

AMC Fact vs. Myth

Myth: Wellstar abandoned underserved communities by closing Atlanta Medical Center.

Fact: Wellstar Health System continues to serve underserved communities across the state. Wellstar is a not-for-profit health system that cares for patients regardless of race, socioeconomic status or ability to pay. Our safety net hospitals care for every patient that comes through our doors, often without receiving payment or any public financial support.

Myth: Grady is able to stay open operating as a safety net hospital, so AMC could have stayed open as well.

Fact: Grady rightly receives more than \$55 million in safety net funding every year from Fulton and DeKalb counties as well as philanthropic and state funding. AMC, despite also serving as a safety net hospital, did not receive any public financial support.

Myth: Wellstar never intended to keep AMC or AMC South open.

Fact: Wellstar invested more than \$350 million in AMC over six years, including purchasing the facilities and financing critical updates like new computer hardware and software, building new operating rooms, replacing essential infrastructure like boilers and elevators and covering sustained operating losses. When it became clear AMC's losses were unsustainable, Wellstar met with officials on a number of occasions beginning February 2020 to discuss the challenges. Also in early 2020, we announced a public search for a partner or buyer, and that effort failed. No local, regional or national system saw a path forward for AMC.

Myth: Wellstar prioritizes hospitals in more affluent areas.

Fact: Wellstar is one of the top 10 providers of charity care in the nation and the largest provider of uncompensated and charity care in the state. In Fiscal Year 2022, we provided nearly \$1.2 billion in uncompensated care – more than any other health system in Georgia.

Myth: Wellstar can afford to sustain the losses of AMC because they have money in the bank.

Fact: Wellstar's cash reserves fall far below average for systems of our size. While Wellstar does have reserves, it would be financially irresponsible to allow those reserves to dip even further, as that would leave Wellstar unable to borrow the money necessary to serve patients in safe, up-to-date spaces.

Myth: Wellstar is harming Atlanta by no longer providing any services to the city.

Fact: We remain committed to caring for the Atlanta community and are working with leaders and stakeholders to design new models of care that encourage whole-person health and wellness. This includes significant investment in improving access to primary and preventive care in the East Point community through our partnership with Southside Medical Center, and our support of the Goodr Mobile Market and Mobile Grocery Store, which provides fresh food to food-insecure communities.

Myth: Wellstar's closure of AMC was rushed and not transparent.

Fact: Over the course of several years, Wellstar exhausted all other possible options. As early as February 2020, Wellstar met with officials on a number of occasions to discuss the challenges at AMC. Beginning in early 2020, we announced a public search for a partner or buyer, and that effort failed. No local, regional or national system saw a path forward for AMC.

Myth: Wellstar failed to conduct and make public the needs assessments required by the IRS.

Fact: Wellstar has completed the requisite Community Health Needs Assessments, most recently in 2022. All of Wellstar's CHNAs can be viewed on our website. These assessments continue to guide Wellstar's strategy for advancing health and health equity in the communities we serve.