



AT THE FOREFRONT

**UChicago  
Medicine**

# AT THE FOREFRONT OF HEALTH EQUITY

2020 Community Benefit Report Highlights

## To you, our community.

Through community benefit programs, partnerships and other investments, the University of Chicago Medicine, with its Urban Health Initiative and its community and healthcare partners, seek to improve health equity for residents of Chicago's South Side. We want to make sure that everyone is able to live their most healthful life.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted stark health disparities. Our Black and Brown communities bore the heaviest burden of the COVID-19 pandemic, through illness, loss of life and economic hardship. These disparities demonstrate how racism is a public health crisis.

Throughout the pandemic, the University of Chicago Medicine has been focused on providing world-class care to our patients and our community and working with our Community Advisory Council and community partners to continue to advance health equity.

We invite you to learn about our community investment and how we partner with the community to respond to crisis, deal with community health priorities and work to build a healthier South Side.



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**TO VIEW THE FULL REPORT, VISIT**  
[Community.UChicagoMedicine.org/2020](https://Community.UChicagoMedicine.org/2020)

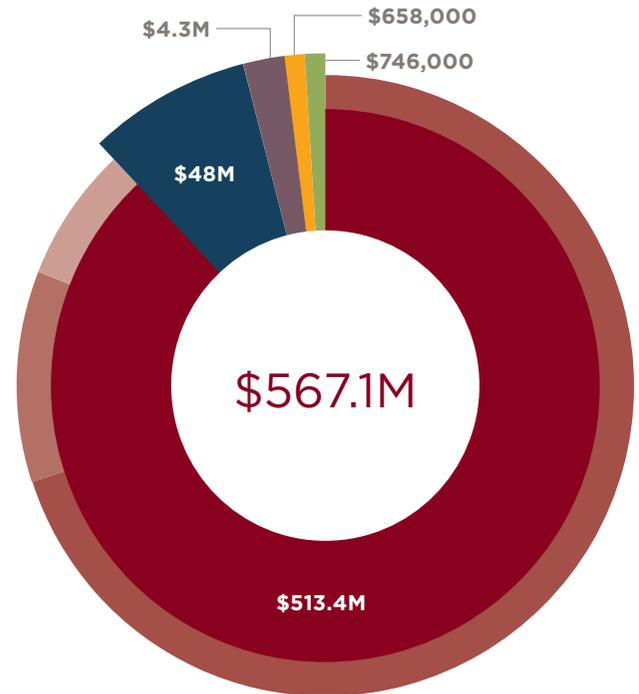
## Fiscal 2020 Investment in the Community:

# \$567.1 Million

Increase of 9.2% over fiscal 2019

This investment included supporting patients who rely on Medicare or Medicaid or who were not able to pay for care. It also included teaching and training future healthcare professionals, funding medical research and donating to community groups for health and wellness programs.

### Total Investment: Fiscal 2020



- Uncompensated care
- \$405.6M Medicaid and Medicare program losses
- \$66.3M Unrecoverable patient debt
- \$41.5M Medicaid program losses
- \$48M Medical research
- \$4.3M Uncategorized community benefits
- \$658,000 Cash/in kind
- \$746,000 Medical education

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## HEALTH EQUITY

### It is undeniable: Racism is a public health crisis.

UChicago Medicine is working within the medical center, in the community and across the city to end health disparities and promote health equity, including:

- In June 2020, UChicago Medicine and more than 40 healthcare organizations took a health equity pledge to overcome health disparities in minority communities. The open letter was published in the Chicago Sun-Times and Chicago Tribune.
- UChicago Medicine announced a system-wide Equity Plan to identify and address inequities in the workforce, work climate, healthcare delivery and services, and community.
- Along with St. Bernard Hospital and Advocate Trinity Hospital, UChicago Medicine launched the South Side Health Transformation Project to bring together federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), faith leaders, community organizations, elected officials and residents to secure state funding and support for a new South Side health transformation plan. Nearly 500 people have joined the effort.

Life expectancy on Chicago's South Side in Englewood is only **60 years old**. Just 9 miles north in Streeterville, the average life expectancy is **90**.

Source:  
*City Health Dashboard*

In fiscal 2020, the Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Office provided 7,418 hours of cultural competence training to staff — an increase of 121 percent over the prior year.

## HEALTH PRIORITIES

### Health priorities identified in 2018-2019 Community Health Needs Assessment:

- » Prevent and manage chronic diseases (asthma, diabetes)
- » Build trauma resiliency (violence recovery, mental health)
- » Reduce inequities caused by social determinants of health (access to care, food insecurities, employment)



In 2020, UChicago Medicine provided important programs, events\* and resources to support community health priorities:

#### ASTHMA

- 830 in-person and virtual visits made to 279 children and families by community health workers to provide asthma education (via South Side Pediatric Asthma Center (SSPAC))
- 119 attendees for SSPAC's virtual asthma education summit

#### DIABETES

- 698 attendees for 215 fitness sessions for South Side Fit program
- 94 attendees for 9 workshops for Diabetes Education & Empowerment Program (DEEP™)

#### TRAUMA RESILIENCY

- 1,500 patients and 586 families served by the Violence Recovery Program, a part of the Block Hassenfeld Casdin (BHC) Collaborative for Family Resilience
- Violence prevention summit hosted by Southland RISE (Resilience Initiative to Strengthen and Empower), a collaboration with Advocate Health Care inspired by U.S. Senator Dick Durbin's Chicago HEAL (Hospital Engagement, Action and Leadership) program
- \$100,000 awarded to 14 grassroots organizations by Southland RISE for summer violence prevention programs

\*includes virtual and in-person events prior to pandemic

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## COVID-19 RESPONSE

### Meeting the community's needs during the pandemic

Since the pandemic started, UChicago Medicine has worked with its partners to quickly identify and respond to the community's needs, providing such resources as:

- PPE donations
- Food pantry
- COVID-19 testing
- Patient contact tracing
- Phase 3 vaccine trials
- Emergency relief funding
- Vaccine distribution and information
- COVID-19 educational resources

#### Community Health Workers: Healthcare ambassadors to our South Side neighborhoods

Community health workers (CHWs) play an important role in providing care and health-related education to patients, often in their homes. In addition to asthma education offered through the South Side Pediatric Asthma Center, CHWs also provided 124 families with food, transportation and supplies in response to the pandemic.



## WORKFORCE AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

### We can reduce inequities by increasing employment opportunities for our South Side residents

**\$22 million**

funds granted for local hiring since 2019, leading to 76 local hires (minimum 3- to 5-year, living wage jobs)

**85%**

90-day retention rate of South Side hires

**24%**

of total workforce live in the UChicago Medicine service area



#### Hiring local talent:

UChicago Medicine hires local talent like Dwayne Johnson to help build its workforce and strengthen communities. A South Shore resident, Johnson is a founding team member of the Violence Recovery Program, the only hospital-based violence intervention program in Chicago serving adults and children.

#### We value local and diverse partnerships for purchasing and construction projects

**\$20.8 million**

contracts awarded and paid to certified minority and women-owned firms

**\$4.3 million**

wages to minority and female construction workers

**\$1.9 million**

wages earned by 208 Chicago residents working on UChicago Medicine construction projects

#### Community benefit service area by ZIP code

60609	60628
60615	60636
60617	60637
60619	60643
60620	60649
60621	60653

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