

## **PRESS RELEASE –**

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## *NEWS*

***For Immediate Release***

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### **Hospital Creates \$16,041,706 Impact on Local Economy** ***In all, Iowa's Health Care Sector provides 342,914 jobs across state***

DES MOINES – Osceola Community Hospital generates 265 jobs that add \$13.9 million to Osceola County and the surrounding area's economy. In addition, Osceola Community Hospital employees by themselves spend about \$2.3 million on retail sales and contribute \$135,008 in state sales tax revenue. These numbers are according to the latest report issued by the Iowa Hospital Association.

“The Osceola Community Hospital is a vital part of the county's livelihood,” said Stephanie Neppl, Executive Director of the Osceola County Economic Development. “In addition to their instrumental role in caring for our residents, their contributions to the local economy are immeasurable. These figures demonstrate the widespread impact of the hospital's presence here in Osceola County.”

The IHA study examined the jobs, income, retail sales and sales tax produced by hospitals and the rest of the state's health care sector. The study was compiled from hospital-submitted data on the American Hospital Association's Annual Survey of Hospitals and with software that other industries have used to determine their economic impact.

The study found that Iowa hospitals directly employ 76,203 people and create another 64,453 jobs outside the hospital sector. As an income source, hospitals provide \$5 billion in salaries and benefits and generate another \$2.7 billion through other jobs that depend on hospitals.

In all, the health care sector, which includes offices of physicians, dentists and other health practitioners, nursing home and residential care, other medical and health services and pharmacies, contributes \$18 billion to Iowa's economy while directly and indirectly providing 342,914 jobs, or about one-fifth of the state's total non-farm employment.

“Hospitals positively influence their local economies not only with how many people they employ and the salaries of those employees, but also through hospital purchases from local businesses as well as the impact of employee spending and tax support,” said Kirk Norris, IHA president/CEO. “Whether at the local level or statewide, there are few Iowa employers that generate economic activity comparable to hospitals.”

*The Iowa Hospital Association is a voluntary membership organization representing hospital and health system interests to business, government and consumer audiences. All of Iowa's 118 community hospitals are IHA members.*