Arkansas Children’s Hospital has a legacy of supporting community benefit work to ensure that children, youth, and their families can plug in to healthy communities. Community benefit enhances the health of communities, improving access to health care, advancing medical or health knowledge, and supporting government or community efforts.

In FY18 – Arkansas Children’s Hospital invested $66,695,162 in Community Benefit work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uncompensated Care</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions Education</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Health Improvement</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; In-Kind Contributions</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Uncompensated care ensures that families can meet their own basic needs while helping their children access needed health care. Arkansas Children’s Hospital has a strong history of and commitment to treating patients regardless of ability to pay. In FY18, over $35 million dollars of uncompensated care was provided by Arkansas Children’s Hospital.

Compassionate care close to home:

“[We] are grateful to Arkansas Children’s. Not only did the care our daughter received save her life but they took care of our family. The medical bills for Jakiah’s care were adding up and with help from Arkansas Children’s, those debts were forgiven. Over the last four years we’ve donated our time volunteering as ambassadors for Arkansas Children’s. I cannot thank Arkansas Children’s enough for what they’ve done for our family.”

- Crystal Collins, grateful parent
Community health improvement programs are designed to enhance community wellbeing. The 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment identified ten focus areas for these community health improvement activities.

The **Natural Wonders Innovation Fund** supports innovative solutions to address the identified health issues. In FY18, nine projects were funded and the results are described throughout the report. One project that supported all focus areas was the FrameWorks communication project. The FrameWorks Institute prepared communication frames to better connect with parents and policymakers about child development, and trained ACH and other Natural Wonders coalition partners to use them. One helpful frame is the “Resource Grid,” which explains that access to resources that children need to thrive functions much like a power grid but it is patchy and uneven in some areas and needs repair. Frameworks provided more than five frames to redefine how we talk about children’s health.

### Access to Care - Bringing clinical care close to home

- More patients had access to health coverage with 8,158 Medicaid applications processed by 36 financial counselors.
- Families received non-emergency health support from nurses at the after-hours Kids Care Line.
- Non-English-speaking patients received quality care with 15 interpreters assisting with visits.
- The Stephens School-Based Health Center provided over 300 visits to students and their siblings in the Little Rock School District, bringing care close to where children live, learn, and play. More than half of those visits were for preventive care like well-child checks and immunizations.
- The School-Based Telemedicine Program treated students at Angie Grant Elementary in Benton. In the summer of FY18, new school-based telemedicine sites were established at Dumas (Southeast AR), Booneville (Northwest AR), and Magnolia (Southwest AR) districts, expanding the number of sites from 1 to 9 overall in the state.

**Innovation Fund spotlight:** ARKids First Enrollment & Oral Health Outreach for the Marshallese Community

- **1,340** Marshallese Pre-K children given oral health screenings
- **1,595** Marshallese households visited for ARKids First outreach

### Childhood Obesity - Making the healthy choice the easy choice

- Kids had 66 million minutes of active fun during the school day because every elementary school in Arkansas uses GoNoodle.
- Twenty-five elementary and middle schools in all five regions of the state addressed nutrition and physical activity through programs like CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) and OrganWise Guys.
- The ACH Community Garden harvested 2,011 pounds of produce, supporting Helping Hand Food Pantry.

**Innovation Fund spotlight:** Double Up Food Bucks allowed SNAP dollars to go twice as far for fresh fruit and produce at farmer’s markets and provided related educational courses.

- **214** People learned how to prepare healthy, low-cost meals in a Cooking Matters course.

### Mental Health & Substance Use - Bridging gaps among systems serving children

- ACH provided a $1 per year lease to the Children’s Protection Center in the new Clark Center for Safe & Healthy Children, a one-stop facility brings together the medical, psychological, and social health services children need.
Community Health Improvement Programs

Reproductive Health - Focusing on healthy births

Innovation Fund spotlight: Reproductive Health Projects
• The Love Notes Healthy Relationship program, an evidence-based course to reduce teen pregnancies and STIs, was piloted at four sites with 133 youth. The curriculum focuses on skills to create healthy relationships.
• The Act 943 Action Plan Evaluation Assessments created a toolkit for public two- and four-year colleges and universities to evaluate how well they were implementing the mandate to help students prevent unplanned pregnancy.

Social Issues - Addressing root causes of poor health

Innovation Fund spotlight: Medical Legal Partnership Summit
Legal Aid of Arkansas hosted a summit for active Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLP) for medical, legal, and community partners to learn more about MLPs in Arkansas. Almost 100 attendees received substantive training including Continuing Legal Education and tools to build new MLPs.

Parenting Supports - Building a healthy home life for children

• The Arkansas Home Visiting Network reached 6,600 parents of children prenatal to age five in nearly every Arkansas county. Staff built relationships with families through programs that are proven to deliver positive outcomes.
• ACH’s Center for Good Mourning provided almost 400 community presentations to assist almost 2,400 bereaved children, families, and professional caregivers through education and grief support programs.

Oral Health - Making smiles brighter

• Mobile oral health programs conducted 6,874 dental screenings and provided 5,425 dental sealants for school-age children through three mobile dental clinics and a dental sealant program. The mobile dental program reached over 1,000 children and provided $1.2 million in dental services.

Food Security - Eliminating childhood hunger

• Over 3,500 high school students in 12 counties learned about shopping for healthy food on a budget through ACH’s Pop-Up Cooking Matters program. More than 30 people participated in a six-session Cooking Matters course.
• The Helping Hand Mobile Food Pantry provided fresh groceries to 132 patient families. ACH’s meal programs distributed 27,215 sack lunches to children and youth at the hospital and 1,486 bags of groceries to patients.

Innovation Fund spotlight: Five to Thrive
The AR Hunger Relief Alliance assisted nine Arkansas school districts by helping them implement five programs supporting a healthy weight: Breakfast After the Bell, summer and afterschool meal programming, nutrition education, school pantries, and physical activity programming.

Child Injury - Tackling the leading cause of death for children

• ACH staff, in partnership with the Arkansas Department of health, trained AR birthing hospitals on safe sleep practices, with 80% achieving national certification by Cribs for Kids. Arkansas has one of the highest certification rates in the nation.
• The Safe Transport of Patients (STOP) program installed 234 car seats, including 65 seats for special medical needs.
• The Injury Prevention Center offered more than 20 programs that are proven to reduce injuries related to motor vehicles, sleep environment, recreational activities, and suicide.

Immunization - Preventing infectious diseases for children

• Arkansas Children’s Hospital clinics increased the number of children that received all needed vaccinations.
Health Professions Education

Health professions education prepares future and current health care providers to deliver safe, evidence-based, compassionate health care for children in Arkansas.

ACH provided educational experiences for nursing students from around the state. This builds a future workforce of high quality nursing care for children in Arkansas.

**1,500** Nursing students received nursing education at ACH

**4,415** Pre-licensure students received clinical experiences at ACH

Research

Funding for research supported nurses, physicians, scientists, and other investigators in discovering new innovative tools, techniques, and treatments to cure illnesses, promote wellness, and create new health possibilities for children in Arkansas. Specifically, funds underwrote the work of the Arkansas Children’s Research Institute and supported ACH nursing staff time spent on groundbreaking research.

Research project highlight:
Dr. Debra Jeffs’s research focused on effective alternatives to alleviating children’s pain. Her most recent work, “Novel Virtual Reality for Burn Wound Care Pain in Adolescents” studied the positive effects of a patient using widely available virtual reality technology to alleviate pain.

Cash & In-Kind Contributions

Cash & in-kind contributions supported other non-profits to improve child well-being. ACH supported more than three dozen nonprofit causes that aligned with community health needs.

Support included:
- Addressing food deserts and a family’s food security (Arkansas Food Bank)
- Increasing access for children and their families to services that promote emotional & social wellbeing (Center for Youth & Families)
- Ensuring families have a safe and convenient place to stay while accessing care for their children (Ronald McDonald House Charities)