

A History of Community Service

NCH Healthcare System conducted an economic impact study through FGCU and we are expecting a January release to learn the full scope of our direct benefit to the region.

While operating primarily in Collier County, many employees live in Lee County and other communities in South Florida, spreading not only the economic impact, but the positive impact of living a longer, happier, and healthier life.

Over the 2023 session, NCH Healthcare System will actively engage in advocating solutions to numerous issues locally. Whether that is supporting the initiatives of other care providers, our regional higher education partners, or business partners, NCH intends to be an eager advocate for priorities that strengthen our community and our state!

NCH Systems Operation Center: \$1,005,561 Funding Request

NCH is proposing to modernize its entire communication and operations center. Moving into the offsite NCH Business Center which is a Cat 5 hurricane rated building. The operations center would allow a whole-system upgrade to our communications and emergency management capabilities. The new facility and associated radios, video monitoring systems, and other equipment would integrate the NCH systems in with the Collier County Emergency Management and Collier County Public Safety radio systems. The current system is incompatible for direct communications with external agencies.

This would create a seamless and secure communications system not only capable of better serving NCH hospitals and sites, but also our regional first responder and law enforcement partners.

Workforce Housing

NCH recognizes the challenges the current housing market places on families and is committed to working with our regional partners to find market-based solutions to reduce the burdens facing many of our employees.

Affecting our neighbors across all demographics, this challenging policy issue will take a broad effort to make a difference.

NCH is taking bold steps to address this issue for our team members, such as working with developers, government agencies, and others to identify below market rate housing.



Judith & Marvin Herb Family Simulation Center at NCH: \$1,999,998 Funding Request

The Simulation Center at NCH will be a remarkable community asset, and we are already facilitating training and health care learning opportunities in the temporary location. The legislature funded this request in 2022, but the item was vetoed by Governor DeSantis.

NCH has hosted the Collier County Emergency Medical Services & life flight for critical training on the transition from ambulance to helicopter to the hospital site. Other groups who will be able to use the Simulation Center will include our K-12 education and higher education partners, businesses, other health care providers in our community, and of course, our own professionals & staff at NCH. Current plans are to open the permanent facility in 2023.



Investments For The Future

NCH has invested over \$111 Million in the past four years for multiple projects dedicated to elevating the standard of care in Collier County. This includes \$35 Million in the expanded downtown ED, \$20 Million in cardiovascular OR & CVICU upgrades and over \$9 Million on the North Naples Hospital campus on Immokalee Road.

Looking to the future, NCH is in the process of bringing a new facility to the downtown Baker campus for the NCH Heart, Stroke, and Vascular Institute. This investment will fundamentally improve the quality of heart, stroke, and vascular care in SW Florida.

In the fall of 2022, we announced two fantastic partnerships located on our North Naples Hospital campus: Nicklaus Children's Hospital for our pediatric patients and the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) for orthopedics. Both organizations are the best at what they do and we are excited to bring their premier levels of care to Southwest Florida. The first major capital investment will be the construction of a new building on the North Naples Hospital Campus focusing on orthopedic surgery and care.

As the Collier County population shifts to the less developed Eastern half of the county, NCH is partnering with developers and the community to ensure access to health care services keeps pace. Collier County is an expansive service region and we know that for our patients and their families having much-needed health care facilities close to home is important, not just for their health but for their peace of mind.

Expanding Access to Nursing Education

The 2022 state budget included \$19,000,000 for the "Linking Industry to Nursing Education" (LINE) fund. This innovative dollar-to-dollar matching program will incentivize health care providers to invest local funds with their regional post-secondary nursing education programs to increase capacity.

These funds can be used to fund student scholarships, recruit faculty, purchase equipment, and support simulation centers (such as the NCH simulation center) to ensure the future of Florida's health care workforce is secured.

The other new program created in 2022, "Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education" (PIPELINE) directly fund post-secondary nursing programs based on excellence (performance based) and was funded at \$40,000,000.

NCH urges the Southwest Florida legislative delegation to support both the LINE and PIPELINE programs for our state university partners to increase the supply of nurses in our great state!

Medicaid Funding

Medicaid presents a much-needed source of health security to thousands of our neighbors in Southwest Florida. Without this program, many would either delay care for a treatable condition or enter our system with no ability to pay, ultimately shifting those costs to other Floridians. Wherever Medicaid patients seek care, this vital safety net program supports the strength of our community through better outcomes, improved health & wellness, and long-term reduced costs on society.

Telehealth

Telehealth has proven to be an effective and necessary delivery method to increase access for many healthcare needs, especially mental health.

In addition to general medical appointments, serious medical crises have seen an increase in utilization of telehealth to diagnose & provide prompt access to specialists.

NCH supports initiatives to expand service and increase access to telehealth **and** for those services to be reimbursed at an equal rate to face-to-face office visits.

