program follows pregnant individuals during their prenatal journey and up to twelve (12) months postpartum to provide continuous support.
 - The program saw a 36% increase in referrals
 - We observed a 20% higher likelihood of babies being discharged home with their mom for individuals who are engaged prenatally in the program compared to those unengaged.
- **Southcoast Resource Connect** is an online platform that features a wide range of behavioral health and community resources that serve to assist individuals and families who may be facing difficult life challenges. The platform features local, free, or low-cost services that address basic needs such as food, housing support, financial support, workforce and education development opportunities and other supportive services This platform is available for use by anyone, including Southcoast staff, patients, community members and community agencies.
 - 6,243 unique users accessed the platform
 - 6,917 searches were conducted
 - Food was the highest need searched, followed by individual counseling, and then housing supports.
- **ED Overdose Awareness** was developed in response to the high prevalence of substance use within the South Coast region to prevent unnecessary opioid overdose deaths. The Southcoast emergency departments provide individuals and patients who are at risk of an opioid overdose with a nasal naloxone kit and education on how to administer.
 - During FY22 a total of 308 kits were distributed through our three Emergency Departments.
- Provide **informational and educational opportunities** to nurses enrolled in local nursing programs about changing the culture of caring for persons with substance use disorder and reducing stigma.
- The **Help and Hope South Coast campaign** was created by community partners and supported by Southcoast Health. This campaign is focused on ending the stigma around mental health and raising awareness about the available resources in our area to seek support.
 - During FY22 the campaign hosted nine (9) Wellness Wednesdays which included interviews with special guests and local professionals about mental health and wellbeing.

- The **Bristol County Regional Alliance to end the Opioid Crisis** promotes communication, coordination, and collaboration among diverse stakeholders to work together to raise awareness and develop strategies to end the opioid crisis in Bristol County. This Alliance is co-chaired by the CEO of Southcoast Health.
 - In May 2022, the Alliance hosted a region-wide conference with 10 different workshops for individuals to participate in and over 25 exhibitors sharing local resource information. In addition, a strategic planning session was led to identify opportunities to influence change in the South Coast region.
- Members of our staff participate in **local community coalitions** to address various behavioral health issues including, the misuse of prescription drugs, underage substance use, risk behaviors in youth, maternal mental health, substance-exposed newborns, suicide prevention, and overdose prevention/intervention.

Populations served: South Coast residents who experience behavioral health issues such as substance use disorders, mental health diagnosis (e.g., major depressive disorder), or dual diagnosis with both substance use and mental health disorders.

FY 2022 goals:

- Increase the number of moms and substance exposed newborns referred to the New Beginnings program by 10% in FY21.
- Increase participation in completion of the THRIVE screening assessment from FY21 by 3%.

FY 2022 outcomes:

- During FY22, there were 143 individuals referred to the program, which is a 36% increase from FY21.
- 81% of individuals completed the THRIVE screening assessment.

FY 2023 goals:

- Increase the capacity within the New Beginnings program by developing new roles to support individuals in the program for up to three (3) years postpartum.
- Increase referrals to the New Beginnings program before 20 weeks gestation to improve engagement and patient outcomes.

Community partners:

AdCare North Dartmouth	Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA)
Bristol County Regional Alliance Against the Opioid Crisis	Partners Substance Addition Task Force
Children’s Advocacy Center of Bristol County	River to Recovery
Child & Family Services	Samaritans Southcoast
Fall River Health Department	Seven Hills Behavioral Health
Greater New Bedford Inter-Church Council	Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR)
Greater New Bedford Opioid Task Force	Steppingstone
Greater New Bedford Suicide Prevention Coalition	Substance Exposed Newborn Committee of Southeast MA (SENSE)
High Point Treatment Center	Turning Point
Mental Health Providers Network	United Neighbors of Fall River
New Bedford Health Department	Veterans Transition House

Program: Cancer Outreach

Documented health need: Southcoast has seen an increase in rates of cancer from 2009 to 2021, with the most prevalent forms of cancer being breast, lung, and prostate.

Services offered:

- Provide a variety of **Cancer education** through the distribution of educational materials in multiple languages.
- A variety of **Cancer Education Seminars** are hosted by Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care Physicians and Nurse Navigators to provide prevention education and awareness on Cancer.
 - Seminars are virtually and focused on the following topics:
 - **Breast Health:** Three (3) seminars with 45 attendees
 - **Lung Cancer:** One (1) seminar with 25 attendees
 - **Colon Cancer:** Two (2) seminars with 24 attendees
 - **Prostate Cancer:** One (1) seminar with 15 attendees
 - The seminars saw a 12% increase in participation. In total, there were 109 individuals who attended a seminar.
 - In collaboration with Junior Achievement of SE MA, an Oncologist and Hematologist provided an educational lecture about the harmful effects of vaping and smoking to the students.
- A variety of **Support Groups** are held for those who have been diagnosed with cancer and/or are a cancer survivor to help individuals feel encouraged and that they're not alone. All of these groups are free and open to the public. Individuals who participate may also bring an additional support person if they wish.
 - Transitioned to a virtual platform in response to COVID-19
 - Monthly Support Groups:
 - Three (3) Breast Cancer support groups, one (1) Lung Cancer support group, one (1) Gyn Oncology support group, one (1) Multiple Myeloma support group, one (1) Post Treatment support group, and one (1) Head & Neck support group
- The annual **Podkowa 5k Walk/Run** raises awareness about breast cancer was held in person and provided a virtual component for participants. There were about 400 individuals who participated in this years' event.
- The **Wellness Page** was created as a resource guide for managing wellness during an individual's cancer journey. This includes videos and information on medication techniques, yoga & fitness techniques, healthy eating tips and recipes, and financial resources support.
- Provide targeted **smoking cessation education** on addressing the changing tobacco landscape related to the rapidly emerging market for electronic smoking products, including e-cigarettes and vaping.
 - The **QuitWorks referral program** is an evidence-based quitting tobacco service and provides tools for providers to help individuals quit tobacco. In FY22, there were 160 referrals made to QuitWorks.

Populations served: Those who suffer disproportionately from chronic disease such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and respiratory disease.

FY 2022 goals:

- Partner with at least one community partner agency to provide a cancer screening event for vulnerable populations.
- Increase the number of participants for cancer education, awareness, and prevention seminars

by 3%.

FY 2022 outcomes:

- In collaboration with Junior Achievement of SE MA, an Oncologist and Hematologist provided an educational lecture about the harmful effects of vaping and smoking to the students.
- Seven (7) virtual seminars were held which is about a 16% increase from FY21.

FY 2023 goals:

- Provide a youth targeted cancer prevention and awareness education event in partnership with a local community partner organization.
- Provide at least one (1) cancer screening event to improve access to services for our most vulnerable populations.

Community partners:

American Cancer Society	Immigrants Assistance Center
Community Economic Development Center (CEDC)	Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford
Fall River Health Department	Junior Achievement of SE MA
Fall River Housing Authority	Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation Program
Fishing Partnership	New Bedford Health Department
Fly Foundation	New Bedford Housing Authority
Gloria Gemma Foundation	QuitWorks
Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community	Seven Hills Behavioral Health, Tobacco-Free Community Partnership
Greater New Bedford Allies for a Healthier Community	Wareham Health Department
Greater New Bedford Community Health Center	Wareham Housing Authority
HealthFirst Family Health Center	YMCA Southcoast

Program: Coalitions to End and Prevent Homelessness

Documented health need: Homelessness was identified as a significant issue in the region, which is partly an outcome of the affordable housing shortage. Housing insecurity disproportionately affects low-income households, people of color, and seniors. This trend is evident in Fall River and New Bedford where White households are less likely to be burdened by housing costs than their neighbors. Mental health and substance use disorder, which are highly prevalent among the homeless population, are also key factors in the homelessness equation. Often, experiencing homelessness in combination with these issues creates challenges for entering shelters and transitional housing.

Services offered:

- The **Homeless Service Providers Network (HSPN)** addresses the most pressing issues around the complexity of homelessness and toward ensuring every individual and every family has access to appropriate, sustainable safe, decent, and affordable housing. Southcoast sits on the Executive Committee and assists with developing and influencing strategies and identifying resources.
- Southcoast employees lead the **Fall River Street Homeless Coalition**, which in partnership with local city officials and other service providers, develops ongoing strategies and initiatives to help support the homeless in Fall River.
- Southcoast supports **Rise Up for Homes** which is a collaborative campaign to build community awareness as well as raise funds to meet the complex needs of individuals and families either on the verge of, or who are, experiencing homelessness in our community.
- Each year, Southcoast supports the annual **New Bedford Connect** event is held. This is a one-day event that brings together, in a single location, a wide variety of community volunteers, vital resources and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of becoming homeless.
- In Fall River, Southcoast supports the annual **Project Homeless Connect** provides homeless individuals in the city with essential goods and services. This event connects homeless individuals with providers of housing, mental health, legal, medical, and financial services.

Populations served: Individuals in the region who are currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

FY 2022 goals:

- Provide direct street outreach in Fall River, New Bedford, and Wareham in collaboration with community partner organizations to provide support services and access to healthcare.
- Participate in the Street Homeless Task Force of Fall River, to provide direct support and to develop strategies and interventions to increase support this population.

FY 2022 outcomes:

- Though the Community Wellness Program, the RN Addiction Nurse Specialist provided direct street outreach on average four (4) days a week in the South Coast service area. This was done in partnership with SSTAR, Steppingstone & Seven Hills Behavioral Health.
- The RN Addiction Nurse Specialist lead the Street Homeless Task Force in Fall River and co- led the Fall River Project Homeless Connect event over the summer.

FY 2023 goals:

- Develop an internal and external group of stakeholders focused on identifying resources and to develop a streamlined process to better assist the homeless individuals who present at the Emergency Departments during the cold weather months seeking shelter.
- Provide clinical services and health education at both homeless connect events this summer.

Community Partners:

Catholic Social Services	Citizens for Citizens
City of New Bedford	City of Fall River
Father Bill's & Mainspring	Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community Fall River
Greater New Bedford Community Health Center	Homeless Service Providers Network (HSPN)
PAACA	PACE
Seven Hills Behavioral Health	Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR)
Steppingstone Incorporated	Town of Wareham
Turning Point / Wareham Area Committee Homeless Committee (WACH)	United Way of Greater New Bedford
United Neighbors of Fall River	The Women's Center
Veterans Transition House	

Program: Community Wellness Program

(Licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health)

Documented health need: Many South Coast residents lack access to regular primary and preventive health care. The Community Wellness program (CWP) breaks down traditional barriers to care by bringing health education, vaccinations and immunizations and health screenings to underserved and vulnerable populations across the region. This program improves accessibility for health access through mobile capabilities and supports Southcoast's ongoing population health initiatives. *This program has replaced the Southcoast Health Wellness Van to better align with staffing capacity and community spaces. This shift allows us to be more agile in response to community needs.*

Services offered:

- Received **program licensure** in June 2022 from the MA Department of Public Health
- Onboarded **program staff**
 - RN Addiction Nurse Specialist
 - LPN
 - 2 Community Outreach Specialists, trilingual capabilities
- Provided targeted and multilingual **health education and outreach** to vulnerable populations such as those in public housing, homeless shelters, senior centers, the fishing community, and the faith-based community
 - Stroke prevention, diabetes prevention, heart health, healthy eating, fall prevention, smoking cessation and cancer education on breast, skin, cervical, prostate, lung, and colon cancers.
- **Street Outreach** is overseen and conducted by the RN Addiction Nurse Specialist in partnership with SSTAR, and Steppingstone's Project Fair Program. This multi-disciplinary collaboration provides direct outreach and services to encampments to support those struggling with SUD/MH/housing insecurity as well as chronic homelessness.

Populations served: Those who lack access to regular primary and preventive health care, particularly populations who have language, income, or geographic barriers to accessing care.

FY 2022 goals:

- Launch the approved strategy for the continuation of Southcoast's Mobile Health Services.
- Provide at least 20 education and outreach events through the region.

FY 2022 outcomes:

- The Community Wellness Program was launched and licensed by the MA Department of Public Health in June 2023.
- The Community Wellness Program traveled around the South Coast service area to provide awareness on the changes to Southcoast's mobile services program. In addition, the team was able to partner and attend fifteen (15) different community events.

FY 2023 goals:

- Integrate the Community Wellness Program into the electronic health record system, EPIC in order to track outcomes and quality measures.
- Re-launch the clinical services aspect of the mobile service program such as providing vaccinations and point of care testing.
- Provide at least 20 education and outreach events throughout the region.

Community partners:

Area Councils on Aging	New Bedford Health Department
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Fall River	New Bedford Housing Authority
Boys & Girls Club of Greater New Bedford	New Bedford Public Schools
Cape Verdean Association	PAACA
Coastal FoodShed	PACE
Coastline Elderly	Seven Hills Behavioral Health
Fall River Health Department	Sister Rose House
Fall River Housing Authority	SSTAR
Fall River Public Schools	Steppingstone
First Step Inn	Turning Point/Baby Point
Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community	United Neighbors of Fall River
Greater New Bedford Allies for Health and Wellness	United Way of Greater New Bedford
Greater New Bedford Community Health Center	Woods at Wareham
HealthFirst Family Health Center	YMCA Southcoast
Immigrant Assistance Center	YWCA of SE MA
Inter Church Council of Greater New Bedford	
Mass In Motion	

Program: Economic Opportunity

Documented health need: Economic opportunity begins with developing strategies for families to become economically stable so they can better support healthy children and break the cycle of poverty. Above all, it requires a coordinated effort among the many organizations working to lessen the impacts of poverty on the South Coast. Poverty is a major driver of health. Those in poverty often have less opportunity and access to resources that can assist in improving and maintaining one's health. Resources that contribute to educational attainment, employment, housing status, health care opportunities, and social activities are all less accessible to those living in poverty.

Services offered:

- The **Basics Southcoast initiative** is led by NorthStar Learning Center and in partnership with the Southcoast Coalition for Early Childhood Education and Southcoast Health. The Basics are five parenting and caregiving tools and techniques that support social, emotional, and cognitive development in children from birth to age three.
 - The **Basics Southcoast Coordinator** role was developed and filled to focus on community engagement, assist with trainings and work one (1) to one (1) with service providers to embed the Basics into their organization.
 - A **Learning Trail** for children and families was created using arts and culture throughout the City of New Bedford
- The **Health Professionals Education program** partners with local universities and colleges for students to complete their clinical rotations, enhance their skills, and develop a pathway to a future career. During the group clinical rotations and observation opportunities, students work with their peers and Southcoast staff to learn and provide care to patients. Preceptorships give students the opportunity to work one on one with a mentor in their desired field.
 - There were approximately 2,656 hours spent by **Nursing staff** to support these clinical rotations, through providing oversight, education, and guidance. There were 235 student nurses that participated in group clinical placements. In addition, there were 16 one-to-one **mentorship opportunities** provided to student nurses, with 2,656 hours of nursing staff hours supporting this experience.
 - There were approximately 16,767 hours spent by **Radiology, CT, Nuclear Medicine, and Ultrasound staff** to support this clinical education and student experience. This is almost a 50% increase in hours spent from last fiscal.
 - There were approximately 5,200 hours spent by **Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy staff** to engage in clinical rotations and to gain experience in the workplace.
 - **Medical Residents and Nurse Practitioners** to engage in clinical rotations and to gain experience in the workplace with embedded staff. There were approximately 84,300 hours spent by staff to support this clinical experience. This is over a 50% increase in hours spent from last fiscal.
- Southcoast serves on the **steering committee** for the Southcoast Coalition for Early Childhood Education, which is dedicated to ensuring every child has the best start in life and enters kindergarten ready to reach their fullest potential.

Populations served: Children and families in the region served by Southcoast Health who are at a higher risk of social and economic factors that will impact their long-term health outcomes. Students from local colleges enhancing their skills and knowledge to prepare them for the health care workforce.

FY 2022 goals:

- Provide at least two training opportunities for staff on The Basics, in order for them to educate the community and patients on this initiative.
- Begin implementation within the Southcoast system in partnership with NorthStar, through select departments that engage at important touchpoints in a child’s life.

FY 2022 Outcomes:

- The New Beginnings and Community Wellness program staff completed a Basics training. In addition to this, the Southcoast Ambassadors were also provided training.
- After receiving the Basics training, the New Beginnings Program and Community Wellness Program both began sharing The Basics with those they serve and during community outreach events.

FY 2023 Goals:

- Fully integrate the Basics Southcoast into the New Beginnings program to learn best practices and education a targeted group of individuals pre and postpartum.
- Develop a designated role to oversee the Southcoast Coalition of Early Childhood Education’s coalition work and development.

Community Partners:

Baby Point	Boys & Girls Club of Greater New Bedford
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Fall River	BHCC
Bridgewater State University	Bristol Community College
Calmer Choice	CCRI
Child & Family Services	Children’s Advocacy Center
Community Youth Empowerment (CYE)	Fall River Re-Creation
Fall River School Department	Family Resource Center
Family Service Association (FSA)	Junior Achievement Southeastern MA
Justice Resource Institute (JRI)	Katie Brown Educational Program
Kennedy Donovan Center (KDC)	Lifespan School of Medical Imaging
Massasoit Community College	Mass Hire
MCPHS	Meeting Street Early Intervention
New Bedford Health Department	New Bedford School Department
NorthStar Learning Center, Inc	Our Sister’s School
PACE/Early Head Start	Pulse Radiology
Sacred Heart	SER Jobs for Progress, Inc
Simmons	South Bay Early Intervention
Southcoast Coalition for Early Childhood Education	Umass Dartmouth
University of Rhode Island (URI)	Wareham School Department
Worcester State University	WIC
YMCA Southcoast	Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU)
YWCA Southeastern MA	

Program: Health Access & Equity

Documented health need: Regular access to health services is essential in managing health conditions, preventing new conditions from arising, and promoting and maintaining overall good health. This includes access to a wide variety of health services such as preventive care, mental health services, and emergency services. People who do not have access to health care are at a greater risk of having poor overall health and negative health outcomes. Racial and ethnic health gaps continue to afflict the region and is related to a myriad of access issues such as health literacy, insurance coverage and cost, transportation, and the need for more culturally competent care. Equity and access issues prevalent in the health care system intensified due to the pandemic.

Services offered:

- The **Patient Financial Services (PFS)** program provides insurance application assistance to individuals that are uninsured, underinsured, or denied coverage by a government healthcare program. The PFS team also provides this service at community locations in partnerships with various social service organizations.
- The **Interpreter Services Program** works to assist those whose first language is other than English. The team provides medical interpreting services in Spanish, Portuguese, Cambodian, Cape Verdean Creole, and sign language. In addition to this, Southcoast offers the language line service which provides 24-hour access to a multitude of on-demand interpreters to assist individuals with their needs. In addition, the team provides written translation for internal and external education and outreach.
 - Provided monthly article translations in Spanish and Portuguese for **Coastline Elderly's Senior Scope newsletter**. Articles focused on health education for seniors with topics that ranged from COVID-19 vaccine information to accessing nutritious foods.
- Provide **culturally competent outreach and education** to families, local schools, and other community entities, including outreach to public housing residents in Fall River, New Bedford, and Wareham.
- Provide **additional supports** to patients, individuals, and families in our community in order to reduce transportation barrier to receive care. Southcoast provides support in the form of vouchers or passes for the use of local transit authority vehicles and on-demand transportation services.
 - A **Health Promotion Advocate** helps assists individuals and families navigate the health care system and identify any barriers to care and assists with access to local support services resources.
- **Community Health Workers (CHW)** are the frontline lay workers who represent the community and populations they serve culturally and linguistically. A CHW builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge, reducing the social determinants of health and barriers to equal access to care through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support, and advocacy.
 - Southcoast prioritizes **professional development forums (PDFs)** for CHWs and has a focus on bringing these opportunities to the South Coast region through collaboration with regional and statewide groups, such as Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers (MACHW), the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center and local Health Departments.

- Through Southcoast’s **Visiting Nurse Association (VNA)** helps individuals of all ages recover or live well with illness or injury through compassionate and personalized care in comfort and privacy of an individual’s own home.
 - **Support Group: There were 62 group sessions offered with 62 attendees**
 - **Camp Angel Wings**
 - There were over 1,000 patients who received more than 50,000 days of telehealth/remote monitoring support to manage their conditions.
- Increase awareness through **educational campaigns** and panel events of the challenges caused by healthcare disparities in our community.
- Host annual awareness & basic necessity **collection drives** for individuals, families, children, and low-income residents.

Populations served: Vulnerable populations such as racial/ethnic minorities, low-income individuals, limited to no-English speaking individuals, homeless, elderly, and individuals with mental health disorders and substance use disorder.

FY 2022 goals:

- Partner with at least one two community organizations or coalitions to provide translation services related to health information, access, and education for vulnerable population.
- Increase the number of unscheduled individuals assisted seeking financial and insurance support by 5%.

FY 2022 outcomes:

- Southcoast continued its’ partnership with Coastline Elderly to translate their Senior Scope Newsletter articles into Spanish and Portuguese. In addition to this, the Interpreter Services team assisted at a community event by proving live American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation.
- Due to programmatic changes this information was not captured in FY22.

FY 2023 goals:

- In partnership with community partner agencies, provide at least two (2) local professional development opportunities for Community Health Workers.
- Host at least one (1) awareness & basic necessity collection drive focused on improving menstrual equity in the South Coast.

Community partners:

Bristol Elder Services, Inc	Greater New Bedford Allies for Health and Wellness
Catholic Social Services	Greater New Bedford Community Health Center
Citizens for Citizens	Immigrants Assistance Center
Coastline Elderly Services	New Bedford Health Department
Community Economic Development Center (CEDC)	New Bedford Housing Authority
Councils on Aging	PAACA
Fall River Health Department	PACE
Fall River Housing Authority	Stanley Street Treatment and Recovery (SSTAR)
First Step Inn	Sister Rose House
Grace House	Steppingstone

Program: Healthy Systems and Environment Change

Documented health need: Creating healthier communities depends a great deal on the environment that people live in, which includes their homes, neighborhoods, and wider communities. For many, health and wellness fit within a larger framework of obligations, ranging from issues such as housing, finances, and childcare, to transportation, employment, immigration, access to food and safety. These responsibilities create obstacles to maintaining overall health and to adopting healthy habits that help to prevent or manage disease.

While behavior and genetics play a role in chronic disease, social and environmental factors can also elevate the risk of developing these long-term health issues. Tobacco use, physical inactivity, and poor nutrition contribute to preventable chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and lung disease, all of which have high rates within the South Coast region.

Services provided:

- The **Be Well Wareham** program is a once-a-month event offering participants the opportunity to walk with a Southcoast physician and then join Southcoast staff in healthy activities such as chair yoga, meditation techniques, and health education. This program is in partnership with the YMCA Gleason Family Facility.
- The **Food is Medicine** program combats food insecurity and encourages the idea that food is medicine by supporting local initiatives throughout the South Coast to provide our community members with easy access to healthy, locally grown food.
 - In partnership with the United Way of Greater New Bedford, 13 **Mobile Markets** were held distributing over 500 pounds of affordable, local, and healthy food in Wareham. There were 310 households served with 2,753 total residents benefiting from the market. In addition, Southcoast staff participated in almost 150 hours of volunteer time to support these markets.
 - In partnership with AD Makepeace, 13 **Rosebrook Farmers Markets** were held in Wareham. Each week Southcoast & AD Makepeace donated fresh produce from Steven's Farmstand to Damien's Food Pantry.
 - Provide annual support to Coastal FoodShed and their mission to bring fresh local foods to Greater Fall River and Greater New Bedford through their mobile farm stands, farmers market and online virtual market platform.
 - Southcoast maintains an active seat on the **Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the Southcoast Food Policy Council (SFPC)** led by the Marion Institute, which connects, convenes, and advocates for local food producers, consumers, and community leaders who seek policy and systems that strengthen our regional food system, improve community health, and eliminate food insecurity.
- Support of **community wellness initiatives and events** that focus on exercise promotion and movement such as local 5k walk/runs and fitness challenges.
- **Promote physical activity** and provide education to youth, families, and all South Coast residents on the importance of being active to improve health status and ways to incorporate accessible physical activity into daily life.

Populations served: South Coast residents who experience food insecurity and have low rates of physical activity, particularly low-income residents in the cities of Fall River and New Bedford, where data show these risk factors to be higher than the region.

FY 2022 goals:

- Increase the number of Be Well Wareham events offered by 3%. (4)

- Increase the number of residents served at the Wareham mobile markets by 5%. (1,789)

FY 2022 outcomes:

- The number of Be Well Wareham events increased from four (4) to nine (9) in FY22.
- There was over a 50% increase in residents served by the Wareham mobile markets.

FY 2023 goals:

- Expand the Food is Medicine program to support at least one (1) initiative in the Greater Fall River area.
- Increase the number of households served at the Wareham Mobile Market by 3%.

Community partners:

AD Makepeace	New Bedford Health Department
American Heart Association	New Bedford Office of Planning
Catholic Social Services	New Bedford Parks and Recreation
Coastal FoodShed	Salvation Army of Aquidneck Island
Damien's Food Pantry	Salvation Army of Greater Fall River
Fall River Community Recreation Department	Salvation Army of Greater New Bedford
Fall River Health Department	Steven's Farm Stand
Farm & Community Collaborative	Southcoast Food Policy Council
Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry	Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP)
Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community	Southeastern Massachusetts Food Security Network
Hunger Commission of Southeastern Massachusetts	United Way of Greater New Bedford
Immigrants Assistance Center	United Way of Greater New Bedford Hunger Commission
The Marion Institute	Wareham Health Department
MO LIFE Food Pantry	YMCA Gleason Family Facility
My Brother's Keeper	Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU)
New Bedford Economic Development Council	

Program: Maternal Child Health Education & Outreach

Documented health need: Women play an essential role in maintaining family health and are more likely than men to access the health care system for their needs and the needs of their children. In addition to the unique health care needs of women related to childbirth and care, their longer life expectancies mean that women are more affected by long-term and elder care issues than are men.

Services offered:

- Provide **smoking cessation education** among this target population (*as described in Smoking Cessation program section above*).
- **Baby Cafés** are friendly and comfortable weekly drop-in sessions for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers to learn more about breastfeeding. Mothers can relax, share tips and techniques, and socialize with other moms. Peer support and one-on-one help from specially trained health professionals is available, including professional lactation support.
 - Transitioned to a hybrid model due to COVID-19, offering sessions via zoom and in person.
 - There were 527 individuals who attended at least one session
 - Over 1,000 brochures distributed on various education topics
- The **Childbirth education** series spans over four (4) weeks and discusses the changes that occur in the third trimester, such as the normal/unexpected processes of labor and birth, comfort measures and labor support and instruction on infant care and car seat safety.
 - Transitioned to a virtual platform in response to COVID-19.
 - There was a 6.7% increase in participation with 143 couples attending.
- The **Car Seat Safety** program is overseen by our certified technicians who identify and assist individuals and families who have difficulty acquiring a safe car seat.
 - 14 individual car seat checks provided
 - 18 car seats provided
- The **Breastfeeding Education Classes** are held monthly for individuals that are planning to breastfeed or are exploring their options regarding infant feeding choices. Topics include the benefits of breastfeeding, techniques, and positions.
 - Transitioned to a virtual platform in response to COVID-19
 - There were 134 individuals who attended a class
- **Parenting support** through partnership with People Inc., PACE and Kennedy Donavan Center's Healthy Families program.
- **Provide education** in collaboration with the Greater New Bedford Allies for Health & Wellness's Health Access Committee, to raise awareness of postpartum depression, maternal health inequities and Doula services.

Populations served: Families, including pregnant women, fathers, siblings, and new parents

FY 2022 goals:

- Increase the number of women breastfeeding upon discharge by 5%.
- Increase the number of participants in the Baby Cafés by 3%.

FY 2022 outcomes:

- There was about a 12% increase of individuals exclusively breastfeeding upon discharge at St Luke's and about a 20% increase of individuals exclusively breastfeeding upon discharge at Charlton.

- There were 527 individuals who attended a Baby Café, which is a 14% decrease in attendees. As part of our FY23 goals, Southcoast will explore opportunities to improve participation.

FY 2023 goals:

- Increase the capacity supporting the Baby Cafes to host in different community-based locations and increase outreach to vulnerable communities.
- Explore and develop the opportunity to implement a Doula program at Southcoast Health.

Community partners:

Fall River WIC Office
Greater New Bedford Allies for Health and Wellness (GNB Allies)
Greater New Bedford Community Health Center (GNBCHC)
HealthFirst Family Health Center
Kennedy Donovan Center (KDC)
Meeting Street
New Bedford WIC Office
PACE
People Incorporated
YWCA of Southeastern MA

Program: Community Health Worker Projects

This program is now included in our Health Access & Equity program. For ongoing Community Health Worker projects and FY 2023 goals, please refer to the Health Access & Equity program.

FY 2022 goals:

- Collaborate with community partners to facilitate at least one opportunity for local CHW training in FY22.
- Work with community partners to establish a response to an identified need to increase health education and outreach specific to Spanish and K'iche speaking population.

FY 2022 outcomes:

- In partnership with the Greater New Bedford Allies, the Greater New Bedford Health Center and the New Bedford Health department, one CHW training was offered.
- In partnership with the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center, a Community Health Worker role was developed and filled to provide health education and outreach in the K'iche population.

Program: Smoking Cessation & Prevention

This program is now included in our Cancer Outreach program. For ongoing smoking cessation work and FY 2023 goals, please refer to the Cancer Outreach program.

FY 2022 goals:

- In collaboration with the Southcoast's Cancer Center, develop an educational prevention activity focused on raising awareness in the youth population on the risks of smoking and vaping.
- Provide smoking cessation education in partnership with at least one community partner organization to raise awareness about how smoking can lead to negative health outcomes.

FY 2022 outcomes:

- In collaboration with Junior Achievement of SE MA, an Oncologist and Hematologist provided an educational lecture about the harmful effects of vaping and smoking to the students.
- In collaboration with Seven Hills Tobacco Free Partnership, the Community Wellness Program received materials and education in order to assist at-risk individuals during community outreach events.

Expenditures During the Reporting Year

In FY22, Southcoast contributed \$23.6 million in community benefit programs that reached the disadvantaged, underserved and those at-risk, and provided services they otherwise would not have been able to access. Our major initiatives concerning health access, health equity, behavioral health, and economic opportunity all had significant impact, with growing programs that reached large numbers of South Coast residents.

		FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Community Benefits Programs	Direct Expenses	\$13,797,415	\$14,471,957	14,702,951	16,975,855.65
	DoN Community-Based Health Initiative Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Other Leveraged Resources	\$537,095	\$197,227	659,179	\$449,843.00
Net Charity Care		\$8,310,708	\$8,360,323	\$7,339,792	\$6,183,069.00
	Total Expenditures	\$22,771,182	\$23,029,507	\$22,701,923	\$23,608,767.65
	Total Patient Care Expenses	\$747,642,844	\$761,771,916	\$804,538,919	\$845,401,021.00

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Public Access to this Report:

This report, along with those of other not-for-profit hospitals in Massachusetts, is available online from the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General.

www.mass.gov/ago/

Southcoast Health makes the annual Community Benefits Report available on the website, along with an archive of reports from prior years.

www.southcoast.org/communitybenefits/