

Lincoln Parish Healthcare Study

Frequently Asked Questions

About the Study

What was the purpose of the study?

The purpose of the study was to objectively assess Lincoln Parish’s current healthcare system, identify needed improvements, and develop an initial estimate of what those improvements might cost. This study is the first step toward creating a long-term roadmap to ensure quality healthcare is available locally as Lincoln Parish continues to grow.

Who commissioned and funded the study?

The study was commissioned by the Lincoln Health Foundation, in partnership with the Lincoln Parish Police Jury and the City of Ruston. Funding came from all three entities as part of their shared commitment to proactive community planning.

Who conducted the study?

The study was conducted by Whitecap Health Advisors, an independent healthcare consulting firm that specializes in community-based healthcare planning and financial feasibility analysis.

How was the public involved?

Community input was a central part of the process. More than 2,000 residents completed surveys, and 36 local leaders—including healthcare professionals, educators, business owners, and civic leaders—participated in interviews and planning discussions.

Key Findings

What did the study find?

Lincoln Parish is experiencing strong population growth and economic development, but its healthcare infrastructure has not kept pace. The study found that the community could support expanded physician clinics, cancer care, and a hospital — but, long-term success will require outside capital investment and strong healthcare partnerships.

Why are patients leaving Lincoln Parish for care?

Nearly half of residents seeking inpatient care travel outside Lincoln Parish, often due to limited service offerings, facility age, and access to specialized care. Community feedback also indicated that some residents lack confidence in the consistency and availability of local services, leading them to seek care elsewhere. Rebuilding that confidence is a key long-term goal of the study.

Which healthcare services are most needed locally?

The highest-priority needs identified in the study include:

- Women’s health services
- Inpatient Services
- Cancer care

- General surgery
 - Neurosciences
 - Expanded primary care and physician access
-

Next Steps & Implementation

What happens next?

The Lincoln Health Foundation and its public partners will continue to further refine local healthcare priorities, evaluate potential partnership options, and explore sustainable funding strategies that help expand local access to basic care and support major healthcare facility improvements for the community. Public engagement and updates will continue throughout 2026.

Will there be new construction or a new hospital?

The study shows that a modern, full-service hospital could be feasible with the right partnerships and investment.

When will residents start to see changes?

Planning and partnership development will occur throughout 2026. Any major construction or service expansion would begin only after detailed feasibility, financing, and other requirements are completed.

Partnerships & Funding

What does “outside capital funding” mean?

Outside capital funding refers to a mix of private investment, healthcare system partnerships, federal and state funding, philanthropic support, and, in some cases, voter-approved public funding mechanisms. Many communities use a combination of these tools to support long-term healthcare access.

At this time, no tax measures or public funding proposals have been proposed. Any future consideration would be subject to public discussion and voter approval.

Will the parish partner with a specific healthcare system?

The study notes discussion with several regional healthcare systems, including Willis-Knighton, FMOL (St. Francis), and Allegiance Health. The next step is determining which potential partnership best meets community needs while preserving local priorities. The goal is to maintain adequate access to inpatient hospital services in a manner that supports the community's long-term needs.

Community Impact & Quality of Life

How does improving healthcare benefit the community overall?

Access to reliable local healthcare improves quality of life for residents, supports families, and strengthens the local workforce. When people can receive care close to home, they miss less work, spend less time traveling, and have greater confidence in staying and raising families in Lincoln Parish.

Strong healthcare access also supports local employers by helping attract and retain workers, which contributes to long-term economic stability for the entire community.

Community Engagement

How can residents stay informed or get involved?

Residents can stay informed by visiting www.lincolnhealth.com/study for updates, meeting schedules, and opportunities to provide feedback. Updates will also be shared through local media and social media channels.

Will there be more public meetings?

Periodic updates will be provided to the public, and planning and partnership development will continue throughout 2026. Community briefings and public forums may be held in the future,

Will this study actually lead to action?


Yes. The study was designed to be practical and actionable. The Lincoln Health Foundation and its partners are committed to using its findings to guide real improvements in local healthcare.

How will success be measured?

Success will be measured by improved access to care, reduced patient out-migration, expanded provider availability, securing funding to support major healthcare facility improvements, and the ability for Lincoln Parish families to receive quality care close to home.

For More Information

 **Website:** www.lincolnhealth.com

 **Contact:** Norman Hanes, President & CEO, 318.251.3226, ext. 100 nhanes@lincolnhealth.com