

Michigan Department of Community Health

FISCAL YEAR 2013

FREE CLINIC FUNDING SUMMARY REPORT

AUGUST 2014

*Michigan Department
of Community Health*



**Rick Snyder, Governor
James K. Haveman, Director**

Introduction

Free clinics are volunteer-staffed clinics that provide a range of medical, dental, pharmacy, and behavioral health services to economically disadvantaged individuals. Such clinics are nonprofit organizations that use volunteer health professionals to provide free or affordable healthcare to uninsured or medically underserved persons who have limited or no access to healthcare. Entities that charge a nominal fee to patients may still be considered free clinics if they meet the above criteria and deliver services regardless of the patient's ability to pay.

In fiscal year 2013, \$250,000 was allocated for the eighth 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 Planning Administration reviewed eligibility criteria, managed the application process, and administered agreements with those clinics awarded funding.

Snapshot of 2013 Funded Free Clinics

- Fifty Nine organizations operating in 33 Michigan counties were funded in 2013.
- The 59 free clinics provided over 124,000 uninsured clinic visits during the year.
- On average 5,730 hours were donated to the 59 funded clinics each week.
- More than seventy-five percent of the 59 clinics offered prescription assistance, ongoing primary care, and glucometer strips as services to their patients.
- Forty-eight percent of the 59 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 2012 grant application process, funding applications were distributed to approximately 70 potential free clinic organizations throughout Michigan. The contract period of four months started on June 1, 2013 and ended on September 30, 2013. Given the limited grant writing resources of most applicant organizations, MDCH staff was available to assist clinics in

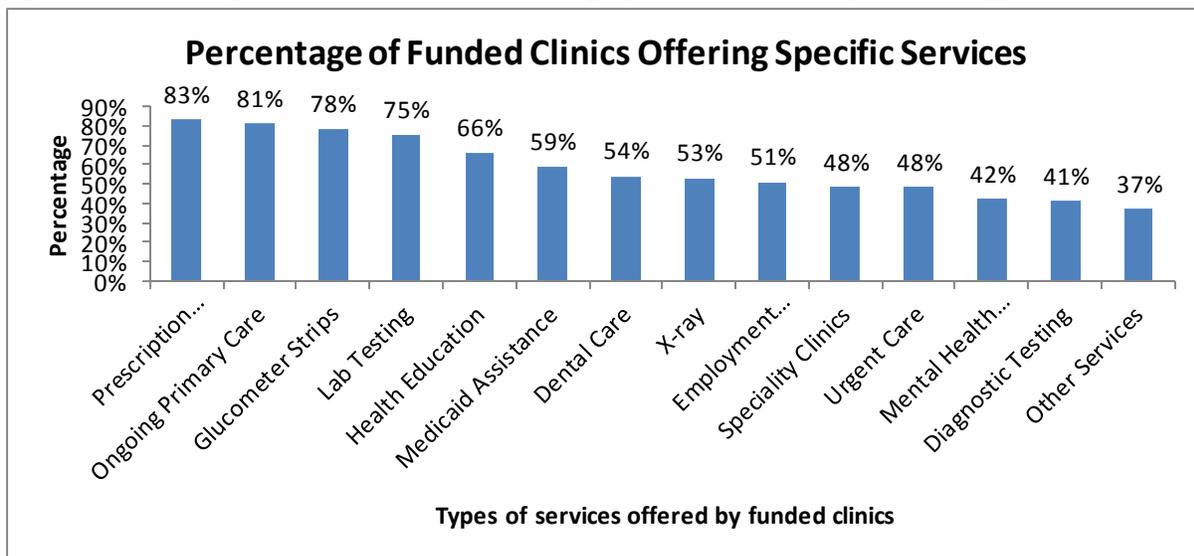
completing the application. Fifty Nine applicants met the established criteria for funding, and each of these organizations received an award of \$4,237. For a complete list of grantees, see Attachment 1.

Characteristics of Funded Clinics

The 59 funded free clinic organizations were located in 33 counties across Michigan. Free clinic services were provided through clinical and administrative volunteers who offered more volunteer time – an estimated 5,730 volunteer hours per week – than in any previous funding year. Free clinics funded in 2013 offered health care services during an estimated 10,388 uninsured visits each month, totaling over 124,000 uninsured visits during the year.

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 83% of funded clinics), ongoing primary care (81%), lab testing (75%), and provision of glucometer strips (78%). 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.

Year of Operation

Funded organizations ranged in years of operation from being in their first year of operation, to their 63rd year. Seventy percent of the funded clinics have been in operation since 2001. Clinics having been in operation from 2007 to 2013 made up to thirty two percent (32%) of the funded organizations. See Figure 2 for more information.

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Figure 2. Distribution of Funded Free Clinic Age by Total Years of Operation in 2013

1 st Year of Operation	Percentage of funded clinics
Before 1990 & 1990	12%
1991-1995	7%
1996-2000	12%
2001-2005	34%
2006-2010	30%
2011 and after	5%

Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of funded free clinics by the year of operation. Five year intervals were not used for the first and last age groups due to the limited number of clinics within those ranges.

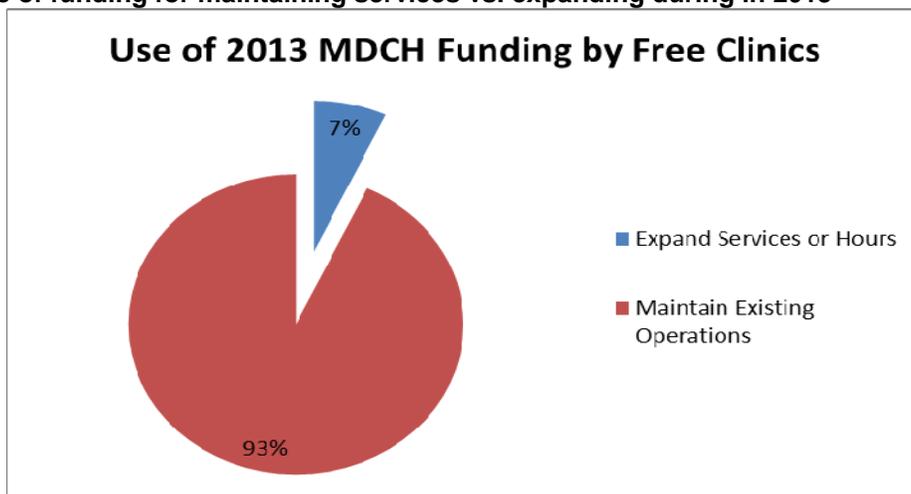
In an optional section of the funding application, information was collected on the demographics of the patient population seen at each free clinic. Data suggests that majority of the patients in these clinics are below 200% of the federal poverty level and 48% of the clinics were providing care only to patients at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Nine responding organizations reported that none of their patients are employed full time, and two respondents indicated that at least half or more than 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. Almost all clinics reported that majority of their patients are adults between 19-64 years of age. Fifty percent of the responding clinics, however, reported that at least some portion of their patient population was 18 years of age or younger. Sixty one percent 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-three percent of clinics used the funding to maintain their current operations, which is an increase from previous year’s grant periods. About 7% of clinics reported using the funding to directly support an increase in service hours or patient care capacity during the funding period as shown in figure 3.

Figure 3. Use of funding for maintaining services vs. expanding during in 2013



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Most of funded agencies reported using a part of the grant award toward clinical care expenses. Thirty-seven percent of the clinics spent at least a portion of their funds on Prescription Assistance Programs and 24% of the clinics used some funds to support the salaries of clinical staff. Fifty-six percent of funded agencies reported using a portion of the funds to purchase medical supplies and testing material. Seventeen percent of the funded clinics spent at least some of their funds on health promotion programs or to support outreach and referral programs. Grant funding was also used toward administrative expenses, including office equipment and administrative services and salaries. Thirty-six percent of the clinics used at least some of their funds to support the administrative staff, 15% of clinics purchased office equipment and 12% of the clinics used grant money on administrative services. See figure 3 for more information.

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

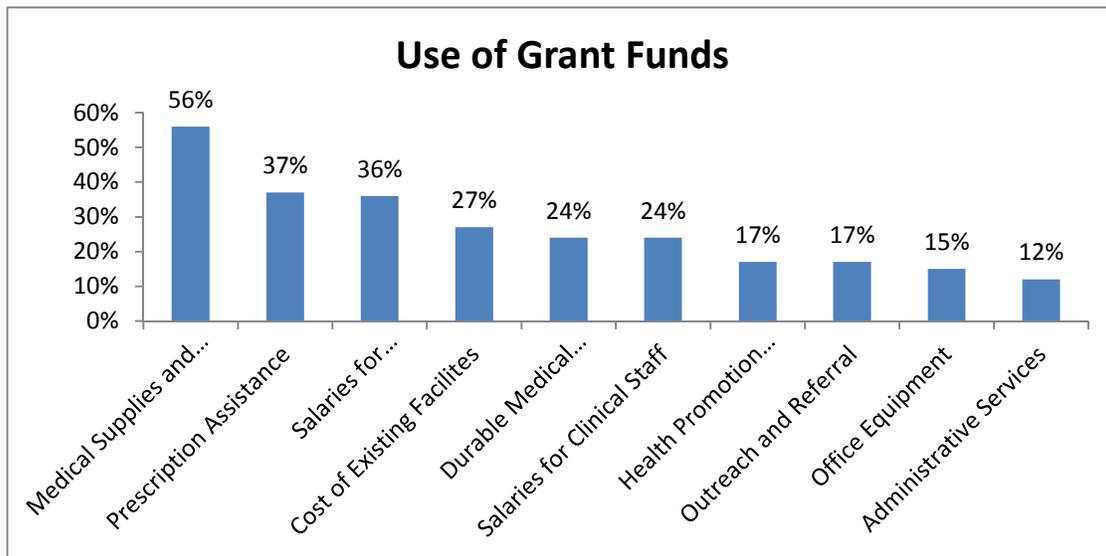


Figure 3 illustrates the difference in frequency of free clinic utilization of MDCH funds by the type of expense paid for with MDCH funds. Free clinic organizations often reported use of MDCH funds for multiple expenditure types and the percentages shown represent the percentage of all funded clinics 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

Phone: 517-241-2966

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Attachment 1 – Fiscal Year 2013 Funded Free Clinic Organizations

Ausable Free Clinic Grayling, MI 49738	FernCare Free Clinic Ferndale, MI 48220	Northern Care Center Cheboygan, MI 49721
Barry Community Free Clinic Hastings, MI 49058	Fountain Clinic Marshall, MI 49068	Oasis of Hope Center Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Baxter Community Center Wholistic Health Clinic Grand Rapids, MI 49506	Genesee County Free Medical Clinic Flint, MI 48504	Order of Malta Medical/Dental Clinic Detroit, MI 48208
Boyne Area Free Clinic Boyne City, MI 49712	Health Intervention Services Grand Rapids, MI 49507	Peoples' Clinic for Better Health Port Huron, MI 48060
Cabrini Clinic Detroit, MI 48226	Health Unit on Davison Avenue Detroit ,MI 48238	Presbyterian Health Clinic of Branch County Coldwater, MI 49036
Care Free Clinic Escanaba, MI 49829	Helen M. Nickless Volunteer Clinic Essexville, MI48732	Renewed Hope Health Clinic Allegan, MI 49010
CareFree Dental of Dickinson & Florence Iron Mountain, MI 49801	His Healing Hands Urgent Care Center Lansing, MI 48910	Riverside Health Clinic Three Rivers, MI 49093
Caring Heart Health Clinic Marlette, MI 48741	Holland Free Health Clinic Holland, MI 49423	Saginaw Area Foundation for Eye Care Saginaw, MI 48603
Cass Clinic / Cass Community Free Medical Clinic Detroit, MI 48201	Hope House Free Medical Clinic Big Rapids, MI 49307	Shelter Association of Washtenaw County – Health Clinic Ann Arbor, MI 48107
Catherine's Care Center Grand Rapids, MI 49505	Hope Medical Clinic Ypsilanti, MI 48197	Shiawassee Free Medical Clinic Owosso, MI 48867
CBM Health Care, Inc. Waterford, MI 48327	Hope Wayne Medical Clinic Wayne, MI 48184	St. Mary's of Michigan Center of HOPE Free Clinics Saginaw, MI 48601
CBM Health Care, Inc. Clinton Township, MI 48038	Joy-Southfield Community Health Center Detroit, MI 48228	St. Luke's Clinic Jackson, MI 49204
CBM Health Care, Inc. Fenton, MI 48430	Kalamazoo Gospel Mission Health Clinic Kalamazoo, MI 49007	St. Peter's Free Clinic of Hillsdale County Hillsdale, MI 49242
Chelsea Grace Clinic Chelsea, MI 48118	Loving Hands Clinic Lapeer, MI 48446	Stehouwer Free Clinic Cadillac, MI 49601
City on a Hill Ministries Health Clinic Zeeland, MI 49464	Love Inc's Free Health Clinic Grand Haven, MI 49417	The Dr. Albert B. Cleage, Sr. Memorial Health Center Detroit, MI 48202
Community Free Clinic Petoskey, MI 49770	McLaren- Central Michigan Free Clinic Mt. Pleasant, MI 48867	The Free Clinic of Alpena Alpena, MI 49707
Community HealthCare Connections – Nursing Clinic of Battle Creek Battle Creek, MI 49014	MAPI Charitable Clinic Southfield, MI 48076	Tri-County Dental Health Council Southfield, MI 48076
Community Prescription Support Program Saginaw, MI 48607	MAPI Free Clinic Taylor, MI 48180	VINA Community Dental Center Brighton, MI 48116
Dove Health Alliance / Dove Wellness Free Clinic Jackson, MI 49201	Medical Care Access Coalition Marquette, MI 49855	Wyandotte Clinic for the Working Uninsured Brownstown Township, MI 48183
Dr Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic Pontiac, MI 48342	Mercy Place Clinic / St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Pontiac, MI 48342	
