



Kennedy Krieger Institute

June 27, 2022

Dear Maryland community,

We are happy to present to you Kennedy Krieger's fourth Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), approved by the Board of Directors on June 8, 2022, and to report that the Institute met the goals and objectives associated with the 2019 priorities.

We're honored to be part of a vibrant, vital, mission-driven organization of nearly 2,800 dedicated staff members who serve more than 25,000 patients and students each year through 80 clinical, school and community programs and hundreds of research investigations.

The Institute's mission is to improve the lives of individuals with, or at risk for, nervous system diseases, disorders or injuries. We are grateful for the trust you put in us, and in Kennedy Krieger as a whole. Our goal, through collaboration, partnership, and building capacity with you, is to achieve the very best health and wellness outcomes for Maryland's children and young adults, and their families.

Building on our experience with telehealth, we significantly expanded our delivery of telehealth and tele-education services, while continuing to serve patients in person in our hospital and outpatient centers. The expanded use of tele-education has offered enhanced access across Maryland.

To address the growing need for mental and behavioral health services for children and teens, and specifically for those with developmental or other disabilities, we expanded our behavioral health services across multiple programs, including serving families who have been impacted by traumatic stress.

Through our free vaccination clinics, we delivered COVID-19 vaccination to hundreds of individuals and families who may not have otherwise received vaccine. And with our newly formed Post COVID-19 pediatric rehabilitation clinic, we've served children, teens and young adults who continue to experience lingering symptoms and deficits after recovering from acute stage COVID-19 infection.

Kennedy Krieger will continue to expand its reach and develop stronger partnerships across the state and with our neighbors from the East Baltimore communities. We look forward to working with all of you to operationalize this plan to improve the health of Maryland's community for children, youth and adults, with disabilities.

Bradley L. Schlaggar, MD, PhD
President and CEO

Nancy S. Grasmick, PhD
Chair, Board of Directors

Executive Summary

Kennedy Krieger Institute, headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, shared its last community health needs assessment (CHNA) in 2019, six months before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. While our main campus is an anchor organization in East Baltimore, adjacent to the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions campus, we embrace the entire state of Maryland as our community.

Kennedy Krieger Children's Hospital, Inc., an affiliate of Kennedy Krieger Institute, delivers a value to Maryland like no other entity by providing the highest quality of care to individuals with developmental and related disorders and their families.

The Kennedy Krieger Institute 2019 CHNA focused on addressing the needs of Maryland's children and young adults with developmental disabilities, and those at the greatest risk for acquiring disorders of the nervous system, and improving their overall health. Top-priority areas noted in the report included capacity-building through training, access, advocacy, transition to adult life and environmental influences—all rooted in equity, diversity and inclusion. After more than 2.5 years of witnessing health disparities brought into sharp focus by the lens of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must strive to eliminate disparities for individuals with disabilities through health equity practices and policies.

While work toward the 2019 priorities continued throughout the pandemic, we made innovative adjustments and built and cultivated new partnerships. With limited opportunities for in-person engagements to conduct our work, the Institute and its partners were able to successfully achieve the objectives of the implementation plan by providing services through multiple service-delivery models during the pandemic: inpatient, outpatient, telehealth, tele-education and community.

This current CHNA is based on data and community information collected and shared by partners from July 1, 2019, through most of 2021. The graphic identifies the top-priority areas of need identified through conducting this CHNA. Solutions to address these areas of need will be implemented through new and existing community partnerships.

While the pandemic presented multiple tragedies, it also offered opportunities and insight for alternative healthcare models. Additionally, the Institute relaunched its strategic planning process, which incorporated lessons learned from our COVID-19 experiences. We envision a future in which health equity will drive how we implement the knowledge from our research activities to provide equitable access to evidence-informed clinical care and education; how we engage with our patients, students, families and the community to address needs; and how we support inclusivity in all aspects of our work.

Kennedy Krieger Institute Community Health Needs Assessment: Community Priorities

