

## 2022 Principles for Community Health Care Report

**NAME OF ORGANIZATION:** North Park University

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**MISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION:** The mission of North Park University as the University of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), is to prepare students for lives of significance and service through education in the liberal arts, professional studies, and theology. As a Christian, intercultural and urban University, NPU actively engages students at all levels of study and all disciplines in Chicago's vibrant neighborhoods and openly welcomes students of all backgrounds.

**Identify the high risk/underserved and/or disadvantaged populations in the community(ies) that you serve and describe specifically the actions you have taken, based on relevant assessment data, to increase their accessibility to health services.**

North Park University's diverse student population, strong nursing program, and emphasis on preparing students for lives of service positions students to further a national goal of creating a more diverse healthcare workforce. Nursing's leaders recognize a strong connection between a culturally diverse nursing workforce and the ability to provide quality, culturally competent patient care. The need to attract students from underrepresented groups in nursing – specifically men and individuals from African American, Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian backgrounds - is a high priority for nursing profession. (<https://www.aacnnursing.org/diversity>.)

North Park's School of Nursing and Health Sciences prepares nurses to provide high quality care and to work in diverse settings in varied capacities, all with an emphasis on compassionate care for everyone. Over 60% of practicum sites working with current North Park undergraduate and graduate nursing students are in areas identified as medically underserved or experiencing a shortage of health care professionals (HRSA data, 2021). Over 95% of graduates from North Park's graduate nursing programs remain in Chicago and/or Illinois post-graduation.

North Park University currently enrolls approximately 1700 undergraduate students and 1100 graduate, adult, and seminary students. NPU has an increasingly diverse undergraduate student body; commuter students from Chicago and surrounding suburbs now comprise 66% of the undergraduate student population and ECC affiliated students account for 8% of the student body. For the 2021-2022 academic year, approximately 44% of the total undergraduate population are Pell Grant recipients, indicating low family income. North Park University was designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) by the U.S. Department of Education in 2020, indicating that over 25% of the undergraduate population is Latinx/Hispanic.

North Park University works closely with the NorthShore University Health System (NSUHS), which includes Swedish Hospital (SWH), formerly Swedish Covenant Hospital, to train and educate nurses who are prepared to work with diverse patient populations. SWH is a comprehensive health care hospital providing health and wellness to Chicago's highly diverse communities. As of 2015, the population of the service area is estimated at 634,860 people. The

university sits in one of the most diverse zip codes in the U.S. It is predominately non-Hispanic White (57.3%), but also has substantial Hispanic (28.2%) and Asian (11%) populations. Eleven percent of the population are 65 years or older. The median household income within the SWH service area is below the state average at \$54,828, and 16.4% of the families in our population live below the federal poverty level. SCH is located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/P) community area. To reduce linguistic and cultural barriers to care, SWH recruits, trains, and hires a highly diverse medical staff. Hospital staff currently represents more than 50 nationalities and speak over 55 languages. SWH hires approximately 20% of the nursing students graduating from North Park University. SWH also employs Spanish, Korean, Russian, Polish, Arabic, and Bosnian/Serbian language interpreters and offers rapid access to telephone translation services in 180 languages. [https://swedishcovenant.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/sch-fy17-19-chna-implementation-strategy.pdf?sfvrsn=3099dac8\\_0](https://swedishcovenant.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/sch-fy17-19-chna-implementation-strategy.pdf?sfvrsn=3099dac8_0)

**Describe specifically the strategies you have used to gather input from high risk, underserved and/or disadvantaged population and their leaders as a basis for program or service development.**

As North Park University's main partner providing direct healthcare services, SWH uses focus groups, surveys, patient satisfaction questionnaires, key informant interviews, and advisory boards to gather critical input from community residents and leaders to guide service design. For instance, in developing the 2015 CHNA, the then Swedish Covenant Hospital employed a telephone interview methodology to gather feedback from a random sample of 515 individuals aged 18 and older in the SCH service area. In addition, seven focus groups were held among key informants in the community. These key informant focus groups allowed for input from persons with special knowledge of or expertise in public health, as well as others who represent the interests of key cultural groups represented in communities served by Swedish Covenant Hospital. In all, 50 key informants participated, including physicians, other health professionals, social service providers, business leaders, ethnic/cultural organizations, and other community leaders.

In addition, SWH utilizes community advisory boards to inform program design and ensure alignment with community needs. For example, as part of the SCH Women's Health Initiative, which coincided with the opening of the new Mayora Rosenberg Women's Health Center, SCH formed a Women's Health Community Board. This group is comprised of women leaders from a diverse range of community organizations and groups, including the Albany Park Community Center, Centro Romero, the Indo-American Association, Erie Family Health Center, the Albany Park CEDA WIC office, the Cambodian Association, the Polish Initiative of Chicago, and Korean American Community Services, among others. New in 2015, SCH is implementing a new model of prenatal care, Centering Pregnancy, which promotes care in a group setting to encourage a sense of community and empowerment for expectant mothers. As part of this initiative, an Advisory Committee will be formed comprised of SCH staff and community partners to guide the development of the program. These examples demonstrate the commitment of SCH to engage and gather input from underserved, high-need community members and partner organizations serving these populations to guide program design and implementation across the hospital.

**Describe specific partnerships with other providers and community-based organizations to promote continuity of health care for high risk/underserved and/or disadvantaged populations.**

North Park University partners with several community-based organizations committed to serving some of the City's highest-need, most vulnerable populations to help train and educate the next generation of nurses. The direct-entry Master of Nursing (DEMSN) program's target population are individuals with non-nursing bachelor's degrees who desire a career change. The program will utilize a concept-based curriculum and students will engage in clinical rotations while taking corresponding courses that pair theory with their clinical experience. Students will study and engage in clinical using concepts across the lifespan and community health rotation. At the end of the program students will experience culminating clinical integration of approximately 144 hours. During this final experience students will work side by side with an experienced nurse preceptor. Students are matched with community and residency sites in consultation with faculty. The city's tremendous diversity means that students treat patients from different racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds and age groups. Chicagoland Clinical Sites include Swedish Covenant Hospital, the Department of Child and Family Services, Lawndale Community Health Center, and Chicago Department of Health.

**Provide two examples of how you have used the community-oriented approach to program development specified in the attached principles to develop a program of service for high risk/underserved and/or disadvantaged populations specified in the guidelines. Include in each description components of the current program and the following quantitative information for the most recent year available:**

North Park University's School of Nursing and Health Science maintains a Community Advisory Board comprised of members from community partners including hospitals, public health agencies, and home health agencies to provide feedback on graduates, changes in their own systems, and current needs in the community that we serve. These community partners helped identify the need for additional programs for nurses trained in geriatrics and mental health, leading North Park University in efforts to expand course offerings.

North Park University also works closely with Little Brothers of the Poor and Covenant Retirement communities to help nursing students gain more experience in working with the high risk/underserved population of elderly individuals. These interactions and partnerships help guide classroom instruction and discussions as well as further program development.

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