

## AED Programs

Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States, accounting for over 900,000 deaths per year. Studies have found that individuals are more likely to survive a cardiac arrest if a bystander has access to and uses a defibrillator. 1,700 lives could be saved each year if AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator) were available and used during cardiac arrests by bystanders.

### Project Heartbeat

Project Heartbeat was launched in 2017 at Morristown Medical Center through the generosity and partnership of the John T. Babbitt Foundation, whose mission is to distribute AEDs to communities. During the last year, 19 nonprofit organizations throughout the Atlantic Health System regions have been given 21 AEDs and provided with the necessary training and education to save lives.

### Heart & Soul - A Community Celebration

The Newton Medical Center Foundation's annual event, Heart & Soul - A Community Celebration, takes place at the end of February to highlight heart month. This event honors the accomplishments of our first responders and frontline team members who provide extraordinary, life-saving care every day. Additionally, Heart & Soul recognizes the Newton Medical Center Foundation's AED program. The AED program was launched in 2001 with the goal of providing AED's, training, and education to organizations

in our service area. Since inception, the program has trained more than 5,500 individuals and has assisted in saving over 70 lives in our community!

## Community Conversations Offer Live Q&A Sessions

In a series of live, interactive videos hosted on Facebook, experts from Atlantic Health System answer questions and educate the community about important health topics and how Atlantic Health System is caring for our communities. Host Luke Margolis interviews physicians about a number of health-related and seasonal topics affecting the local community, from avoiding skin cancer, to treating RSV infection, to orthopedic care, weight loss options and more.

In 2023, Community Conversations moved to the Atlantic Health System YouTube channel for an even wider dissemination. To see all Community Conversations episodes, visit [atlantichealth.org/CommunityConversation](http://atlantichealth.org/CommunityConversation)

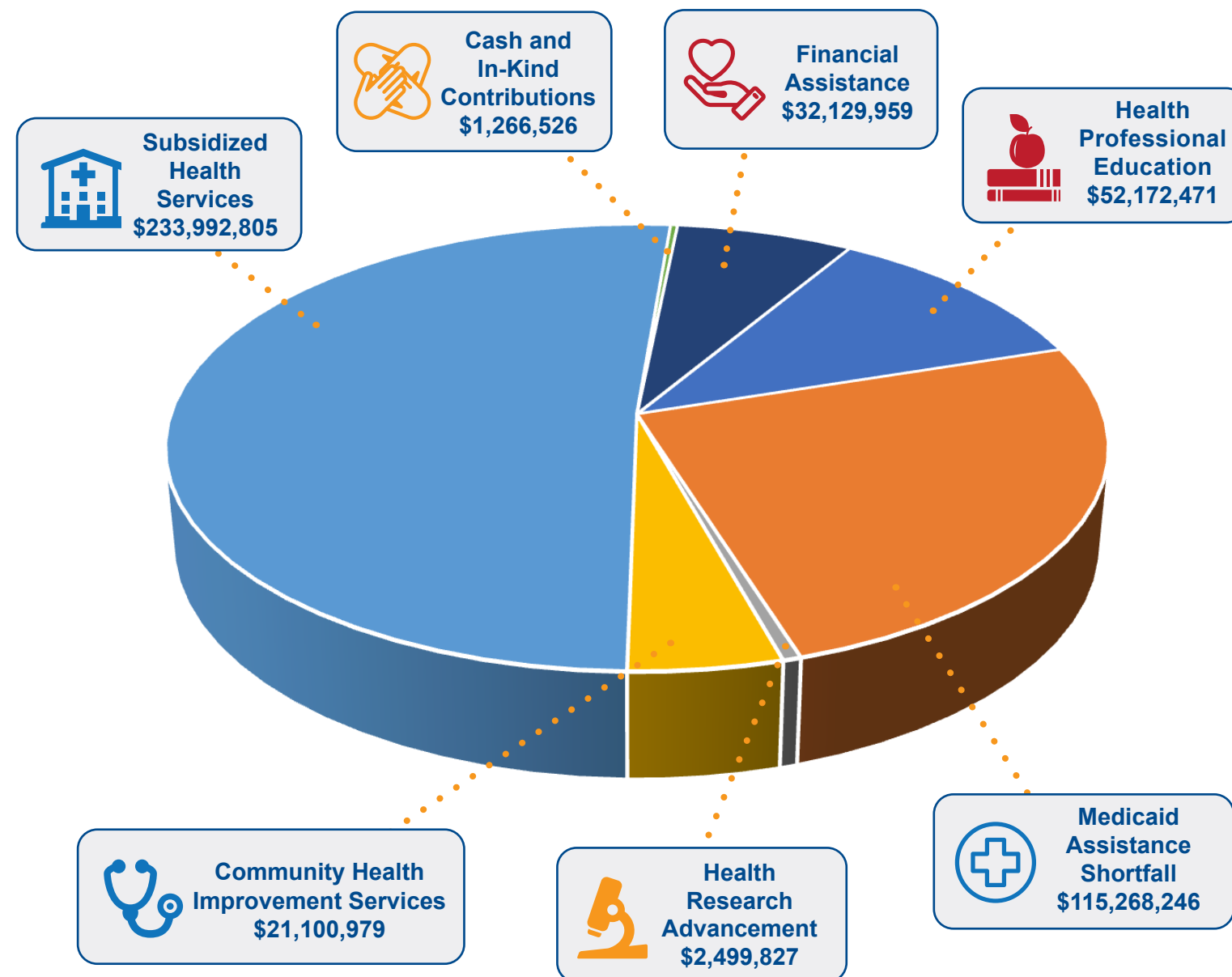


Atlantic Health System strongly believes in listening to our community and working together with other organizations in the region to make a collective impact on public health. That's why every three years, we conduct a community health needs assessment to better understand the most pressing health needs of the population we serve. The information gathered helps us create action plans and guides our work so that we have the greatest chance of making a meaningful difference.

For more information on our **Community Health Needs Assessments** by hospital site and yearly overall **Community Health Improvement Plan**, visit [atlantichealth.org/chna](http://atlantichealth.org/chna).

# Atlantic Health System 2023 Community Benefit Report

**2023 Total Community Benefit**  
\$458,430,813



## Pediatric Community Health Programs

Pediatric Community Health programs are dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of students, staff, families, and communities. By collaborating with internal departments and community partners, we offer both in-person and virtual programs that meet the needs of students, school districts, and community members. Our goal is to increase awareness, reduce health disparities, promote healthy behaviors, and strengthen the connection between Atlantic Health System and the communities we serve.

Guided by our Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), along with surveys from local school superintendents and other community needs, we deliver culturally inclusive programs that address critical health issues in schools and communities.

In 2023, our virtual Atlantic Health System Zoom platform facilitated eight presentations, attracting 794 attendees on topics such as Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adaptive Sports for Kids of All Abilities. In-person school presentations reached 2,164 students, covering crucial topics like Body Image & Self-Esteem and Social Media & Impacts on Mental Health. Additionally, 487 school staff members benefited from presentations delivered through various county school nurse associations.

We also set up resource and education tables at eight events, engaging 2,800 community members. Overall, we reached 10,245 individuals through 37 in-person and virtual events.

TeenHealthFX.com—which features articles and quizzes on stress management, healthy relationships, and more—saw 77,303 website visits and addressed 23 out of 33 inquiries. In total, our efforts reached 83,528 people, significantly impacting pediatric community health.



### Finding Hope and Healing at Camp Clover

A sanctuary for grieving children in New Jersey, Camp Clover provides a haven for kids who have lost a loved one. Sponsored by Atlantic Visiting Nurse, this four-day bereavement day camp is free of charge and is designed to support children in first through eighth grade who are mourning the loss of a beloved family member. Camp Clover isn't just another summer camp; it's a sanctuary for healing. While offering traditional summer camp experiences like swimming, basketball, and arts and crafts, the camp goes a step further. It combines these fun activities with grief education and emotional support, ensuring that every camper leaves with more than just pleasant memories. The camp's staff and volunteers—including clinicians, social workers, and therapists—are specially trained to guide children through the grieving process, equipping them with coping skills and tools to make the grieving process easier. Children often find it comforting to be among peers who understand their unique challenges, as it makes them feel like they're not alone. With the backing of Atlantic Health System and a legion of dedicated volunteers, the camp offers an unparalleled blend of fun, emotional support, and healing. It's not just about surviving a loss; it's about thriving despite it. In 2024, Camp Clover will run from August 12-15 at Camp Riverbend, 116 Hillcrest Road, Warren, NJ. For more information or to register, visit [atlanticealth.org/campclover](http://atlanticealth.org/campclover).



### Diversity and Inclusion

Atlantic Health System recognizes and uplifts the diversity of our team members through our Business Resource Groups (BRGs), which are employee-led groups whose aim is to foster inclusion and belonging as a critical part of our workplace culture and business. One of BRGs' primary objectives is community outreach; i.e., participating in activities that educate the community on specific resources and opportunities to improve one's health and well-being. Team members volunteered at community health days in our service areas for all the medical centers. Spanish-speaking, qualified medical interpreters from our in-house training program also supported community health days to ensure patients experience clear communication during health screenings.

Volunteers promoted culturally competent care and services that target overall well-being, as well as screenings for cardiovascular health, diabetes, breast cancer, and behavioral health.

BRG members were present at cultural events celebrating Juneteenth and Diwali. At one festival, the African American BRG coordinated a panel discussion with four Atlantic Health System physicians to discuss how to be an advocate for oneself in health care spaces. LGBTQ+ BRG members volunteered at Pride festivals around the state. Team members also laid wreaths at the headstones of veterans to pay homage.



### Project Search

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Atlantic Health System welcomed nine new Project SEARCH interns to Overlook Medical Center through our partnership with Project SEARCH in Union County. Project SEARCH is a program that prepares young adults who have significant disabilities for success in competitive employment. Through this partnership, Project SEARCH provides classroom education onsite at Atlantic Health System locations, following on a school schedule. Atlantic Health System further allows interns to rotate throughout various departments over the course of the school year, giving them the opportunity to gain valuable work experiences and a variety of skills. Project SEARCH was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to fulfill their vision of hiring more team members with developmental disabilities. The team noticed that they served many patients with disabilities; however, few team members represented this population. 2023 marked the eighth year of this important and unique partnership. Since that time, 72% of the participants who completed the program have moved on to find integrated, paid employment in the community, including 15 at Overlook. Project SEARCH has also now expanded and is operating programs at both Newton Medical Center and Hackettstown Medical Center.