

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report represents the voluntary efforts of sixty-five of the South Carolina Hospital Association's member hospitals to create, implement, and measure the value of countless health services, programs and educational offerings. Community benefits are those programs and services that go beyond direct patient care activities. They address identified community health needs, regardless of the source or availability of payment, and spark measurable improvement in health care access, health status and the use of health care resources. They also seek to reduce health care disparities. This information is important in illustrating the broad value South Carolina's hospitals deliver to their communities and in evaluating social accountability activities.

The following information represents data from fiscal year 2006, the most current year for which data are available.



What are community benefits?

Programs or services considered community benefits meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Supports the hospital's community-based mission
- Targets the problems of the poor or medically underserved
- Impacts the health status of the identified community
- Reduces community health costs
- Is accessible to the entire community regardless of ability to pay
- Would likely be discontinued if decisions were made on a purely financial basis
- Stimulates external community partnerships

Healthy Hospitals | Healthy Lives

What do we mean when we say, Healthy Hospitals, Healthy Lives? Well, the truth is, you can't have one without the other. People rely on hospitals to restore their health when sick or hurt and protect it when they're healthy. Hospitals rely on people for support, whether it's choosing the local hospital for care or the financial support of a philanthropic gift. Hospitals are not traditional businesses. They provide care even if they don't get paid. The symbiotic relationship between hospitals and communities is essential for the continued good health of both.