



# 2025-2028 Implementation Plan for CHNA

Murray and Whitfield Counties, GA



**Hamilton Medical Center**  
Vitruvian Health

## PERSPECTIVE / OVERVIEW

### About Hamilton Medical Center

Hamilton Medical Center, a key part of Vitruvian Health, is a regional referral hospital serving Northwest Georgia with a commitment to clinical excellence and compassionate care. Located in Dalton, Georgia, Hamilton features 255 acute care beds and offers a comprehensive range of services, including emergency care, advanced cardiac and vascular services, cancer treatment, women's health, orthopedics, surgical specialties, and more.

Since its founding in 1921, Hamilton has grown alongside the region it serves — not only through its main hospital campus, but also through a vast network of more than 70 access points of care. This includes outpatient clinics, primary care and specialty offices, imaging centers, urgent care, and ancillary health services, all designed to bring high-quality care closer to home.

Hamilton is consistently recognized for its high standards of care and patient outcomes. It is an accredited Chest Pain Center and a certified Primary Stroke Center, and it has earned designation as a Level III Trauma Center, ensuring timely and coordinated emergency care. The hospital has also received recognition from organizations such as the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association for excellence in heart and stroke care.

As a teaching facility, Hamilton is home to ACGME-accredited residency programs in internal medicine and family medicine, as well as a nurse residency program supporting the next generation of healthcare professionals. These programs, along with Hamilton's ongoing investment in leading-edge technology, quality, and patient safety, have helped position it as a healthcare leader in the region.

With a long-standing reputation for quality and innovation, Hamilton Medical Center continues to raise the bar for what community-based healthcare can deliver — blending award-winning clinical care with a deeply rooted commitment to the people it serves.



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## Board Approval

The Hamilton Medical Center Board of Trustees approved the Community Health Needs Assessment on August 28, 2025 and the Implementation Strategy on December 18, 2025.

## Making the CHNA Widely Available to the Public

Starting on August 30, 2025, the Community Health Needs Assessment report has been made widely available to the community via Hamilton Medical Center's website <https://vitruvianhealth.com/about/chna-implementation-strategy/> or by phone 706.272.6114. This Implementation Strategy is being made available in the same manner beginning February 11, 2026.

## KEY FINDINGS

### Most Significant Community Health Needs – Prioritized

Based on the secondary data, community surveys, and community focus groups using the criteria above, community stakeholders participated in a Community Health Summit as part of the CHNA process and selected the following significant health needs in the counties. They voted using Mentimeter, a phone app for voting, selecting three priorities. The issues with the most votes are listed below. Refer to the full CHNA report for more information.

<https://vitruvianhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/CHNA-2025-Community-Report.pdf>

1. Access to affordable healthcare
2. Access to quality mental healthcare
3. Healthy eating, active living & healthy weight
4. Complexity of navigating healthcare
5. Financial Literacy
6. Transportation



# Hamilton Medical Center CHNA Implementation Strategy 2025-2028

HMC Health Needs Priority: Access to Affordable Healthcare	
Objective(s)	Action(s)
Expand services in Murray County	Construct & open urgent care facility in Murray County.
Expand primary care services in Whitfield County	Increase number of primary care providers in Hamilton's Whitfield County locations.
	Continue Family Medicine and Internal Medicine Residency programs which provide services through the FM and IM residency clinics, while also training future healthcare providers for the community we serve.
Expand access to available appointments	Implement online scheduling through public website.
Provide support for free/reduced cost healthcare	Continue partnership and support of DEO Clinic, which provides free medical care to adults in Murray and Whitfield counties who do not have insurance.
	Provide free blood pressure, glucose, and hearing screenings at community events.
Expand access to mammography	Increase mammography services/locations available in Whitfield and Murray counties, as well as the surrounding region.
Increase Medicaid enrollment education and assistance	Provide education and assistance related to qualifying and enrolling in Medicaid at community events, through radio/podcasts shows, social media, public website, printed materials, and financial counselors.
Increase the number of physician specialists	Continued recruitment of physician specialists that are in support of the specific health needs of the community.

HMC Health Needs Priority: Access to Quality Mental Healthcare	
Objective(s)	Action(s)
Increase the number of mental healthcare providers.	Recruit additional mental healthcare providers, including an additional psychiatrist.
	Continue partnership with Highland Rivers, as well as other partnerships within the community and across the state.
Promote mental health and wellness	Provide educational content, including opioid education, on the public website and on social media.
	Post mental health awareness month features on the website and social media.
	Walk & Talk events with physicians, as well as specific mental health/opioid education events in collaboration with Live4IT, HMC Residency programs, and other community agencies.

HMC Health Needs Priority: Healthy Eating, Active Living, and Healthy Weight	
Objective(s)	Action(s)
Continue to increase awareness and engagement with healthy lifestyle choices.	Provide educational materials at community events, including health conditions related to free screenings (see above).
	Partnerships with food banks and other community agencies for education and services related to food security.
	Monthly health education and awareness postings on social media.
	Provide free blood pressure, glucose, and hearing screenings at community events (see above).
	Walk and Talk with physicians in partnership with Live4It, HMC residency programs, and other community agencies (see above).

HMC Health Needs Priority: Complexity of Navigating Healthcare	
Objective(s)	Action(s)
Assist patients, families, and community in navigating healthcare	Provide educational resources through social media, public website, and radio/podcasts.
	Have Hamilton representatives and/or community partner representatives at community health events, including topics such as healthcare insurance (including Medicaid), care coordination, and related topics of interest in the current healthcare industry.
	Provide additional support to our Hispanic/Latino population at community events, on the website, social media, through two Spanish radio stations, and podcasts.
	Provide additional supplementary information to area employers to support their health and benefits teams as requested/appropriate.

HMC Health Needs Priority: Financial Literacy	
Objective(s)	Action(s)
Improve Financial Literacy	As stated above, provide information about Medicaid acceptance, enrollment, and qualification.
	Provide educational assistance and resource information at community events, on the public website, social media, and radio/podcasts.
	Work with community partners, such as Live4It, United Way, and othe agencies to assist community members with education information regarding resources available.

**HMC Health Needs Priority: Transportation**  
 Transportation is a community need that community agencies are working to address. While HMC is not directly able to address this need, HMC will continue to collaborate with community agencies as appropriate in their efforts to address.

# COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR MURRAY AND WHITFIELD COUNTIES, GEORGIA

Completed in partnership with:

