Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center recently finalized its 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), which guides the hospital’s charitable giving for the following three years. The CHNA is developed through the input of a diverse array of community stakeholders, in addition to community health data, to prioritize the community health needs of the South Bay service area.

The final list of health needs derived through this process are:

- Access to Care
- Education/Employment
- Food Insecurity
- Housing/Homelessness
- Mental Health
- Structural Racism and Marginalization

The Kaiser Permanente CHNA process intentionally looks beyond traditional community health measures to capture the impact of the social determinants of health—the economic and social conditions that influence individual and group differences in health status.

“Education and employment have not always been thought of as drivers of community health—but the fact is that without a stable career path, or meaningful educational opportunities, it is very difficult to lead a lifestyle that supports your mental or physical well-being,” said Margie Harrier, RN, senior vice president and area manager at Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center. “Similarly, we’re increasingly aware of the myriad ways in which structural racism impacts the health of people of color, including their care experience. Unless we begin to identify these as needs that warrant resources, we’ll never be able to adequately address them and truly move the needle on community health.”

The full 2019 Kaiser Permanente South Bay CHNA, including a profile of each health need identified, can be found here. For more information about the process, and the medical center’s charitable activities, please contact Janae Oliver, Community Health Manager, at janae.asali.oliver@kp.org.