



# Critical Access Hospital Profile

## Spotlight on: Williston, North Dakota

# CHI St Alexius Health Williston Medical Center

### Quick Facts

**Administrator:**

Dan Bjerknes

**Chief of Medical Staff:**

Sheila Ponzio, MD

**City Population:**

23,902 (2016 Estimate)<sup>1</sup>

**County Population:**

31,643 (2016 Estimate)<sup>1</sup>

**County Median Household Income:**

\$ 90,080 (2016 Estimate)<sup>1</sup>

**County Median Age:**

32.0 (2016 Estimate)<sup>1</sup>

**Service Area Population:**

50,000

**Owned by:** Catholic Health Initiatives (Non-profit)

**Hospital Beds:** 25

**Trauma Level:** IV

**Critical Access Hospital Designation:**

**Economic Impact on the Community\***

**Employment:**

Primary Impact— 490

Secondary Impact—152

Total Impact – 642

**Financial Impact:**

Primary – \$43.7 Million

Secondary – \$9 Million

Total - \$52.7 Million

### Mission

The Mission of Catholic Health Initiatives is to nurture the healing ministry of the Church, supported by education and research. Fidelity to the Gospel urges us to emphasize human dignity and social justice as we create healthier communities.

**County:** Williams

**Address:** 1301 15th Avenue West Williston, ND 58801

**Phone:** (701) 774-7400

**Toll Free:** (800) 544-3579

**Web:** <https://www.chistalexiushealth.org/williston>

### Vision

Our Vision is to live up to our name as one CHI:

- Catholic - Living our Mission and Core Values.
- Health - Improving the health of the people and communities we serve.
- Initiatives - Pioneering models and systems of care to enhance care delivery.

### Core Values

- Reverence: Profound respect and awe for all of creation, the foundation that shapes spirituality, our relationships with others and our journey to God.
- Integrity: Moral wholeness, soundness, fidelity, trust, truthfulness in all we do.
- Compassion: Solidarity with one another, capacity to enter into another’s joy and sorrow.
- Excellence: Preeminent performance, becoming the benchmark, putting forth our personal and professional best.

### Services

- Acne treatment
- Allergy, flu & pneumonia shots
- Anesthesiology
- Blood pressure checks
- Cancer treatment
- Cardiology
- Cardiac rehab
- Clinic
- Emergency room
- Gynecology
- Hemodialysis
- Home health/hospice
- Hospital (acute care)
- Interventional Pain management
- Midwifery
- Mole/wart/skin lesion removal
- Nutrition counseling
- Obstetrics
- Oncology (visiting specialist)
- Orthopedics
- Otolaryngology—ENT
- Nephrology (visiting specialist)
- Neurology
- Pediatrics
- Pharmacy
- Podiatry
- Plastic surgery
- Prenatal care
- Physicals: annuals, D.O.T., sports & insurance
- Pulmonary Rehab
- Sports medicine
- Surgical services—biopsies, inpatient, outpatient
- Urology
- Screening/Therapy Services
- Radiology Services
- Laboratory Services
- 

*\*Economic Impact prepared by National Center for Rural Health Works. Oklahoma State University, August 2016*

## Staffing

Physicians: ..... 29  
Nurse Practitioners: ..... 11  
Physician Assistants: ..... 3  
RNs: ..... 118  
LPNs: ..... 25  
Total Employees: ..... 439

## Local Sponsors and Grant Funding Sources

- Center for Rural Health - SHIP Grant (Small Hospital Improvement Program)
- American Heart Association Stroke Grant
- North Dakota State Stroke Registry Grant
- North Dakota Critical Access Hospital 1358 Grant

## Sources

<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau: American Factfinder; Community Facts

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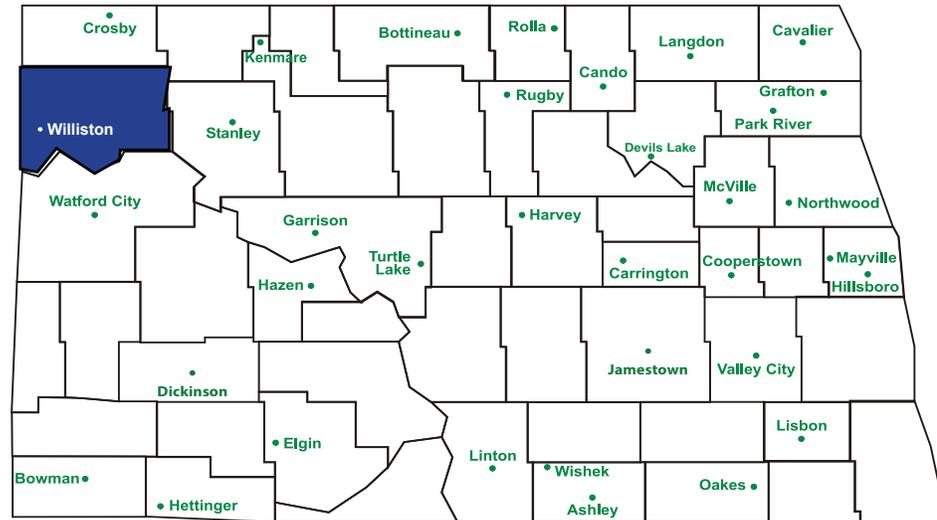


Center for Rural Health  
University of North Dakota  
School of Medicine & Health Sciences

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[ruralhealth.und.edu](http://ruralhealth.und.edu)

## North Dakota Critical Access Hospitals



## History

The 1918 Flu Pandemic overwhelmed local health care resources and underscored the need for a community hospital. Dr. E.J. Hagan, Sr. and Fr. E.P. O’Neil, pastor of St. Joseph’s Church, and Mr. W.S. Davidson, Sr., a local banker were already dreaming and praying about creating a hospital with dedicated staff and consistent services. By 1920, they had persuaded many of Williston’s citizens of this need. Part of their plan included bringing the Sisters of Mercy to Williston to manage and staff the hospital.

The Sisters of Mercy agreed to the plan and four of their number travelled from Devils Lake to organize the ministry in Williston. On September 12, 1920, four Sisters of Mercy: Sr. Mary Camillus O’Brien (the Superior), and Sisters Mary Matilda Lansing, Patricia Gorman, and Aloysius Fitzpatrick arrived by train to start their new adventure. The community secured the La Due Court apartment building recently completed in 1917. The Sisters assumed the remainder of the debt and remodeled the building to make it practical as a hospital. The sisters purchased equipment, added an elevator, quickly allowing the twenty bed Mercy Hospital to open on October 16, 1920!

By 1923, a formal Nursing School began; and in 1929, a wing was added to the hospital, which provided an additional thirty beds. In 1953, a four story modern building was adjoined to the existing structure to stretch the overworked hospital’s capacity to 86 beds.

The ministry matured and grew at the original downtown location until 1973. By that time, Williston was again at a crossroads, needing more hospital capacity, more technology, more staff, and in general one new modern hospital.

The present facility opened in 1974 and by 1985, with subsequent renovations and additions, became a 150-bed hospital.

Changes in healthcare utilization and reimbursement prompted fewer patient admissions and shorter stays, this, coupled with a shortage of staff, encouraged MMC’s board to seek Critical Access Hospital designation in 2008. Though a Critical Access Hospital, the medical center enjoys a very complete menu of outpatient services, providing a variety of services usually only available in much larger cities.

## Recreation/Other

Williston offers some of the most diverse hunting and fishing opportunities in the state. From Upland Game Birds, and Turkeys to Waterfowl, and Antelope to Moose, one can find a variety of reasons to be in the countryside in the fall. Year-round, one can also find a number of lakes and rivers, and reservoirs nearby to fish for Northern Pike, Walleye, Sauger, Perch, Bass, Catfish, Trout, and even Paddlefish—as well as a number of other species that are fun to catch, but rarely taken home.

Williston is also home to the largest recreation center in the state. The Williston ARC is a 250,000 square foot Community Center that contains a variety of sports venues all under one roof: tennis courts, golf simulator, soccer field, racquetball courts, swimming pools, water park, basketball courts, running tracks, weight rooms, and a variety of classrooms and public meeting spaces—including a huge child care center (with play area).

Williston has numerous parks, loads of softball and baseball fields, two golf courses, several shooting ranges, and two indoor Hockey arenas, and a Curling facility, too.