

Michigan Department of Community Health

FISCAL YEAR 2009

FREE CLINIC FUNDING SUMMARY REPORT

MARCH 2010

*Michigan Department
of Community Health*



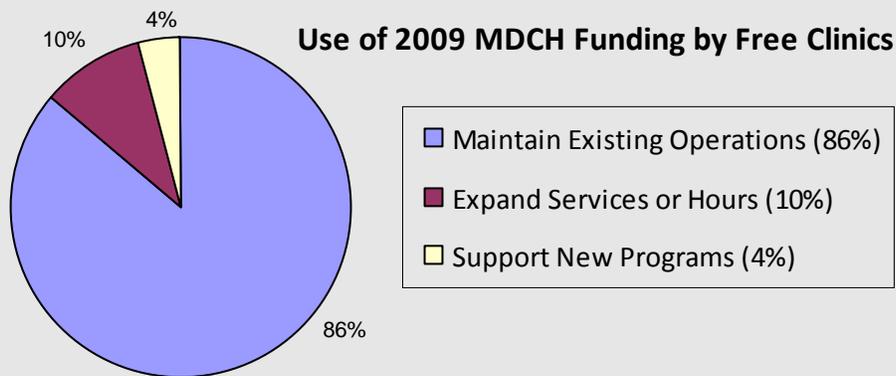
**Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Janet Olszewski, Director**

Introduction

In fiscal year 2009, \$250,000 was allocated for the fourth 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, oversaw the application process, and managed purchase order agreements with those clinics awarded funding.

Snapshot of 2009 Funded Free Clinics

- Fifty-one organizations operating in 31 Michigan counties were funded in 2009.
- Free health care was provided at over 116,000 uninsured clinic visits during the year.
- On average 3,770 hours were donated to funded clinics each week.
- More than 75% of clinics offered prescription assistance, glucometer strips, lab testing, and ongoing primary care services to their patients.
- 76% 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.
- No more than 25% of total clinic revenue is 3rd party billing or government funding (separate from this allocation).

Utilizing an updated FCOM directory of free clinic organizations along with information obtained through the fiscal year 2008 grant application process, funding applications were distributed to 63 potential free clinic organizations throughout Michigan. The application period ran from August 13, 2008 to September 30, 2008. Given the limited grant writing resources of most applicant organizations, MDCH staff was available to assist clinics in completing the application. Fifty-one applicants met the established criteria for funding and each of these organizations received an award of \$4,902. For a complete list of grantees, see Attachment 1.

Characteristics of Funded Clinics

The 51 funded free clinic organizations were located in 31 counties across Michigan. That represents an increase from the 46 clinics funded in 2008 which operated in 30 counties.

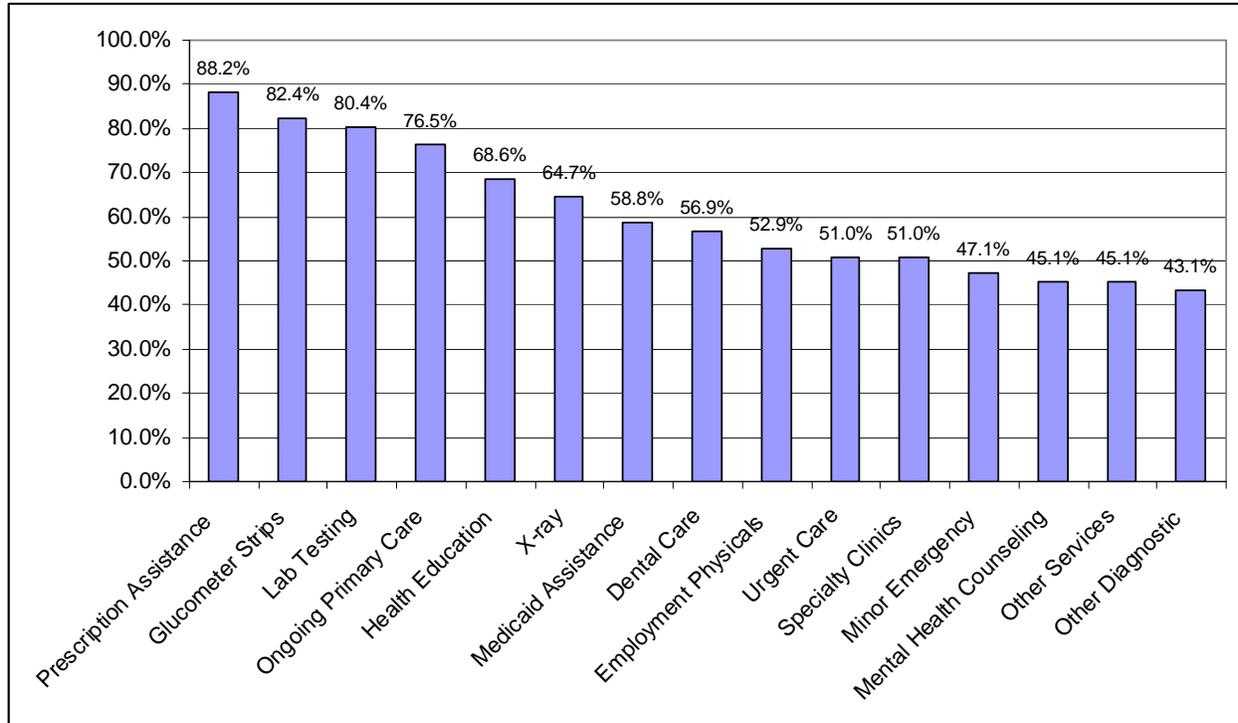
According to information collected in the application process, fiscal year 2009 funded organizations provided more care to the uninsured than any previous year's funding group. 2009 funded clinics offered health care services during an estimated 9,720 uninsured visits each month; which totals to over 116,000 uninsured visits during the year. Free clinic services were provided through clinical and administrative volunteers who offered more volunteer time – an estimated 3,770 volunteer hours per week – than in any previous funding year.

Table 1. Michigan Counties with Multiple Free Clinic Grantees in Fiscal Year 2009

<i>County</i>	<i>Number of Grantees</i>
Calhoun	2
Jackson	2
Kent	4
Macomb	2
Oakland	3
Ottawa	2
Saginaw	4
Washtenaw	2
Wayne	8

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 88.2% of funded clinics), provision of glucometer strips (82.4%), lab testing (80.4%), and ongoing primary care (76.5%). Other services offered include but may not be limited to: health education classes, x-rays, urgent care, assistance applying for Medicaid or other insurance, dental care, minor emergency care, employment physicals, specialty clinics, and mental health counseling. 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 terms of years of operation from within their first year open, to in their 59th year. Only 39% of funded organizations had been open 5 or fewer years; 27% had been open more than 5 but fewer than 11 years; 14% had been open more than 10 but fewer than 16 years; and 20% had been open more than 15 years. Two funded organizations had been open 30 or more years. See Figure 2 for more information.

Figure 2. Distribution of Funded Free Clinic Age by Total Years of Operation in 2009

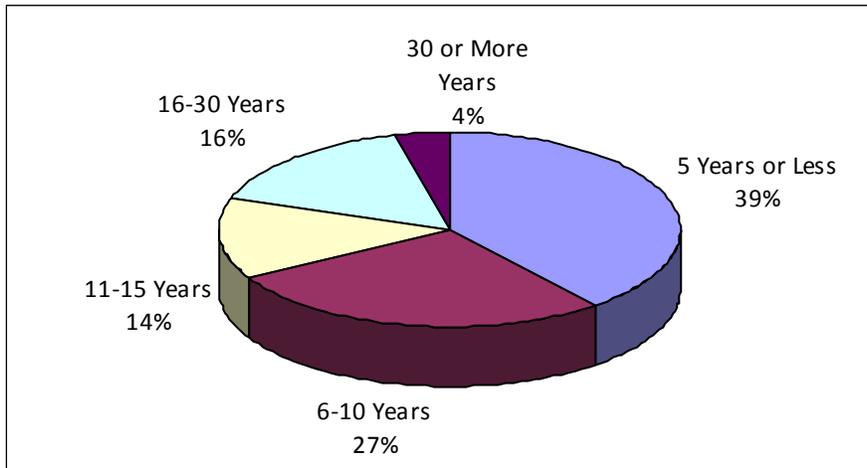


Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of funded free clinics in 5 groupings (0-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-54, and 55 years or more in operation). Five year intervals were not used for the last two age groups due to the limited number of clinics within those ranges.

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 80.4%.

Data suggests that clinics were providing care to a poorer population in fiscal year 2009 than in previous years. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of responding clinics (up from 55 %) reported that all of their patients are at or below two times the Federal Poverty Level (two times the 2008 Federal Poverty Level in terms of annual income is \$42,400 for a family of four or \$20,800 for an individual). Eighty-six percent (86%) of clinics (up from 77%) reported that at least nine out of ten patients are at or below two times the Federal Poverty Level. All but one responding organization reported that some of their patients are employed full-time. Twelve percent (12%) of 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 10% of reporting clinics reported that their patient population is greater than 70% aged 19 to 64. Sixty-three percent (63%) of responding clinics, however, reported that at least some portion of their patient population was 18 years of age or younger. Seventy-three percent (73%) 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. Similar to the previous year’s grant periods, about 86% of funded organizations used the funding to maintain their current operations. About 10% of clinics reported using the funding to directly support an increase in service hours or patient care capacity during the funding period. Four percent (4%) of clinics used MDCH funds to directly support new programming at the clinic. New projects offered included a diabetes telemanagement program and a new dental clinic program.

Nearly 69% of funded agencies reported using a portion of the grant award toward clinical care expenses including prescription assistance programs and supplements to clinical staff. About 53% of funded agencies reported using a portion of the funds toward durable medical equipment and other medical and lab testing supplies. Fifty-one percent (51%) of funded agencies reported using a portion of the funds toward administrative expenses including office equipment, and administrative services and salaries. See figure 3 for more information.

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

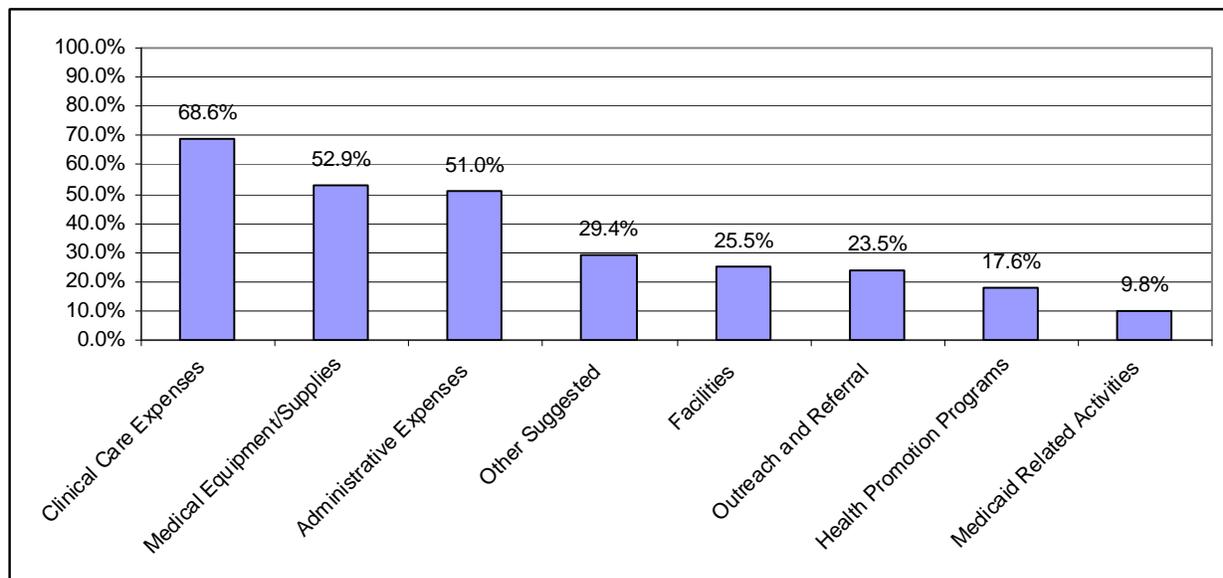


Figure 3 illustrates the difference in frequency of free clinic utilization of MDCH funds by the type of expense paid for with MDCH funds. Free clinic organizations often reported use of MDCH funds for multiple expenditure types and the percentages shown represent the percentage of all funded clinics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

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

Ian A. Horste, MPH

Primary Care Workforce Analyst

Phone: 517-241-9947

E-mail: horstei@michigan.gov

Attachment 1 – Fiscal Year 2009 Funded Free Clinic Organizations

Au Sable Free Clinic, Inc.
Grayling, MI 49738

Cabrini Clinic
Detroit, MI 48226

Cadillac Area Community Health Clinic
Cadillac, MI 48601

Cass County Free Health Clinic
Dowagiac, MI 49047

Cathedral Mental Health Care
Saginaw, MI 48607

Catherine's Care Center
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

City on a Hill Ministries Health Clinic
Zeeland, MI 49464

Community Free Clinic
Petoskey, MI 49770

Community Health Access Coalition (CHAC)
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Community Prescription Support Program (CRxSP)
Saginaw, MI 48601

Dove Medical/Dental
Jackson, MI 49201

Dr. Albert B. Cleage, Sr. Memorial Health Center
Detroit, MI 48202

Faith Community Free Health Clinic
Delton, MI 49046

Faith Medical Clinic
Pinckney, MI 48169

Fountain Clinic
Marshall, MI 49068

Frank N. Andersen Regional Eye Foundation
Saginaw, MI 48603

Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic
Pontiac, MI 48342

Genesee County Free Medical Clinic (GCFMC)
Flint, MI 48504

Health Intervention Services, Inc.
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Healthy Futures
Saginaw, MI 48601

Helen M. Nickless Volunteer Clinic
Essexville, MI 49732

Holland Free Health Clinic
Holland, MI 49423

Hope House Free Medical Clinic
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Hope Medical Clinic, Inc.
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Hope Wayne Medical Clinic
Wayne, MI 48184

HUDA Clinic (Health Unit on Davison Avenue)
Detroit, MI 48238

Joy-Southfield Community Health Center
Detroit, MI 48228

Loving Hands Clinic
Lapeer, MI 48446

Manistee Area Community Clinic, Inc.
Manistee, MI 49660

MAPI Charitable Clinic
Taylor, MI 48180

Medical Care Access Coalition
Marquette, MI 49855

Medical Outreach Clinic
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Mercy Place Clinic
Pontiac, MI 48342

Neighbors Caring for Neighbors Clinic
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Northern Care Center
Cheboygan, MI 49721

Nursing Clinic of Battle Creek
Battle Creek, MI 49014

Oasis of Hope Center
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Order of Malta Medical/Dental Clinic
Detroit, MI 48208

People's Clinic for Better Health
Port Huron, MI 48060

Presbyterian Health Clinic of Branch County
Coldwater, MI 49036

Riverside Health Clinic
Three Rivers, MI 49093

Seeds of Grace Health Clinic
Allegan, MI 49010

Shelter Association of Washtenaw County – Health Clinic
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

St. John Health, Cooley Clinic
Detroit, MI 48227

St. Luke's Clinic
Jackson, MI 49204

St. Peter's Free Clinic of Hillsdale County, Inc.
Hillsdale, MI 49242

St. Vincent de Paul Health Center
Detroit, MI 48219

The Free Clinic of Alpena
Alpena, MI 49707

The Free Clinic of Kalamazoo
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Traverse Health Clinic and Coalition
Traverse City, MI 49684

Wesley Health
Wyoming, MI 49509

Wyandotte Clinic for the Working Uninsured
Brownstown Township, MI 48183