

New York State Department of Health

Health Equity Impact Assessment Template

Refer to the Instructions for Health Equity Impact Assessment Template for detailed instructions on each section.

SECTION A. SUMMARY

1. Title of project	Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program III (<i>Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital / St. Peter's Health Partners</i>) (<i>A member of Trinity Health</i>)
2. Name of Applicant	<i>Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital / St. Peter's Health Partners</i> (<i>A member of Trinity Health</i>)
3. Name of Independent Entity, including lead contact and full names of individual(s) conducting the HEIA	Research & Marketing Strategies, Inc. - <i>Mark Dengler, MPA – President</i> - <i>Susan Maxsween, MSHA – Chief Operating Officer (Sr. Vice President, Healthcare Operations and Consulting)</i> - <i>Patrick Fiorenza, MPA – Senior Director of Research Analytics</i> - <i>Molly Burke, MPH – Senior Research Analyst</i>
4. Description of the Independent Entity's qualifications	Research & Marketing Strategies, Inc. (RMS), the <i>Independent Entity</i> , is a professional market research firm located in Central New York and has been in business since 2002. RMS has a dedicated Healthcare Division with proven experience in guiding hospitals, health care systems, nursing homes, diagnostic and treatment centers – including ambulatory surgery centers – with strategic planning. The firm has assisted health departments in conducting Community Health Assessments (CHA) as well as partnered with hospitals in conducting Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) and preparing Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) to achieve established goals based upon identified priorities. The RMS team is experienced with profiling population demographics and looking at health care access and service delivery issues, including monitoring and addressing health equity issues among communities, with specific attention to focusing on antiracism in analysis and in providing recommendations throughout this report and all health care projects for which we engage with clients.
5. Date the Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) started	June 10, 2025 (06/10/2025)

6. Date the HEIA concluded	September 15, 2025 (09/15/2025)
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7. Executive summary of project (250 words max)
Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital (Sunnyview), a licensed Article 28 facility that is part of the St. Peter's Health Partners (SPHP) system, located in Schenectady, NY, requests approval to convert 10,700 square feet of the existing space at the hospital to create the Capital Region's first inpatient pediatric rehabilitation unit. This project addresses the unmet need for inpatient pediatric rehabilitation services in the Capital Region of New York State (NYS) by converting 7 beds of the 17-bed medical/surgical unit and part of the medical office building at Sunnyview into a 6-8 bed dedicated pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit. The current 17-bed medical/surgical rehabilitation unit at Sunnyview will be converted to a reduced 10-bed unit. The new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit will include single patient rooms (including one room which is anticipated to be double occupancy) with family and caregiver room-in capabilities, a 625 square-foot pediatric-specific gym with specialized pediatric equipment providing both inpatient and outpatient therapy, and facility upgrades to accommodate pediatric rehabilitation for patients ages 3 months to 17 years. The project will allow for a more seamless transition to outpatient care with a co-located inpatient-outpatient gym as well as outpatient facilities throughout the Capital Region. The designated pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit at Sunnyview will be rooted in the overarching goal of improving both the short- and long-term outcomes for patients and their families during a period that is often a very challenging time. A pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit would contribute to the overall improvement of health outcomes for children in the area.
8. Executive summary of HEIA findings (500 words max)
<i>Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital (Sunnyview) enlisted Research & Marketing Strategies, Inc. (RMS) to service as an Independent Entity to conduct the Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) - a key required component of Sunnyview's CON Project: Statewide Healthcare Facility Transformation Project III. Sunnyview is located in Schenectady, NY – a city with a population of 68,545 residents. Sunnyview's Service Area (SA) covers a vast region of 13 counties and 75 ZIP Codes primarily in the Capital Region of New York State (NYS); this SA represents the geographic region for 80% of patient discharges based upon Sunnyview's patient census for the last two years. RMS focused on detailing the impact on the medically underserved population within the vast SA.</i> <i>RMS analyzed secondary demographic data across the region as defined by the project's SA. Analysis was conducted surrounding key factors including age, gender, race/ethnicity, health insurance coverage, disability status, poverty level, number of households with SNAP benefits, household income, employment status, educational</i>

attainment, and vehicle ownership. Analysis shows that the service area has an older median age than that of NYS; the median age of the SA is 42.3 years-old compared to 40.2 years-old across NYS. Some ZIP Codes in the SA show above-average levels of poverty in the region (greater than the NYS average of 9.8%) with a lower median household income as well (\$63,323 for the SA compared to \$84,578 of NYS). The SA contains a primarily White, Non-Hispanic population with 19% of its residents over the age of 65 (197,964 residents), which is a slightly higher proportion than that of NYS (18.6%).

RMS conducted ten (10) In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) to gather primary qualitative data about low-income, racial, and ethnic minorities, and other medically underserved populations in the Applicant's SA. The IDIs were conducted with health care leaders and community members who spoke on behalf of the impacted community residents and the medically underserved populations.

Findings from the IDIs provided full support for the proposed initiative confirming that the new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit at Sunnyview will be an extremely valued and needed resource within the community and will meet the needs of the medically underserved populations within the SA. The inpatient unit will be accessed through the existing primary patient elevators from the hospital's first-floor main entrance, which will overall have a positive impact on health equity of the greater community.

As part of the HEIA work, specific to the mitigation plan, RMS has requested Sunnyview to detail the resulting impact(s) to service or care availability to people with limited English-speaking ability and people with speech, hearing, or visual impairments to foster effective communication. RMS also recommended that Sunnyview continue with its commitment to cultural sensitivity and diversity within the institution, with specific attention to providing care for the medically underserved populations and enhancing its communication regarding the new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit both internally and among referring providers as well as through the Hospital's website.

SECTION B: ASSESSMENT

For all questions in Section B, please include sources, data, and information referenced whenever possible. If the Independent Entity determines a question is not applicable to the project, write N/A and provide justification.

STEP 1 – SCOPING

1. Demographics of service area: Complete the “Scoping Table Sheets 1 and 2” in the document “HEIA Data Tables”. Refer to the Instructions for more guidance about what each Scoping Table Sheet requires.

For purposes of this HEIA Application, please refer to the Scoping Table Sheets 1 and 2 in the completed HEIA Data Table Excel document.

2. Medically underserved groups in the service area: Please select the medically underserved groups in the service area that will be impacted by the project:
 - ✓ Low-income people
 - ✓ Racial and ethnic minorities
 - ✓ Immigrants
 - ✓ Women
 - ✓ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or other-than-cisgender people
 - ✓ People with disabilities
 - ✓ Older adults
 - ✓ Persons living with a prevalent infectious disease or condition
 - ✓ Persons living in rural areas
 - ✓ People who are eligible for or receive public health benefits
 - ✓ People who do not have third-party health coverage or have inadequate third-party health coverage
 - ✓ Other people who are unable to obtain health care
 - Not listed (specify): There are no other populations that have been identified as being impacted by this project.

3. For each medically underserved group (identified above), what source of information was used to determine the group would be impacted? What information or data was difficult to access or compile for the completion of the Health Equity Impact Assessment?

In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) were conducted with ten (10) individuals – five (5) key organization leaders representing the greater Albany, NY health care community serving the needs of the medically underserved populations and five (5) community members from the Applicant's SA. The organization leaders interviewed included 3 individuals who were specialty providers connected with Albany Medical Center who regularly refer patients to services through Sunnyview. The 2 remaining organizational leaders are with Sunnyview. These key organizational leaders were asked if their organization serves medically underserved groups, and if yes, which of the above groups they serve. Community members interviewed were residents of the SA and were queried about the impact this proposed project would have on medically underserved groups within their community. When consolidated (in aggregate), the proposed allocation of the inpatient beds for pediatric rehabilitation care is projected to have a net positive impact on the medically underserved groups identified above in Question 2, indicating that service delivery for this global population will not be negatively impacted with the establishment of this new service line at Sunnyview.

4. How does the project impact the unique health needs or quality of life of each medically underserved group (identified above)?

Medically Underserved Group	Impact
• Low-income people • People who are eligible for or receive public health benefits • People who do not have third-party health coverage or have inadequate third-party health coverage	Sunnyview has no requirements for an individual to have health insurance, certain income levels, or eligibility for public benefits to receive care. Per the Applicant's website, "St. Peter's Health Partners is committed to minimizing financial barriers to health care."
• Racial and Ethnic minorities • Immigrants	The Applicant's service area is comprised of 20.9% racial and 6.7% ethnic minorities out of its total population. Sunnyview, as part of the St. Peter's Health Partners system, has a non-discrimination policy in place. For more information regarding this policy, visit the Applicant's website.
• Women • Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or other-than-cisgender people	Sunnyview serves all individuals regardless of gender. Cultural sensitivity training is provided at the time of hire and every year thereafter for staff to address the unique needs of this patient population. Note: Additional information regarding the Cultural Diversity training program can be provided upon request. Per the Applicant's website, St. Peter's Health Partners is committed to active, intentional, and ongoing engagement with diversity – in its facilities and within communities it serves. The Hospital's goal is to identify and eliminate inequities and injustices that plague all minorities.
• People with disabilities • Older adults	The Applicant's service area has 13.5% of its total population living with a disability. Regardless, this Applicant serves all individuals regardless of age and/or ability, and the new inpatient unit will be fully ADA-compliant, providing equitable comfort levels and accessibility to these medically underserved patient populations. Older adults will not be serviced by this new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit, but they will still be treated by the Applicant in other capacities as normal, including in the medical/surgical unit that will see a reduction in beds from 17 to 10. However,

Medically Underserved Group	Impact
	<i>over the past two fiscal years, Sunnyview's medical/surgical unit has maintained an average daily patient census of 9.9; therefore, older adults will not experience any negative impact to the delivery of health care services provided by the Applicant.</i>
<i>Persons living with a prevalent infectious disease or condition</i>	<i>Any persons living with prevalent infectious disease or condition are treated with the same standards of care across the organization.</i>
<i>Persons living in rural areas</i> <i>Other people who are unable to obtain health care</i>	<i>Improving the quality of care locally will help improve access to care for this population, who often do not have the resources to travel further distances (out of the area) for medical services such as those provided by Sunnyview and the newly planned pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit.</i>

5. To what extent do the medically underserved groups (identified above) currently use the service(s) or care impacted by or as a result of the project? To what extent are the medically underserved groups (identified above) expected to use the service(s) or care impacted by or as a result of the project?

Sunnyview, a licensed Article 28 facility, was founded as a hospital for children afflicted with polio. The Applicant has served as a beacon for hope for those living with disabilities and for those in need of rehabilitation following injury/disease since 1928. The hospital is the only stand-alone hospital in the Capital region devoted to helping people recover from traumatic injuries, illnesses, and major surgeries. The mission of the facility is to improve the lives of those living with disabilities and improve the lives of their family members/caregivers. In achieving its mission, Sunnyview has historically and currently provides services for those living with disabilities, including those in each of the medically underserved population groups, based upon the medical necessity for services. Sunnyview will maintain its preparedness to respond to the health needs of the patient population which it serves. As a result of the project, medically underserved populations are not expected to be impacted any more or less than they currently are. Sunnyview, in its' mission to serve as a beacon of hope for individuals living with disability and in need of rehabilitation following injury/disease since 1928, proactively responds to and prepares for usage among all medically underserved groups. The facility does not plan for expected usage of any/all of the designated medically underserved groups, but

more importantly, it provides an environment that allows for responsiveness to the needs of all individuals that are medically underserved and with disability. The detailed narrative in response to Section 1., Question 4 above details how the hospital is prepared for and responds to the needs of the medically underserved groups in which it is prepared to provide patient care. Similar to the rest of the community and patient populations within the Applicant's SA, all medically underserved populations will benefit from the new addition of the region's first pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit. Through a series of stakeholder meetings and visioning exercises (outside of the scope of this HEIA), a clear project mission was established and was used to guide the hospital through this overall project, "To support pediatric patients, and their caregivers, in the northeast region with holistic, family focused, acute rehabilitation services in a comfortable and flexible environment that is close to home." As a healthcare institution, [The President and CEO of Trinity Health](#) (American not-for-profit health system which operates 92 hospitals – including Sunnyview) shares that "Together, We Can Become Our Best Selves" and through this, the health system's "mission is to be a compassionate, transforming, and healing presence in the communities we serve, guides the framework of our diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic plan. The institution's pillars focus include diversity in governance, talent, creating a culture of inclusion and belonging, diversifying supply chain and health equity."

6. What is the availability of similar services or care at other facilities in or near the Applicant's service area?

Sunnyview provides acute inpatient rehabilitation services that are not available from other providers in the Capital Region/Adirondack region of NYS. For pediatric patients, Sunnyview offers limited inpatient rehabilitation service with no dedicated pediatric unit or team of pediatric-specific providers. The closest facility with pediatric inpatient rehabilitation service is Shriners Children's New England, located in Springfield, Massachusetts. The driving distance from Sunnyview to Shriners is 105 miles with travel time of approximately 1 hour 48 minutes¹. For those located in the northernmost part of Sunnyview's SA (northern Warren County), travel distance is 150 miles and times can exceed greater than 2 hours and 30 minutes. Patients and families residing in the northwesternmost region of Sunnyview's SA (western Oneida County) can travel greater than 200 miles and over 3 hours to reach Shriners.

The closest provider in NYS providing inpatient rehabilitation services to pediatric patients is Blythedale Children's Hospital located in Valhalla, Westchester County, NY. Blythedale is resourced with dedicated pediatric inpatient rehabilitation facilities and staff. The driving distance from Sunnyview to Blythedale is 145 miles with an associated travel time of approximately 2 hours

¹ Source: [Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital to Shriners Children's New England - Google Maps](#)

30 minutes. For patients in the northernmost region of Sunnyview's SA (north Warren County), travel from their residence to Blythedale can exceed 200 miles and can require more than 3 hours 30 minutes of travel time. Travel for patients and families in the northwesternmost part of Sunnyview's SA (western Oneida County) can exceed 230 miles and take over 3 hours to reach Blythedale.²

7. What are the historical and projected market shares of providers offering similar services or care in the Applicant's service area?

The project is not expected to have an impact on market share because of the expansion of pediatric beds project. The capacity and availability of inpatient pediatric rehabilitation services have remained consistent over the past few years.

Sunnyview has had a longstanding presence within the community, covering a vast 75 ZIP Codes representative of over 13 counties in the Upstate New York region. Sunnyview is the only stand-alone hospital in the region devoted to helping people recover from traumatic injuries, illnesses, and major surgeries. The facility has historically and continues to maintain a larger market share, being that there are no other facilities in the region offering similar services. Understanding that there is an identified gap in services in the area, there is evidence of a strong market demand to address the unmet needs of pediatric patients in the Greater Capital Region of NYS.

8. Summarize the performance of the Applicant in meeting its obligations, if any, under Public Health Law § 2807-k (General Hospital Indigent Care Pool) and federal regulations requiring the provision of uncompensated care, community services, and/or access by minorities and people with disabilities to programs receiving federal financial assistance. Will these obligations be affected by implementation of the project? If yes, please describe.

Implementation of this project will not affect stakeholder segments from receiving financial assistance. Per the Hospital's financial Assistance webpage, [Financial Assistance | St. Peter's Health Partners](#), Sunnyview Hospital (a member of Trinity Health) is committed to providing health care services to all patients based upon medical necessity. It is its mission to serve together as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within its communities. Provisions of uncompensated care, community services, and/or access by minorities and people with disabilities to programs receiving federal financial assistance will not change. The hospital is committed to minimizing the financial barriers to accessing medically necessary health care services for patients in its SA. The

² Source: [Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital to Blythedale Children's Hospital - Google Maps](#)

following is a breakdown of bad debt and charity care provided for fiscal years 2023-2024.

<i>Fiscal Year (FY)</i>	<i>Bad Debt and Charity Care provided</i>
<i>FY 2023</i>	<i>\$122,273</i>
<i>FY 2024</i>	<i>\$524,275</i>

The hospital remains committed to providing provision for uncompensated care, community service, and/or access by minorities and people with disabilities to programs receiving federal financial assistance will not change.

9. Are there any physician and professional staffing issues related to the project or any anticipated staffing issues that might result from implementation of project? If yes, please describe.

Staffing allocation for the inpatient portion of the pediatric unit will be an estimate of 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of each discipline (Physical Therapy (PT)/Occupational Therapy (OT) and Speech Language Pathologists (SLP)), in addition of up to 2 FTE in Therapy Aid Support. In addition, it is anticipated that there will be an addition of 8 FTE Registered Nurses (RN) and 2 FTE patient care technicians (PCTs). The project will see an add on of 1 FTE in Recreational Therapy as well.

For the Outpatient portion, the pediatric gym anticipates an addition of 1 FTE of each discipline (PT/OT/SLP) in addition of up to 1 FTE in Therapy aid support. This may be a gradual addition as Sunnyview will staff accordingly to inpatient volume. In addition, the pediatric inpatient unit will need to fall under a clinical manager. Accommodations will be made for allocation to a manager when the unit is open and underway.

Therapy and support staffing for the med/surg unit (decrease from 17 to 10 beds) will not change. Sunnyview administration will staff and flex staffing to volume on the unit as it is done currently.

The onboarding of new staff will include aged-based training according to the American Physical Therapy Association, American Occupational Therapy Association and American Speech and Hearing Association.

10. Are there any civil rights access complaints against the Applicant? If yes, please describe.

There are no civil rights access complaints against the Applicant.

11. Has the Applicant undertaken similar projects/work in the last five years? If yes, describe the outcomes and how medically underserved group(s) were impacted

as a result of the project. Explain why the applicant requires another investment in a similar project after recent investments in the past.

Pursuant to the Applicant's disclosure, they have not undertaken similar projects/work in the last five years.

STEP 2 – POTENTIAL IMPACTS

1. For each medically underserved group identified in Step 1 Question 2, describe how the project will:
 - a. Improve access to services and health care
 - b. Improve health equity
 - c. Reduce health disparities

Medically Underserved Group	A. Improve Access to Services and Health Care	B. Improve Health Equity	C. Reduce Health Disparities
• <i>Low-income people</i> • <i>People who are eligible for or receive public health benefits</i> • <i>People who do not have third-party health coverage or have inadequate third-party health coverage</i>	<i>Sunnyview provides services to everyone regardless of ability to pay. For these identified populations, access will be improved as the closest facility with pediatric inpatient rehabilitation services is located 105 miles in Springfield, Massachusetts (Shriners Children's New England). This facility is nearly a two-hour drive for families residing in the Applicant's service area, which is a significant barrier to health care services of this kind. During interviews, community stakeholders shared that traveling long distances was a significant strain on</i>	<i>There is anticipated improved health equity, as patients within this group are often restricted by their ability to travel. Creating the region's first pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit will help improve health equity for these lower socioeconomic subpopulations as it will limit the need to travel outside of their community for rehabilitative medicine services.</i>	<i>This project will continue to reduce health disparities for lower-income subpopulations as Sunnyview provides care regardless of ability to pay with no change to the current financial assistance programs in place at the Hospital and its outpatient facilities.</i>

Medically Underserved Group	A. Improve Access to Services and Health Care	B. Improve Health Equity	C. Reduce Health Disparities
	<i>their family while their children were being treated outside the service area, and they are grateful that Sunnyview is dedicating this new space for pediatric inpatient rehabilitation in their community.</i>		
<i>Racial and ethnic minorities</i> <i>Immigrants</i>	<i>Racial and ethnic minorities living in and around the greater Schenectady, NY community will benefit from improved access to services and health care. The project will be creating the region's first pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit. This new location will enable the Applicant to continue to provide high-quality patient medical services.</i>	<i>Sunnyview will continue its effort to enhance communication between patients and doctors, through translation services and interpreters as needed. In addition, with the creation of this new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit and therapeutic gym facility, improvements will also be made to the individual patient rooms in terms of medical staff technology and room layouts, which will create a comfortable environment for all patients.</i>	<i>By undergoing this capital construction project and creating the region's first pediatric inpatient/outpatient rehabilitation unit, racial and ethnic minorities will have access to improved facilities and will not require excess travel to obtain rehabilitative medicine services and care. In addition, the Applicant anticipates hiring 8 full-time nurses and 2 full-time patient care technicians with the creation of this new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit. These new staff members will receive pediatric training and education, such as advanced life support, crisis intervention, wound care, disease, and diagnosis specific training for pediatric patients. Upon hiring new staff, the Applicant has policies and</i>

Medically Underserved Group	A. Improve Access to Services and Health Care	B. Improve Health Equity	C. Reduce Health Disparities
			<i>procedures in place that all staff participate in trainings on diversity, equity, and inclusion or cultural procedures and protocols; as a result of this project, these policies and procedures will not change.</i>
• Women • Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or other-than-cisgender people	<i>It is not anticipated that there will be any negative impact on women or lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or other-than-cisgender people with regard to this project. For this population segment, they will benefit from improved access to health care through the modernized facilities and a new service line being established closer to home.</i>	<i>Infrastructural improvements and enhancements will provide improved health care through the use of modern amenities and privacy in the newly renovated pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit for all persons regardless of sexual orientation and/or gender identity.</i>	<i>Sunnyview will continue to host cultural diversity trainings which includes topics on sexual harassment awareness and LGBTQ+ awareness/sensitivity annually. Additionally, Sunnyview maintains a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion among its workforce, which supports and aligns with its commitment to serving this medically underserved population. The Applicant is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy work environment and welcoming and comfortable patient environment, as well.</i>
• People with disabilities • Older adults	<i>Of all the stakeholder groups, people with disabilities will be some of the major beneficiaries of this initiative. The newly renovated pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit and therapeutic gym facility will be</i>	<i>With the updated floor plan and functionality of the inpatient rooms and the additional therapeutic gym facility for pediatric patients, the Applicant will provide more equitable care to those with disabilities. This CON</i>	<i>With the creation of the region's first pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit and a new therapeutic gym, Sunnyview is improving the quality of care for individuals with disabilities as the new rooms and gymnasium</i>

Medically Underserved Group	A. Improve Access to Services and Health Care	B. Improve Health Equity	C. Reduce Health Disparities
	<i>ADA-compliant and provide this medically underserved population features that will improve access and equity for those children living with a disability or those who have difficulties with activities of daily life as a result of illness or injury. The new inpatient rooms will include a private, ADA-compliant restroom as well as improved accessibility throughout the floor plan of the new facility. This CON initiative will help improve accessibility for this patient population and make it easier for individuals with mobility issues to move throughout the Applicant's facility overall.</i> <i>There are no anticipated changes to access of services and health care for older adults as a result of this capital construction project as Sunnyview's medical/surgical unit will remain in full service during and after construction of the new pediatric</i>	<i>project will improve health equity for persons with disabilities by enabling the Applicant to continue to provide high-quality, accessible health care close to home.</i> <i>There are no anticipated changes to health equity for older adults as a result of this capital construction project as Sunnyview's medical/surgical unit will remain in full service during and after construction of the new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit is complete.</i>	<i>will be fully ADA-compliant. In addition, the Applicant is well-versed in caring for those with disabilities as the hospital was founded in 1928 with a mission "to improve the lives of those living with disabilities." In accordance with that continued mission, the Applicant will continue to provide training to staff on working with individuals with disabilities and providing specialized care for those individuals and reducing health disparities that this population often faces due to their age and/or ability level.</i> <i>There are no anticipated changes to health disparities for older adults as a result of this capital construction project as Sunnyview's medical/surgical unit will remain in full service during and after construction of the new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit is complete.</i>

Medically Underserved Group	A. Improve Access to Services and Health Care	B. Improve Health Equity	C. Reduce Health Disparities
	<i>inpatient rehabilitation unit is complete.</i>		
• <i>Persons living in rural areas</i> • <i>Other people who are unable to obtain health care</i>	<i>Those living in rural communities within the service area will now have access to pediatric inpatient rehabilitation medicine and will limit their need to travel outside the area for such care. This capital construction project initiative will improve access to high quality inpatient care for this identified population.</i>	<i>Health equity for these identified medically underserved populations will be improved upon completion of this project as these population segments will now have access to pediatric inpatient rehabilitation medicine. The new unit will limit the burden of traveling for such health care needs for this population.</i>	<i>Sunnyview's service area is comprised of primarily urban and suburban areas, however, 19% of the service area's housing units are in a census-defined rural area confirming the facility's importance as part of a rural health care delivery network. The new facilities from the added service line will allow for better accommodations to care for rural populations.</i>
<i>Persons living with a prevalent infectious disease or condition</i>	<i>There will be no anticipated changes to access to services and health care for this identified population. Sunnyview already provides accessible health care services for these identified medically underserved populations.</i>	<i>There will be no change to health equity as Sunnyview already provides equitable health care services to these identified medically underserved populations.</i>	<i>Sunnyview continues to strive to reduce health disparities faced by all segments of the populations they serve.</i>

2. For each medically underserved group identified in Step 1 Question 2, describe any unintended positive and/or negative impacts to health equity that might occur as a result of the project.

The data collected in this research suggests net neutral impacts to health equity overall as a result of the development of the Applicant's more robust pediatric rehabilitation program. The mission of the project is to support pediatric patients, and their caregivers, in the northeast region with holistic, family-focused, acute rehabilitation services in a comfortable and flexible environment that is close to home. There are no negative impacts anticipated as a result of this project for

any of the medically underserved groups identified. However, the project will not fix existing equity issues or challenges these populations face in obtaining health care. This project will improve the quality of care provided locally to all pediatric patients who require intensive inpatient rehabilitation services at Sunnyview.

Given the nature of this project, the unintended positive impacts are similar for all medically underserved groups identified. The project is an expansion of inpatient pediatric rehabilitation services. The project is focused on enhancing pediatric inpatient rehabilitation services; however, some potential benefits may occur (outlined in the chart below).

Medically Underserved Group	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Low-income people	- The newly renovated, dedicated inpatient unit for pediatric patients will provide improvements to the physical infrastructure of the current medical/surgical unit and medical office building, which will enable the Applicant to continue to provide high-quality rehabilitation medicine services to the community it serves. This further demonstrates that Sunnyview is committed to providing quality health care services for years to come as it makes this capital investment to upgrade its facilities and expand its health care services. - This will be the region's first of its kind inpatient rehabilitation unit specifically for pediatric patients age 3 months through 17 years old. As a result of this CON initiative, pediatric patients in need of inpatient rehabilitation medicine will no longer need to travel upwards of three hours or out of state to receive this type of care. - The Applicant is implementing mitigation strategies regarding language access and caring for those who present with hearing, vision, and speech impairments.	Primary and secondary research and analysis did not reveal any negative unintended consequences to health equity as a result of this project.
Racial and ethnic minorities		
Immigrants		
Women		
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or other-than-cisgender people		
People with disabilities		
Older adults		

Medically Underserved Group	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<i>Persons living with a prevalent infectious disease or condition</i>	<i>The Applicant is committed to continue to provide necessary medical care to those in need regardless of ability to pay or health insurance coverage status. This policy will be upheld with the new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit as well.</i> <i>In addition to the new 7-bed pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit being built, this project involves the construction of a 625-square-foot indoor gym space for rehabilitation and therapy that will serve dually for both inpatient and outpatient needs further enhancing the quality and accessibility of local health care services.</i> <i>Sunnyview anticipates hiring 8 full-time nurses and 2 full-time patient care technicians (PCTs) with the creation of this new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit. These new staff members as well as current staff will receive pediatric training and education, such as advanced life support, crisis intervention, wound care, disease, and diagnosis specific training for pediatric patients. This will enable the community members currently employed by the Applicant as well as new hires to make a positive impact on their local healthcare delivery system while allowing the opportunity for additional staff to be added.</i>	
<i>Persons living in rural areas</i>		
<i>People who are eligible for or receive public health benefits</i>		
<i>People who do not have third-party health coverage or have inadequate third-party health coverage</i>		
<i>Other people who are unable to obtain health care</i>		

3. How will the amount of indigent care, both free and below cost, change (if at all) if the project is implemented? Include the current amount of indigent care, both free and below cost, provided by the Applicant.

It is not anticipated that the amount of indigent care, both free and below cost, will change with this project.

4. Describe the access by public or private transportation, including Applicant-sponsored transportation services, to the Applicant's service(s) or care if the project is implemented.

Sunnyview is conveniently located for access by public or private transportation, as detailed below:

- **Public Transportation:** Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA), [Homepage | www.cdfa.org](http://www.cdfa.org), provides bus services to Sunnyview.
 - Bus routes include (354, 370, 352 and 351: [Schenectady | www.cdfa.org](http://www.cdfa.org))
 - **Lyft Services in Schenectady, NY:** [Albany - Lyft](#)
 - Service hours of operation are based upon availability of drivers – website does not state specific hours of operation.
 - **Uber Services in Schenectady, NY:** [Uber in Schenectady | A Guide to Getting Around in Schenectady, NY](#)
 - Service hours of operation are based upon availability of drivers – website does not state specific hours of operation.
 - **Taxi Cabs in Schenectady, NY:** [Schenectady Taxis Near Me & Yellow Cabs | Request Rides 24/7](#)
 - Service hours of operation are based upon availability of drivers – website does not state specific hours of operation.
5. Describe the extent to which implementation of the project will reduce architectural barriers for people with mobility impairments.

Sunnyview offers a comprehensive continuum of care to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve their highest level of independent functioning. The Applicant is dedicated to rehabilitation and accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Rehabilitation Programs with Specialty Accreditation for Brain Injury, Amputation, and Stroke. Given the commitment of the hospital to provide extensive services for individuals with disabilities, the hospital is keenly aware of the focus to eliminate any architectural barriers for people with mobility impairments. Sunnyview recognizes that families, caregivers, and the broader community play important roles in a child's recovery. As part of this plan, the hospital will provide smart technology resources to enhance therapy, keep children connected to their social support network, and facilitate continued participation in school and community activities. In addition, with Sunnyview's existing outpatient network and case management services, the hospital will be better able to manage continuity of care upon discharge.

The design of the remodeled 10,700 square-foot floor plan will allow dedicated Sunnyview staff to further serve children in the local communities with exceptional care. The remodeled unit will provide opportunity for a family member/caregiver to stay (or room-in) with the child to support them in their recovery providing psychosocial benefits, improving both children's and caregiver's quality of life, and strengthening caregivers' coping capabilities.

The renovated floor plan will include an aesthetically pleasing environment, including:

- *6-8 inpatient beds (4,400 sq ft. in total) – with new cribs in each room*
 - *5 single occupancy, 1 double occupancy – allowing for family members to room-in with patients*
 - *Rooms will include toilets/showers, and rooms will be capable for virtual learning*
 - *Updated floor plan will allow for improved, more efficient workflow and care delivery*
- *Inpatient/outpatient therapy gym (625 sq ft.) – with new rehabilitation equipment*
 - *Will contain tub/shower, toilet, nurse workstations, one way glass for parents to observe child(ren) when in the gym, specialized flooring to support play therapy*
- *Spacious waiting room*
- *Treatment rooms*

Services & capabilities will include:

- *High touch/high technology pediatric-specific therapy services*
- *Telemetry*
- *Vent Management*
- *Inpatient/Outpatient Pain management*
- *Pediatric Security system*

6. Describe how implementation of the project will impact the facility's delivery of maternal health care services and comprehensive reproductive health care services, as that term is used in Public Health Law § 2599-aa, including contraception, sterility procedures, and abortion. How will the project impact on the availability and provision of reproductive and maternal health care services in the service area? How will the Applicant mitigate any potential disruptions in service availability?

Comprehensive reproductive health care services are not applicable to pediatric inpatient services for individuals with disabilities.

Meaningful Engagement

7. List the local health department(s) located within the service area that will be impacted by the project.

Schenectady Department of Health

8. Did the local health department(s) provide information for, or partner with, the Independent Entity for the HEIA of this project?

Schenectady Department of Health was not engaged with the Independent Entity for the HEIA of this project.

9. Meaningful engagement of stakeholders: Complete the “Meaningful Engagement” table in the document titled “HEIA Data Table.” Refer to the Instructions for more guidance.

Refer to the completed Meaningful Engagement table for insights from key stakeholders/community members.

10. Based on your findings and expertise, which stakeholders are most affected by the project? Has any group(s) representing these stakeholders expressed concern the project or offered relevant input?

All key stakeholders identified will be directly impacted by this project as they all identified themselves as being affiliated with Sunnyview either as a partnering health care provider, referring organization or as a community member having had utilized the highly specialized services as a parent of a child.

All stakeholders verbalized and demonstrated resounding support for the expansion of the pediatric inpatient unit. Many stakeholders noted that all types of insurance should be accepted, especially Medicaid, and it was suggested that Sunnyview continue to build upon the collaborative referral system with other area hospital systems to ensure seamless, high-quality patient-centered care delivery.

11. How has the Independent Entity’s engagement of community members informed the Health Equity Impact Assessment about who will benefit as well as who will be burdened from the project?

Stakeholders and community members alike were directly contacted to participate in the assessment by the Independent Entity. Sunnyview also supported the initiative of the Independent Entity to further inform the key stakeholders by sending detailed information explaining the project via email and phone as needed.

12. Did any relevant stakeholders, especially those considered medically underserved, not participate in the meaningful engagement portion of the Health Equity Impact Assessment? If so, list.

All stakeholders, including community members who were contacted regarding this project, willingly participated in the meaningful engagement activities with overwhelming support. Collectively, the 10 stakeholders interviewed represented the needs of the medically underserved populations from a professional perspective (Albany Medical Center; La Torre Orthopedic Laboratory; Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital or of those directly providing care to patients

representative of the medically underserved populations. For this HEIA project, many of the stakeholders provided statements in support of the hospital transformation. Additionally, all stakeholders identified by the Applicant participated in the In-Depth Interviews and were unanimously supportive of the project, as indicated on the Meaningful Use tab of the Sunnyview final HEIA Data Table. Additionally, three of the stakeholders provided a formal statement, and all others, while not providing a statement, were supportive. The Meaningful Use Tab (Column K and L) provides supportive narrative relative to the Applicant's project.

All information can be found on the Meaningful Use tab of the Sunnyview Final Data Table.

STEP 3 – MITIGATION

1. If the project is implemented, how does the Applicant plan to foster effective communication about the resulting impact(s) to service or care availability to the following:
 - a. People of limited English-speaking ability
 - *Sunnyview provides Auxiliary Aids³ to provide individuals with disabilities with equal access and opportunities to participate fully and equally in their health care and daily life. Appropriate Auxiliary Aids and services provide information in accessible formats free of charge. This service is provided for patients in 16 different languages.*
 - *Sunnyview employs the use of various tools to foster and facilitate effective communication, including: (1) iPads on each unit for language access use, including American Sign Language (ASL), (2) pocket talkers for hearing impaired, and (3) for those with both a hearing and visual impairment, tactile interpreters are utilized. The hospital also has communication picture boards with Braille for speech impairment/ventilated patients. Additionally, there is a speech and hearing department onsite at Sunnyview that staff can collaborate with for unique needs of patients and consults with its language access team throughout the SPHP system for assistance with information or questions that Sunnyview providers and staff may have.*
 - *Staff are trained on the use of said tools and resources at the time of new hire onboarding and annually thereafter.*
 - *The Applicant's Social Work department reviews the Auxiliary Aids resource information in new colleague orientation. Additionally, the*

³ Source: [Sunnyview - Notice of Availability of Language Assistance Services | St. Peter's Health Partners](#)

resource platform is reviewed annually as part of the HealthStream online learning “SPHP Annual Update” and as a stand-alone learning “SPHP Communication Access.”

- Each inpatient unit maintains a binder with the process of how to use the available devices for language access.
 - Sunnyview partners with [Empire State English](#) to provide opportunities for adult patients/family members that are seeking to master English as a Second Language.
 - As it pertains to promoting the impending creation of the region’s first pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit and comprehensive inpatient/outpatient pediatric therapy gym program, Sunnyview will partner with the local Hispanic Radio Station [98.3FM El Zorro Radio Latino](#) by sending press releases about the expansion that can be shared with the Spanish speaking community members in the SA. In review of American Community 2023 Census data, in aggregate, over 30,000 residents speak Spanish (approximately 3.1% of the total population).
- b. People with speech, hearing, or visual impairments
- When there is evidence of communication barriers, Sunnyview partners with [Hearing Loss Association of America NY State Association – Albany Chapter](#) to provide assistance for patients that may have hearing impairment.
 - When there is evidence of blindness or visually impaired patients, Sunnyview utilizes a local firm, [Northeastern Association of the Blind](#).
 - Sunnyview has an established partnership with the [Capital Region Chamber of Commerce](#) who provides sign language interpreters for events.
 - Sunnyview employs the use of various tools to foster and facilitate effective communication, including: (1) iPads on each unit for language access use, including American Sign Language (ASL), (2) pocket talkers for hearing impaired, and (3) for those with both a hearing and visual impairment, tactile interpreters are utilized. The hospital also has communication picture boards with Braille for speech impairment/ventilated patients. Additionally, there is a speech and hearing department onsite at Sunnyview that staff can collaborate with for unique needs of patients and consults with its language access team throughout the SPHP system for assistance with information or questions that Sunnyview providers and staff may have.
 - Staff are trained on the use of said tools and resources at the time of new hire onboarding and annually thereafter.

- c. If the Applicant does not have plans to foster effective communication, what does the Independent Entity advise?

Overall, Sunnyview has an inclusive plan for the launch and execution of the pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit project. Following is demonstration of well-established communication platforms for sharing progress with the project.

- Sunnyview is part of a larger health system, St. Peter's Health Partners (SPHP), and has a thorough plan to foster effective communication and regularly revisits opportunities to strengthen communication.*
- Sunnyview staff continue to use well-established and available resources, which are provided to and promoted by the Applicant's leadership team and will seek to offer advanced staff training when added resources and/or platforms are identified.*
- Sunnyview has a communication plan for staff, community members, and providers alike to gain access/understanding of the pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit project. The hospital maintains a system-wide internal company newsletter, New York Beat, which is distributed to all Trinity Health New York colleagues in both Central New York and the Capital Region. This newsletter will be used to communicate progress with the project. Staff awareness and support of the project initiative will be essential to overall success.*
- Sunnyview has a communication plan for community members and partnering organizations alike to gain access/understanding of the impending renovation and expansion of pediatric inpatient and outpatient services.*

2. What specific changes are suggested so the project better meets the needs of each medically underserved group (identified above)?

As the independent Entity, RMS suggests that Sunnyview add language to the Hospital's website that speaks to the impending development of a robust pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit with an inpatient/outpatient pediatric therapy gym facility. We also suggest information be shared about the impending (enhanced) integrated collaboration with Albany Medical Center to build community awareness of the potential for increased pediatric referrals to Sunnyview. Information about this exciting transformation should also be provided in different languages to respond to the culturally rich Capital Region. We also recommend that any communication prepared be written at maximum 8th grade reading level to ensure accessibility and comprehension for a broad range of audiences. Simplified language will be instrumental for effective

communication and understanding of this vital information. The Applicant's communication team should also consider effective communication approaches for non-English speaking patients as well as those with speech, hearing, and visual impairments. If Sunnyview plans to use video messaging for the website, consideration should be made to have ASL for viewers with limited speech and hearing impairments.

RMS acknowledges that Sunnyview has maintained a [commitment to cultural competency, diversity and inclusion](#) and applaud the rigorous and robust efforts to welcome and invite diversity through racial and social justice, inclusion, and belonging and equitable practices. Building on this mission and leading with compassion will position Sunnyview to continue to succeed with its plan to develop a more robust pediatric rehabilitation service line.

3. How can the Applicant engage and consult impacted stakeholders on forthcoming changes to the project?

Each of the stakeholders interviewed for this assessment demonstrated resounding support for this project in order to create the region's first pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit by expanding and updating its facilities in order to provide improved access to high-quality patient-centered care locally. Should the Applicant need to further engage and consult with these key stakeholders, it is recommended that additional interviews and dialogue be conducted. All of the stakeholders interviewed by RMS agreed to continue to provide input/feedback. They can be reached via email or phone for further information. Several, in fact, indicated that Sunnyview is a key community partner that they often refer their constituents to for health care services if/when needed.

4. How does the project address systemic barriers to equitable access to services or care? If it does not, how can the project be modified?

In general, project execution will not have any impact on systemic barriers to equitable access to services or care. The remodeled floor plan within the hospital will provide an enhanced ADA-compliant floor plan with ease in access with a focus on safety. Additionally, it is the mission of Sunnyview as a 115-bed Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) specializing in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R), to focus quality care delivery on individuals with disabilities to achieve their highest level of independent functioning in the home, community, academic, and employment settings. Therefore, the broader continuum of care will help mitigate systemic barriers to equitable access to services or care as part of the organization's overall mission.

STEP 4 – MONITORING

1. What are existing mechanisms and measures the Applicant already has in place that can be leveraged to monitor the potential impacts of the project?

Sunnyview has existing mechanisms in place to measure and monitor the impacts of the project including: (1) Daily patient census, (2) Diagnosis data, (3) Demographic data for patient mix, (4) Payor source for patient mix, (5) Supporting staff training, including support for inclusion and diversity, (6) Evidence of Clinician Excellence in treating and managing complex conditions, (7) Monitoring clinical outcomes/national benchmarks in key areas, and (8) Anecdotal feedback from administrative staff, clinical staff, referring/partnering physicians and community members who have had a clinical or familial engagement with Sunnyview.

The Applicant regularly monitors utilization data to assess the average daily census to identify and respond to key trends. The Hospital also regularly monitors payor data to determine the payor mix of patients.

Demographic data for the project's service area is used to better understand the unique demographic mix of the patient population mix.

2. What new mechanisms or measures can be created or put in place by the Applicant to ensure that the Applicant addresses the findings of the HEIA?

It is the intention that the development of a more robust pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit with a dual inpatient-outpatient pediatric therapy gym will provide an updated and modernized facility that is able to adhere to ADA-compliant standards as well as to provide a structure that affords a more secure environment for staff and patients alike, and most importantly improved outcomes for pediatric patients. The modernization of the facility will enhance the patients' experience of care while also prioritizing patient and staff safety and operational efficiencies.

As a highly specialized acute inpatient rehabilitation hospital, the creation of the region's first pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit will enable Sunnyview to build upon its robust continuum of care for high-risk complex medical and rehabilitation cases and continue to achieve maximal health outcomes for patients.

With this CON application and HEIA, Sunnyview will be positioned to mitigate architectural and systematic barriers to care for patients needing highly specialized inpatient care.

STEP 5 – DISSEMINATION

The Applicant is required to publicly post the CON application and the HEIA on its website within one week of acknowledgement by the Department. The Department will also publicly post the CON application and the HEIA through NYSE-CON within one week of the filing.

OPTIONAL: Is there anything else you would like to add about the health equity impact of this project that is not found in the above answers? (250 words max)

The project will address the unmet need of inpatient patient pediatric rehabilitation services in the Capital Region, which historically has limited access that has disproportionately left minority and impoverished children behind. Children from the Capital Region will no longer need to be referred to facilities that are hours away or diverted to less skilled facilities that provide a lower level of care – both of which jeopardize a child's ability to maximize their health outcomes and are costly to the family and system.

Additionally, the robust outpatient services are essential complements to the critical inpatient rehabilitation that will be provided in the Capital Region. With this project, Sunnyview can ensure comprehensive rehabilitation of patients of all ages allowing for a more seamless transition to outpatient care with a co-located inpatient-outpatient gym as well as outpatient facilities throughout the Capital Region. This will also be attributable to reduced readmissions and long-term avoidable complications.

The Applicant will partner with Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) including the facilities existing ACO, Innovative Health Alliance of New York, to ensure that all alternative payment models will cover the lives of those under the age of 18 and demonstrate the need for pediatric acute rehabilitation stays be evaluated for appropriateness. The linkages to ACOs will ensure attributed lives would be screened for social influences of health, case management, social work services as well as post-acute care, providing seamless, integrated care to lower the overall cost of care while improving pediatric patients' quality of lives and health outcomes.

----- SECTION BELOW TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT -----

SECTION C. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND MITIGATION PLAN

Acknowledgment by the Applicant that the Health Equity Impact Assessment was reviewed by the facility leadership before submission to the Department. This section is to be completed by the Applicant, not the Independent Entity.

I. Acknowledgement

I, (APPLICANT), attest that I have reviewed the Health Equity Impact Assessment for the (PROJECT TITLE) that has been prepared by the Independent Entity, (NAME OF INDEPENDENT ENTITY).

CHRISTOPHER JORDAN

Name

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, HOSPITAL OPERATIONS

Title



Signature

11/3/2025

Date

II. Mitigation Plan

If the project is approved, how has or will the Applicant mitigate any potential negative impacts to medically underserved groups identified in the Health Equity Impact Assessment? (1000 words max)

Please note: this narrative must be made available to the public and posted conspicuously on the Applicant's website until a decision on the application has been made.

Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital is committed to ensuring that the implementation of the new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit will not negatively impact medically underserved groups. Drawing on the findings from Step 2 – Potential Impacts, the

following mitigation strategies are in place to address potential barriers and maximize positive outcomes for all identified populations:

Low-Income Individuals, Public Health Benefit Recipients, and the Uninsured

- ***Access to Care:*** Sunnyview provides services regardless of ability to pay, with robust financial assistance programs. The new pediatric unit will reduce the need for families to travel long distances (previously up to 105 miles or more) for specialized care, directly addressing a major barrier identified by community stakeholders
- ***Mitigation:*** Continued commitment to financial assistance ensures that Sunnyview will work with parents of children who are unable to pay in order to identify a viable payment strategy for their care. Outreach and communication about these programs will be enhanced to ensure awareness among vulnerable families.

Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Immigrants

- ***Access and Equity:*** The new unit will improve access to high-quality, local pediatric rehabilitation for minority and ethnically underrepresented populations. Sunnyview's ongoing use of translation services, interpreters, and culturally competent care will be maintained and expanded as needed.
- ***Mitigation:*** Staff will continue to receive annual training in diversity, equity, and inclusion. Communication materials about the new unit will be made available in multiple languages and at an accessible reading level to ensure all families understand the services offered.

Women, LGBTQ+ Individuals

- ***Access and Inclusion:*** The project will not negatively impact women or LGBTQ+ individuals. All will benefit from modernized, private facilities and a welcoming, inclusive environment.
- ***Mitigation:*** Ongoing cultural diversity and sensitivity training will continue, with a focus on sexual harassment and LGBTQ+ awareness. Policies supporting diversity and inclusion will be reinforced.

People with Disabilities, Older Adults

- ***Accessibility:*** The new pediatric unit and gym will be fully ADA-compliant, featuring private restrooms, accessible layouts, and specialized equipment. While the focus is pediatric care, older adults will continue to receive services in the existing medical/surgical unit, which remains fully operational.

- **Mitigation:** Facility design eliminates architectural barriers, and staff will receive specialized training to support children with disabilities. Smart technology and family room-in options will further support accessibility and quality of care.

Rural Residents and Those Unable to Obtain Care

- **Improved Local Access:** By establishing the region's first pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit, Sunnyview will significantly reduce the travel burden for rural families, improving access to essential care.
- **Mitigation:** Outreach efforts will target rural communities to ensure awareness of the new services. Transportation options, including public transit and ride-sharing, will be promoted.

Persons Living with Infectious Diseases

- **Equitable Care:** No changes are anticipated in access or quality of care for this group. Sunnyview will continue to provide equitable, high-quality services to all patients.

General Mitigation Strategies

- **Communication:** Sunnyview employs a comprehensive communication plan, including multilingual materials, accessible formats, and partnerships with local organizations (e.g., Empire State English, Hispanic radio stations) to reach diverse populations. Staff are trained in the use of communication aids for those with speech, hearing, or visual impairments.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Ongoing dialogue with community stakeholders will be maintained to gather feedback and address emerging concerns. All stakeholders interviewed expressed strong support for the project and willingness to remain engaged.
- **Monitoring and Adaptation:** Sunnyview will leverage existing mechanisms (patient census, demographic data, payor mix, staff training, and clinical outcomes) to monitor the impact of the project. Adjustments will be made as needed to address any unforeseen barriers or disparities.

Addressing Systemic Barriers

- **Facility Design:** The remodeled unit will feature an ADA-compliant floor plan, family room-in options, and smart technology to support recovery and social connection.
- **Continuum of Care:** Integration with outpatient services and case management will ensure seamless transitions and continuity of care, further mitigating systemic barriers to access.

Continuous Improvement

- **Recommendations:** Sunnyview will update its website with information about the new unit in multiple languages and at an accessible reading level. Collaboration with Albany Medical Center and other partners will be enhanced to increase referrals and community awareness. Communication strategies will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure effectiveness for all populations.

In summary, Sunnyview's mitigation plan is comprehensive, proactive, and grounded in the needs and feedback of the community. The hospital's longstanding commitment to health equity, accessibility, and culturally competent care will be maintained and strengthened as the new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit is implemented. Ongoing monitoring and stakeholder engagement will ensure that any potential negative impacts are promptly identified and addressed, and that all medically underserved groups benefit from this important expansion of services.