

Community Benefit Policy

The purpose of the Community Benefit Policy is to define and guide community benefit activities in a manner consistent with the mission and vision statements of Middlesex Hospital and Middlesex Health System, as well as with state and/or national guidelines applicable to a not-for-profit community hospital.

Vision Statement:

It is the vision of Middlesex Health System to create a new standard for community health care, one that combines the personalized, caring environment of the finest community hospitals with a commitment to providing the most advanced medical technology and capabilities available to it.

To fulfill its vision, Middlesex Health System fosters a work environment where individual achievement is recognized and rewarded, where the satisfaction of all patients, regardless of their background, is the fundamental goal of every action and where the practice of medicine in all its forms is recognized and honored as a uniquely noble pursuit.

In achieving its vision, Middlesex Health System contributes materially to the health and well being of the communities it serves.

Mission Statements:

Middlesex Health System, Inc.

The mission of the Middlesex Health System is to improve the health and well-being of our community by providing quality health care services with caring, compassion and skill.

Middlesex Hospital

Middlesex Hospital is a not-for-profit corporation committed to providing high quality inpatient and outpatient healthcare services. The Hospital is committed to demonstrating the highest standards of service excellence in all interactions within and outside the Hospital community. The Hospital recognizes community benefit, transparency and integrity as fundamental responsibilities and strives to identify and meet community health needs to the fullest extent possible within its ability and resources.

Community Benefit activities are defined as programs or services that aim to improve the health of the people and communities we serve, over and above revenue-generating, fee-for-service inpatient and outpatient healthcare operations.

Community Benefit activities will target community health improvement and wellness through one of the following three domains:

1. **Access to Care.** Access programs will seek to reduce demographically driven disparities in healthcare. Through charity care and financial assistance programs, patients will receive medically necessary inpatient and outpatient healthcare services regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Access considerations may also contribute to development or maintenance of inpatient and outpatient healthcare services which result in net financial losses to the institution, as well as to provision of community service health professional training programs.
2. **Community Health Initiatives.** Evidence-based community health initiatives provided as a public service will include but are not limited to screening, health education, and disease management programs. These will be guided by best scientific evidence of efficacy and will whenever possible measure health outcomes resulting from those interventions.
3. **“Good Citizen” Activities.** Middlesex Hospital’s collective professional expertise, physical plant, and status as a major employer represent a significant resource for the benefit of the community. This potential will be maximized through collaboration with community organizations sharing our mission, by providing technical assistance, partnership, leadership, advocacy, and other forms of in-kind support or cash donations.

In order to prioritize specific programs within these domains, Middlesex Hospital will conduct a community health assessment at regular intervals as warranted. A **community benefit strategic plan** will be developed in response to each new assessment. The assessment and plan will include input from key community stakeholders. The plan will include measurable goals and objectives.

Accountability:

A Community Benefit Steering Committee will consist of at minimum:

- Director of Community Medicine
- At least two Hospital Vice Presidents
- Director of Public Relations
- Coordinator of Community Benefit Inventory
- At least one member of the Board of Directors

The Community Benefit Steering Committee will oversee community benefit operations, including:

- Community Benefit Activities Inventory
- Community Benefit Reporting (Internal and External)
- Community Benefit Assessment and Strategic Plan

and will report on these on at least an annual basis to the Middlesex Hospital Board of Directors.

[Approved by Middlesex Hospital Board November 2007]