

Michigan Department of Community Health

FISCAL YEAR 2011

FREE CLINIC FUNDING SUMMARY REPORT

JANUARY 2012

*Michigan Department
of Community Health*



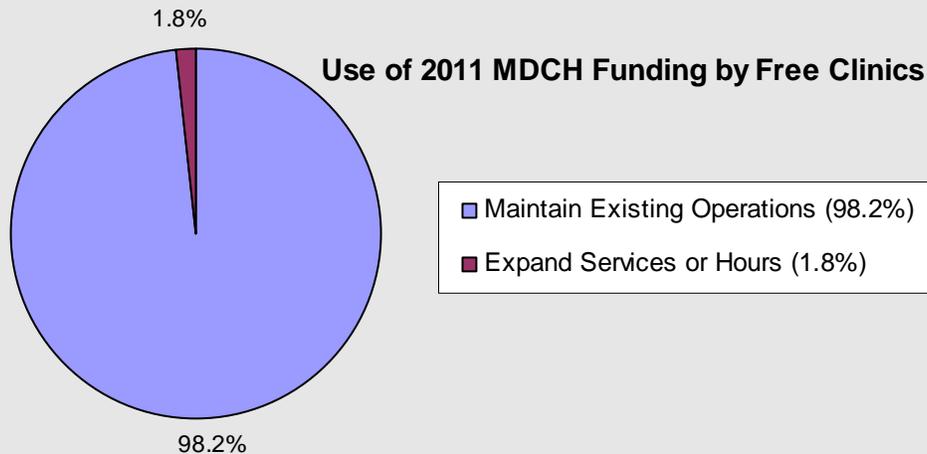
**Rick Snyder, Governor
Olga Dazzo, Director**

Introduction

In fiscal year 2011, \$250,000 was allocated for the sixth consecutive year to the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) for equal distribution among free clinic organizations serving Michigan's indigent population. The Health Planning and Access to Care Section within the MDCH Health Policy and Regulation Administration reviewed eligibility criteria, managed the application process, and administered purchase order agreements with those clinics awarded funding.

Snapshot of 2011 Funded Free Clinics

- Fifty-eight organizations operating in 35 Michigan counties were funded in 2011.
- Free health care was provided at over 120,000 uninsured clinic visits during the year.
- On average 4,458 hours were donated to funded clinics each week.
- More than 75% of clinics offered prescription assistance, ongoing primary care, lab testing, and glucometer strips as services to their patients.
- Sixty-one percent of funded free clinics only provided care to patients with incomes at or below two times the federal poverty level.



Overview

Eligibility criteria for the grant awards were developed by MDCH in collaboration with Free Clinics of Michigan (FCOM). Eligible clinics met the following criteria:

- The clinic is located within Michigan and provides health care services to the uninsured population of Michigan.
- The clinic, or the organization under which it operates, has 501(c)(3) or other nonprofit status.
- The majority of clinic care comes from volunteer health care professionals.
- Services provided by the clinic are free of charge.
- Clients served do not have insurance for the services provided.

Utilizing an updated FCOM directory of free clinic organizations, along with information obtained through the fiscal year 2010 grant application process, funding applications were distributed to 72 potential free clinic organizations throughout Michigan. The application period ran from September 3, 2010 to October 15, 2010. Given the limited grant writing resources of most applicant organizations, MDCH staff was available to assist clinics in completing the application. Fifty-eight applicants met the established criteria for funding, and each of these organizations received an award of \$4,310. For a complete list of grantees, see Attachment 1.

Characteristics of Funded Clinics

The 58 funded free clinic organizations were located in 35 counties across Michigan. This represents an increase from the 55 clinics funded in 2010 which operated in 32 counties. Free clinic services were provided through clinical and administrative volunteers who offered more volunteer time – an estimated 4,458 volunteer hours per week – than in any previous funding year. Free clinics funded in 2011 offered health care services during an estimated 10,415 uninsured visits each month, totaling over 120,000 uninsured visits during the year.

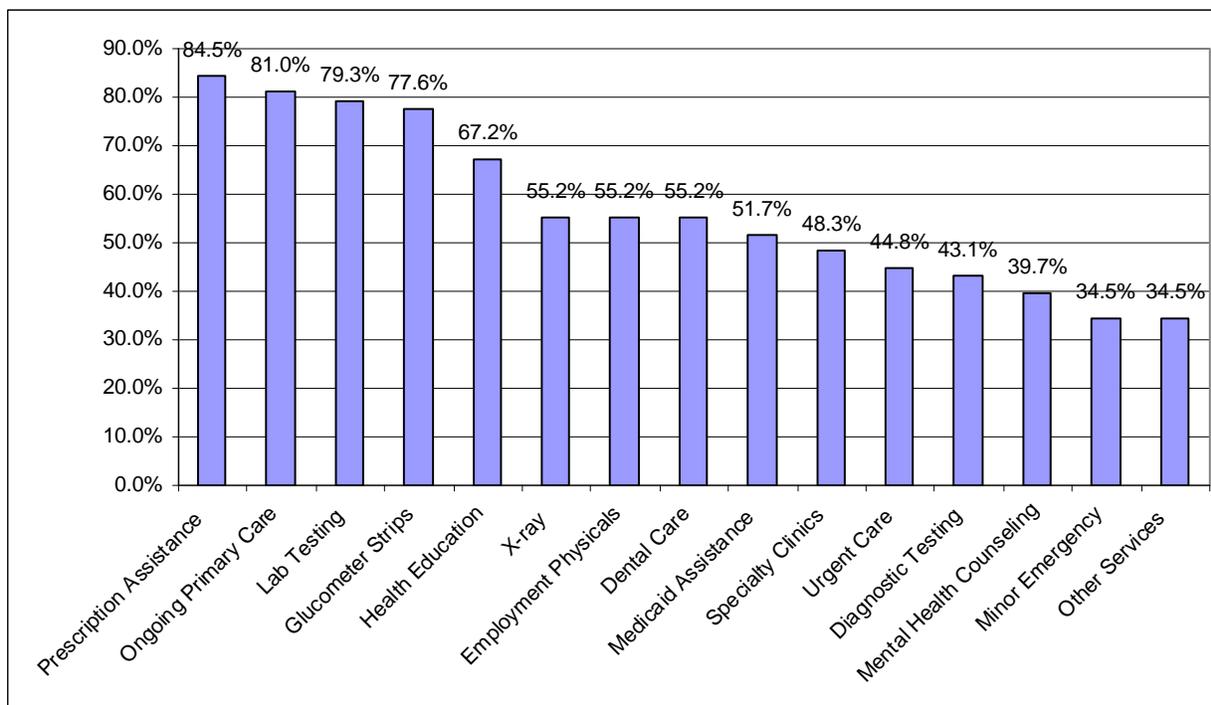
Table 1. Michigan Counties with Multiple Free Clinic Grantees in Fiscal Year 2011

<i>County</i>	<i>Number of Grantees</i>
Calhoun	2
Jackson	2
Kent	4
Livingston	2
Oakland	5
Ottawa	2
Saginaw	3
Washtenaw	3
Wayne	10

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Free Clinics offer a variety of patient care services which include more than 15 health care service types. The most common services offered by funded free clinics continue to be prescription assistance (offered by 84.5% of funded clinics), ongoing primary care (81.0%), lab testing (79.3%), and provision of glucometer strips (77.6%). Other services offered include but may not be limited to: health education classes, x-rays, employment physicals, dental care, assistance applying for Medicaid or other insurance, specialty clinics, urgent care, diagnostic testing, mental health counseling, and minor emergency care. See Figure 1 for more information.

Figure 1. Percentage of Funded Clinics Offering Specific Services by Service Type



For each service listed in Figure 1, the percentage shown represents the proportion of funded free clinics that reported offering the service at the time of their initial application.

Funded organizations ranged in years of operation from being in their first year of operation, to their 61st year. The percentage of funded clinics having been in operation five or fewer years continued to decline at only 28% compared to 33% the previous year. An increase of funded clinics had been in operation six to ten years, from 33% the previous year to 40% in 2011. Clinics having been in operation 11 to 15 years made up 10% of funded organizations; those open 16-30 years made up 17%; and three funded organizations have been operating for more than 30 years. See Figure 2 for more information.

Figure 2. Distribution of Funded Free Clinic Age by Total Years of Operation in 2011

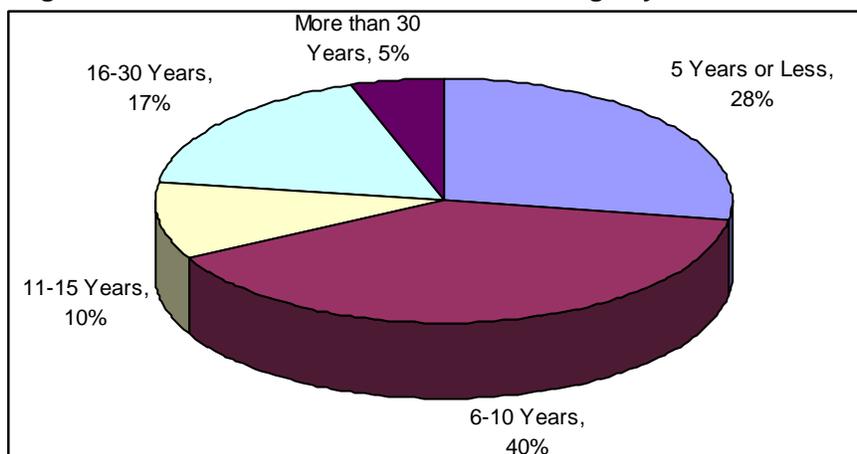


Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of funded free clinics in five groupings (0-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-30, and 31 years or more in operation). Five year intervals were not used for the last two age groups due to the limited number of clinics within those ranges.

In an optional section of the funding application, information was collected on the demographics of the patient population seen at each free clinic. Although response rates varied slightly from question to question, the lowest response rate for an individual question was 81%.

Data suggests that clinics were providing care to a higher percentage of patients at or below two times the Federal Poverty Level (two times the 2011 Federal Poverty Level in terms of annual income is \$44,700 for a family of four or \$21,780 for an individual) than in the previous fiscal year. Sixty-one percent (61%) of responding clinics (up from 55% the previous year, but down from 67% in fiscal year 2009) reported that all of their patients are at or below two times the Federal Poverty Level. Seventy-six percent (76%) of clinics (just 1% below last year and down 10% from fiscal year 2009) reported that at least nine out of ten patients are at or below two times the Federal Poverty Level. Two responding organizations reported that none of their patients are employed full time, and two respondents indicated that at least half of their patients are employed full time.

Data provided from free clinics on patient race and ethnicity is difficult to aggregate, but the individual components demonstrate that Michigan's free clinics collectively care for a racially and ethnically diverse population.

All but 5% of reporting clinics reported that their patient population is greater than 70% aged 19 to 64. Fifty-four percent (54%) of responding clinics, however, reported that at least some portion of their patient population was 18 years of age or younger. Sixty-four percent (64%) of responding clinics reported that at least some portion of their patient population was 65 years of age or older.

Use of Grant Funding

Required reporting on grant expenditures indicated that the majority of funding through MDCH was used to support basic operational costs. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of clinics used the funding to maintain their current operations, which is an increase from previous year's grant periods. About 2% of clinics reported using the funding to directly support an increase in service hours or patient care capacity during the funding period. One clinic funded in 2011 dissolved its operations over the grant year and returned all year 2011 funding provided through MDCH.

Nearly 59% of funded agencies reported using a portion of the grant award toward clinical care expenses, including prescription assistance programs and supplements to clinical staff. Almost 52% of funded agencies reported using a portion of the funds toward administrative expenses, including office equipment and administrative services and salaries, and 50% utilized funding toward durable medical equipment and other medical and lab testing supplies. See figure 3 for more information.

Figure 3. Percentage of Clinics Using MDCH Funding Toward Specific Expenditures by Expenditure Type

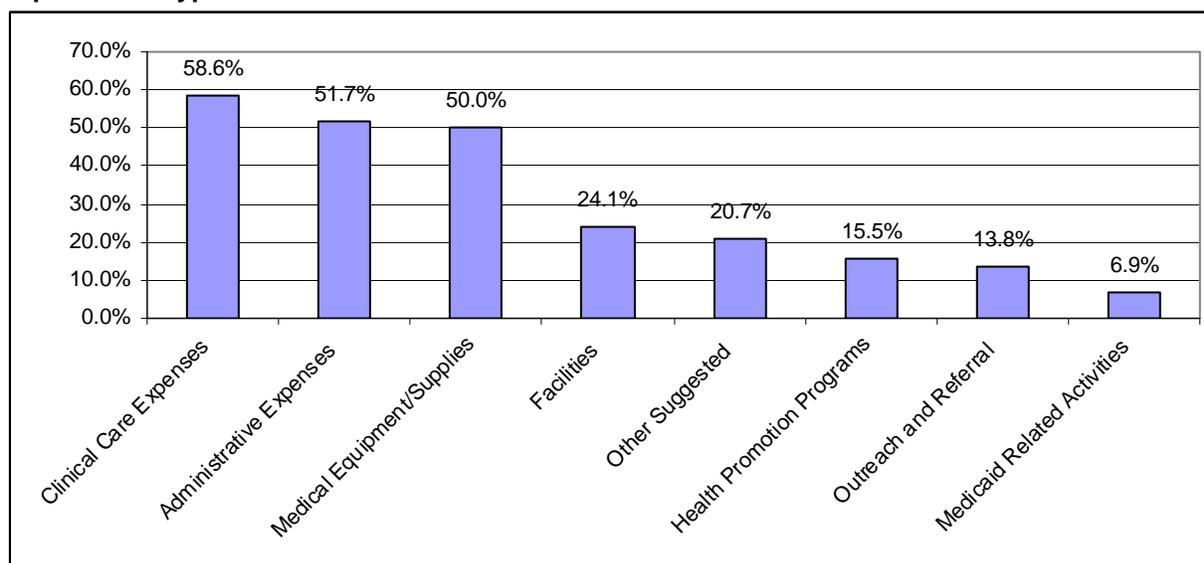


Figure 3 illustrates the difference in frequency of free clinic utilization of MDCH funds by the type of expense paid for with MDCH funds. Free clinic organizations often reported use of MDCH funds for multiple expenditure types and the percentages shown represent the percentage of all funded clinics reporting use of the funds for that particular expenditure type. Percentages shown above will not necessarily add to 100%.

For further information regarding the Michigan Department of Community Health Free Clinic Funding program please contact:

The Health Planning & Access to Care Section

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Attachment 1 – Fiscal Year 2011 Funded Free Clinic Organizations

Au Sable Free Clinic Grayling, MI 49738	Genesee County Free Medical Clinic Flint, MI 48504	Peoples' Clinic for Better Health Port Huron, MI 48060
Barry Community Free Clinic Hastings, MI 49058	Health Intervention Services Grand Rapids, MI 49507	Presbyterian Health Clinic of Branch County Coldwater, MI 49036
Baxter Community Center Wholistic Health Clinic Grand Rapids, MI 49506	Healthy Futures Free Clinics at Center of HOPE Saginaw and Chesaning, MI	Riverside Health Clinic Three Rivers, MI 49093
Boyne Area Free Clinic Boyne City, MI 49712	Helen M. Nickless Volunteer Clinic Essexville, MI 48732	Saginaw Area Foundation for Eye Care Saginaw, MI 48603
Cabrini Clinic Detroit, MI 48226	His Healing Hands Urgent Care Center Lansing, MI 48910	Seeds of Grace Health Clinic Allegan, MI 49010
Cadillac Area Community Health Clinic Cadillac, MI 48601	Holland Free Health Clinic Holland, MI 49423	Shelter Association of Washtenaw County – Health Clinic Ann Arbor, MI 48107
Care Free Clinic Escanaba, MI 49829	Hope House Free Medical Clinic Big Rapids, MI 49307	St. John Health, St. Vincent de Paul Southfield, MI 48075
CareFree Dental of Dickinson & Florence Iron Mountain, MI 49801	Hope Medical Clinic Ypsilanti, MI 48197	St. Luke's Clinic Jackson, MI 49204
Cass Clinic / Cass Community Free Medical Clinic Detroit, MI 48201	Hope Wayne Medical Clinic Wayne, MI 48184	St. Peter's Free Clinic of Hillsdale County Hillsdale, MI 49242
Cass County Free Health Clinic Dowagiac, MI 49047	Joy-Southfield Community Health Center Detroit, MI 48228	The Community Free Clinic Petoskey, MI 49770
Cathedral Mental Health Care Saginaw, MI 48607	Loving Hands Clinic Lapeer, MI 48446	The Dr. Albert B. Cleage, Sr. Memorial Health Center Detroit, MI 48202
Catherine's Care Center Grand Rapids, MI 49505	Manistee Area Community Clinic Manistee, MI 49660	The Dr. Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic Pontiac, MI 48342
Chelsea Grace Clinic Chelsea, MI 48118	MAPI Charitable Clinic Southfield, MI 48076	The Free Clinic of Alpena Alpena, MI 49707
City on a Hill Ministries Health Clinic Zeeland, MI 49464	MAPI Free Clinic Taylor, MI 48180	The HUDA Clinic Detroit, MI 48238
Community Health Access Coalition Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783	Medical Care Access Coalition Marquette, MI 49855	Traverse Health Clinic Traverse City, MI 49684
Community HealthCare Connections – Nursing Clinic of Battle Creek Battle Creek, MI 49014	Medical Outreach Clinic Mt. Clemens, MI 48043	Tri-County Dental Health Council Southfield, MI 48076
Dove Health Alliance / Dove Wellness Free Clinic Jackson, MI 49201	Mercy Place Clinic / St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Pontiac, MI 48342	VINA Community Dental Center Brighton, MI 48116
Faith Medical Clinic Pinckney, MI 48169	Northern Care Center Cheboygan, MI 49721	Wyandotte Clinic for the Working Uninsured Brownstown Township, MI 48183
FernCare Free Clinic Ferndale, MI 48220	Oasis of Hope Center Grand Rapids, MI 49504	
Fountain Clinic Marshall, MI 49068	Order of Malta Medical/Dental Clinic Detroit, MI 48208	
