

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Fiscal Year 2019

Free Clinic Funding Summary Report

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Introduction

Free clinics are majority 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 or paid 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 2019, \$250,000 was allocated for the fourteenth consecutive year to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for equal distribution among free clinic organizations serving Michigan's indigent population. The Planning Office within the MDHHS Policy, Planning and Legislative Affairs Administration reviewed eligibility criteria, managed the application process, and administered agreements with those clinics awarded funding.

Snapshot of 2019 Funded Free Clinics

- Thirty-seven organizations operating in twenty-one Michigan counties were funded in 2019.
- Free health care was provided for approximately 37,188 uninsured patient visits throughout the year.
- On average 2,711 volunteer services hours were donated to the clinics each week.
- Ten of the thirty-seven funded free clinics only provided care to patients with incomes at or below two times the federal poverty level. 18 of the 37 awarded clinics only provided care to those without insurance. 6 other awarded clinics provided only to those without insurance or those underinsured and without the ability to pay.

Overview

Eligibility criteria for the grant awards were developed by MDHHS 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.
- Most of the clinic care comes from volunteer health care professionals.
- Services provided by the clinic are free of charge.

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- Clients served do not have insurance for the services provided.

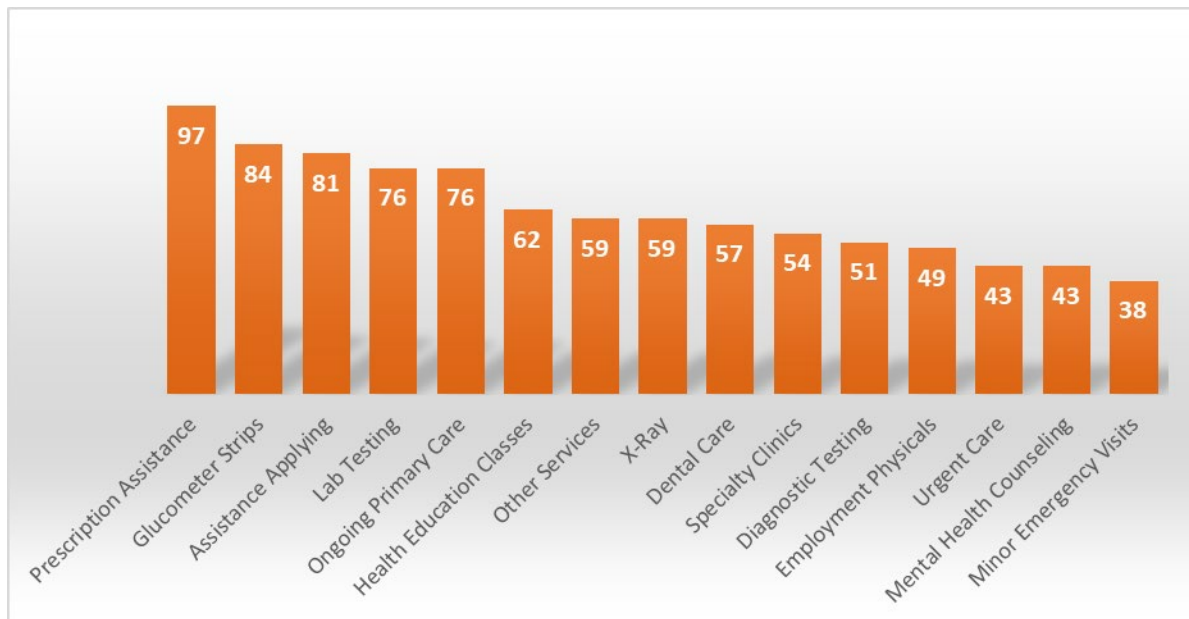
Applications were distributed to clinics identified utilizing an updated FCOM directory of free clinic organizations, along with information obtained through the fiscal year 2018 grant application process. The contract period started on January 1, 2019 and ended on September 30, 2019. Given the limited grant writing resources of most applicant organizations, MDHHS staff was available to assist clinics in completing the application. Thirty-eight applicants met the established criteria for funding, and thirty-seven of these organizations received an award of \$6,756. One organization declined participation. For a complete list of grantees, see Attachment 1.

Characteristics of Funded Clinics

The 37 funded free clinic organizations were in twenty-one counties across Michigan. Free clinic services were provided through volunteers who offered an estimated 2,711 volunteer hours per week. Free clinics funded in 2019 offered health care services to uninsured during an estimated 3,099 patient visits each month, serving 15,305 unique (non-repeat) patients during the year.

Free Clinics offer a variety of patient care services including more than fifteen health care service types. The most common services offered by funded free clinics are prescription assistance (provided by 97% of funded clinics), glucometer strips (84% of funded clinics), assistance applying (81% of funded clinics), and lab testing (76% of funded clinics). Other services offered include ongoing primary care, health education classes, X-Ray, dental care, specialty clinics, diagnostic testing, employment physicals, urgent care, mental health counseling, and minor emergency visits. See Figure 1 for more information.

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



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 third year of operation, to their sixty-ninth year. Seventy-three percent of the funded clinics have been in operation for more than ten years. Twenty-two percent have been in operation for over twenty years. See Figure 2 for more information.

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

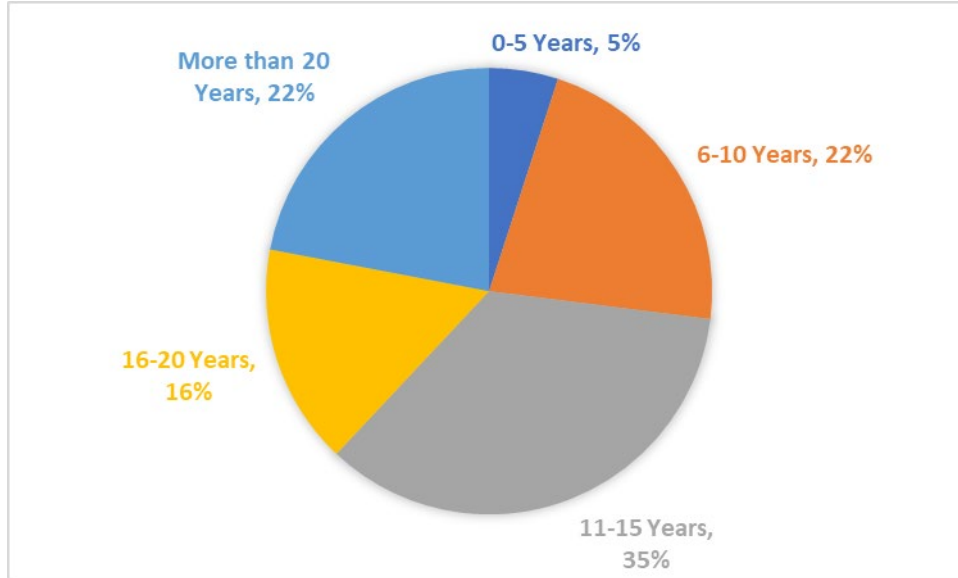


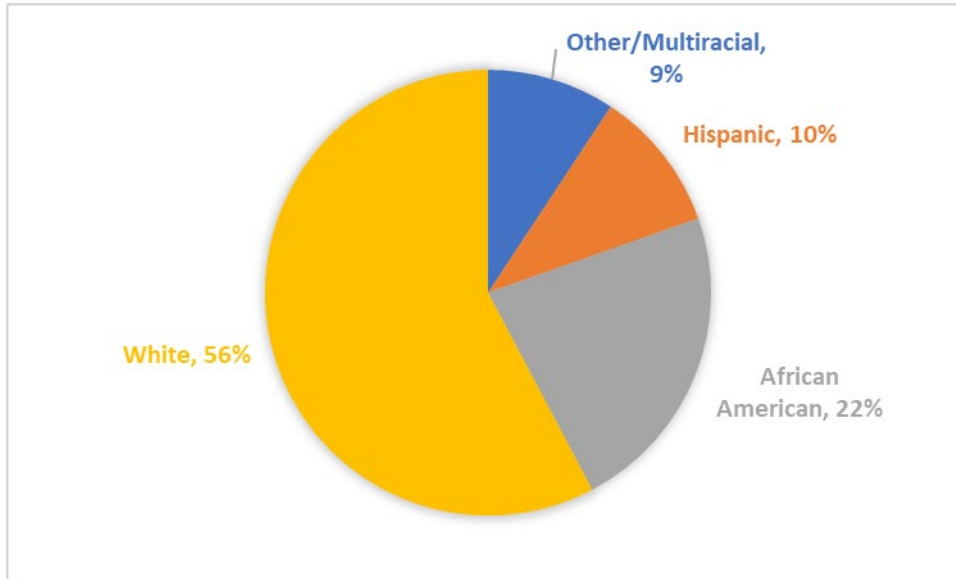
Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of funded free clinics in five groupings (0-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20 and more than 20 years in operation).

Patient Demographics

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 79% of the patients in these clinics are below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Fifty-one percent of clinic patients were employed either full time or part time.

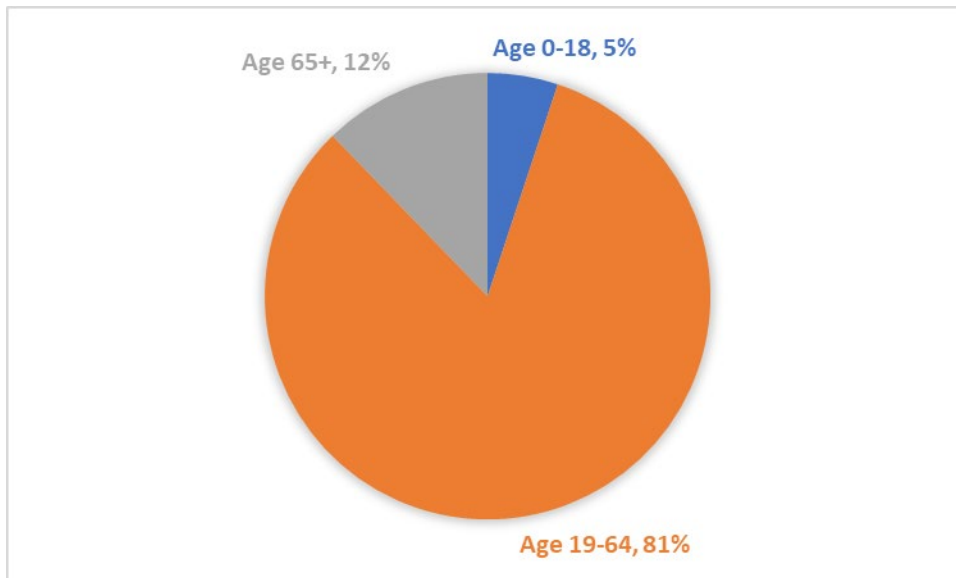
Demographic data indicates that Michigan’s free clinics collectively care for a racially and ethnically diverse population. Most clinic patients are adults between 19-64 years of age. Fifty-four percent of the responding clinics, however, reported that at least some portion of their patient population was 18 years of age or younger. Seventy-three percent of responding clinics reported that at least some portion of their patient population was 65 years of age or older. Figures 3, 4 and 5 provides a further breakdown of clinic patient demographics.

Figure 3. Patient Race



In Figure 3, the percentage shown represents the percentage of patients served by free clinics in each identified racial category.

Figure 4. Patient Age



In Figure 4, the percentage shown represents the percentage of patients served by free clinics in each identified age range.

Use of Grant Funding

The most common uses of grant funds were for salaries and medical/testing supplies, with twenty-seven and seventeen clinics reporting using at least a portion of their grant funds for these purposes, respectively. Other uses of grant funds included costs of existing facilities (fifteen clinics,) office equipment and supplies (five clinics,) durable medical equipment (five clinics,) outreach (two clinics,) administrative services (two clinics,) support for the Free Clinics of Michigan, finding a provider, intake screening, renovation, health promotional Program, and adding services were also used by clinics. Figure 4 details the percentage of clinics using MDHHS Free Clinic funding to support identified costs.

Figure 4. Funding Spent to Support Identified Clinic Costs.

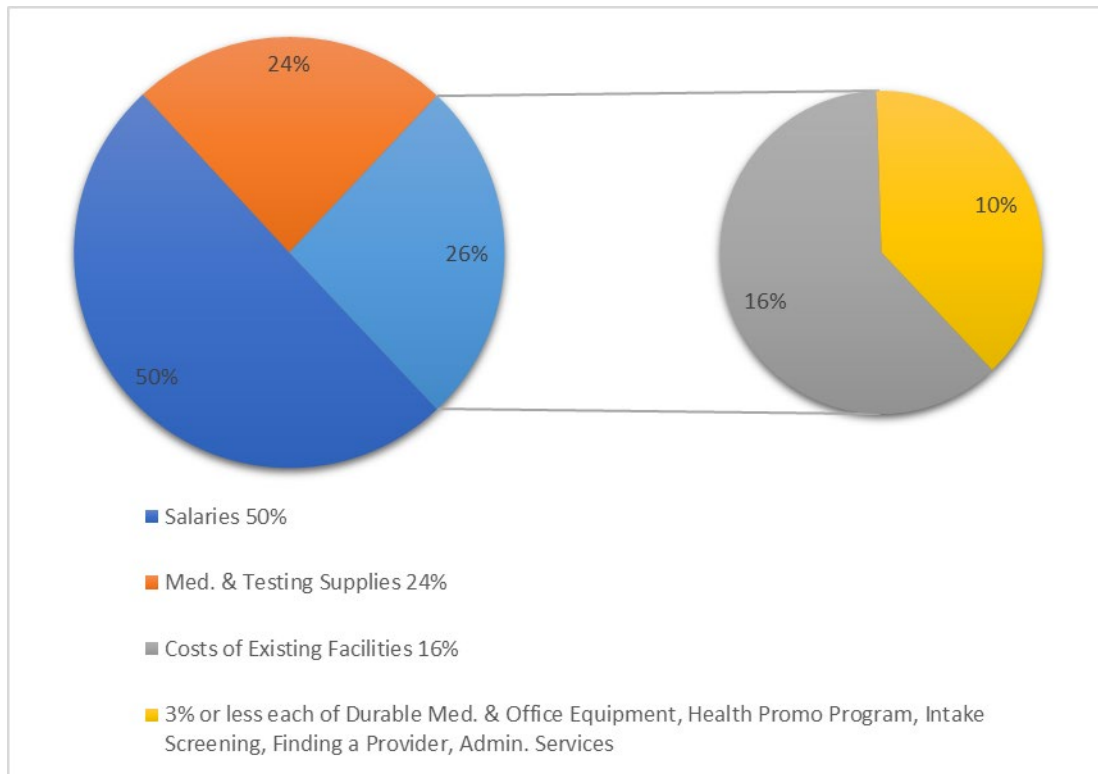


Figure 4 illustrates the percentage of total MDHHS Free Clinic funding used to support identified clinic costs.

Further Information

For further information regarding the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Free Clinic Funding program please contact:

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Attachment 1 – Fiscal Year 2019 Funded Free Clinic Organizations

Clinic Name	Clinic City	Clinic County
Baxter Community Center Wholistic Health Clinic	Grand Rapids	Kent
Boyne Area Free Clinic	Boyne City	Charlevoix
Cabrini Clinic	Detroit	Wayne
Caring Heart Health Clinic	Marlette	Sanilac
Carriage Town Ministries	Flint	Genesee
Cass Clinic	Detroit	Wayne
Centro Multicultural La Familia	Pontiac	Oakland
City on a Hill Health Clinic	Zeeland	Ottawa
Dr. Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic	Pontiac	Oakland
Exalta Health	Grand Rapids	Kent
FernCare Free Clinic Inc.	Ferndale	Oakland
Fountain Clinic	Marshall	Calhoun
Genesee County Free Medical Clinic	Flint	Genesee
Health Unit on Davison Avenue	Detroit	Wayne
Helen M. Nickless Volunteer Clinic	Essexville	Bay
Holland Free Health Clinic	Holland	Ottawa
Hope House Free Medical Clinic	Big Rapids	Mecosta
Hope Medical Clinic	Ypsilanti	Washtenaw
Hope Wayne Medical Clinic	Westland	Wayne
Kalamazoo Gospel Mission Health Clinic	Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo
Love in Action	Grand Haven	Ottawa
Malta Medical Dental Clinic	Detroit	Wayne
MAPI Clinic	Lathrup Village	Oakland
Northern Care Center	Cheboygan	Cheboygan
Oasis of Hope Center	Grand Rapids	Kent
Ogemaw Hills Free Clinic	West Branch	Ogemaw
Presbyterian Health Clinic of Branch County	Coldwater	Branch
Renewed Hope Free Health Clinic	Allegan	Allegan
Shiawassee Free Medical Clinic	Owosso	Shiawassee
St. Peter's Free Clinic of Hillsdale County	Hillsdale	Hillsdale
Stehouwer Free Clinic	Cadillac	Wexford
The Luke Project – 52 Clinic Inc.	Detroit	Wayne
Tri-County Dental Health - JVS	Southfield	Oakland
Trinity Community Care	Shelby Township	Macomb
University of Michigan Student-Run Free Clinic	Pinckney	Livingston
VIETMD Clinic	Warren	Macomb
Wyandotte Clinic for the Working Uninsured Foundation DBA: Downriver Community Clinic	Wyandotte	Wayne