



Fiscal Year 2023

Free Clinic Funding Summary Report

Introduction

Qualifying free clinics are majority volunteer-staffed clinics that provide a range of medical, dental, pharmacy, and behavioral health care services to individuals who are economically disadvantaged. These clinics are nonprofit organizations that use volunteer or paid health professionals to provide free or affordable health care to people who are uninsured or medically underserved due to limited or no access to health care. 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 2023, \$400,000 was allocated to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for equal distribution among free clinic organizations serving Michigan's population that needs free health care. This is the 18th year that funds have been allocated to the Free Clinic Funding Program. The Workforce/Access Section within the MDHHS Policy, Planning and Operational Support Administration reviewed eligibility criteria, managed the application process, and administered agreements with those clinics awarded funding.

Snapshot of 2023 Funded Free Clinics

- Thirty-three organizations operating in 19 Michigan counties were funded in 2023.
- It was reported that free health care was provided for approximately 11,832 uninsured patient visits to the clinics throughout the year.
- An estimated 2,211 volunteer service hours were donated to the clinics each week.
- Eight of the funded free clinics only provided care to patients with incomes at or below two times the federal poverty level. Nineteen of the 33 awarded clinics only provided care to those without insurance.

Overview

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

- The clinic is located within Michigan and provides primary 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.
- Clients served do not have insurance for the services provided or are underinsured.

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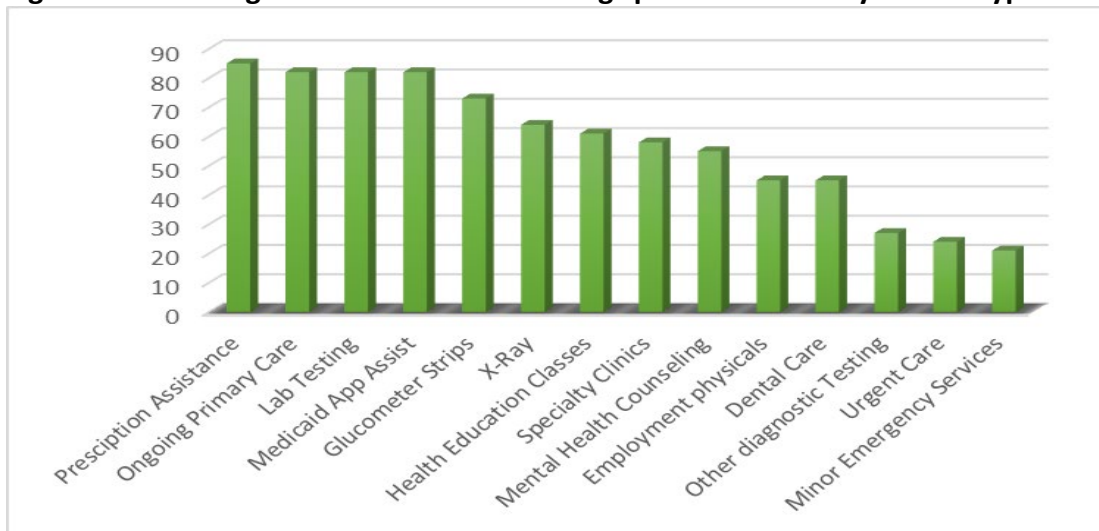
Applications were distributed to clinics identified utilizing an FCOM directory of free clinic organizations, along with information obtained through the fiscal year 2022 grant application process. Information and application materials were also available online on the MDHHS website. The contract period started on January 1, 2023, and ended on September 30, 2023. Given the limited grant writing resources of most applicant organizations, MDHHS staff were available to assist clinics in completing the application. Thirty-three applicants met the established criteria for funding and received an award of \$12,121 each. For a complete list of grantees, see Attachment 1.

Characteristics of Funded Clinics

The funded free clinic organizations were in 19 counties across Michigan. Free primary care clinic services were provided through volunteers who offered an estimated 2,211 volunteer hours per week. In 2023, the clinics offered health care services to people who were uninsured during an estimated 986 patient visits each month, serving 10,942 unique (i.e., non-repeat) patients during the year.

The clinics offer a variety of patient care services including more than 14 health care service types. The most common services offered by funded free clinics are prescription assistance (provided by 85% of funded clinics), ongoing primary care (82% of funded clinics), lab testing (82% of funded clinics), and assistance applying for Medicaid and other services (82% of funded clinics). Other services offered include glucometer strips, x-rays, dental care, health education classes, specialty clinics, mental health counseling, employment physicals, dental care, other diagnostic testing, urgent care, 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 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 second year to their seventy-third year. Eighty-one percent of the funded clinics have been in operation for more than 10 years. Thirty percent have been in operation for over 20 years. See Figure 2 for more information.

Figure 2. Distribution of funded free clinic age by total years of operation

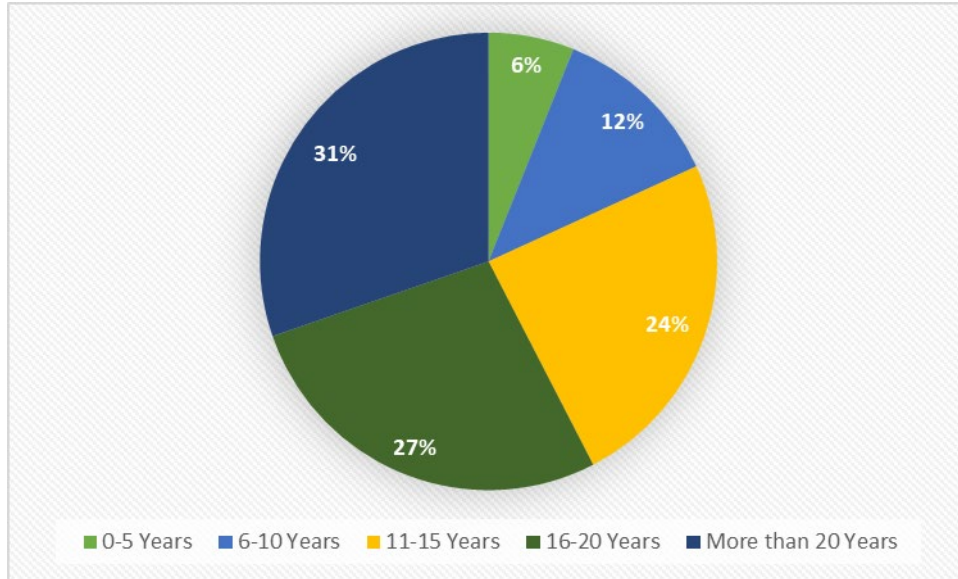


Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of funded free clinics in five groupings: 0-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20 and more than 20 years in operation.

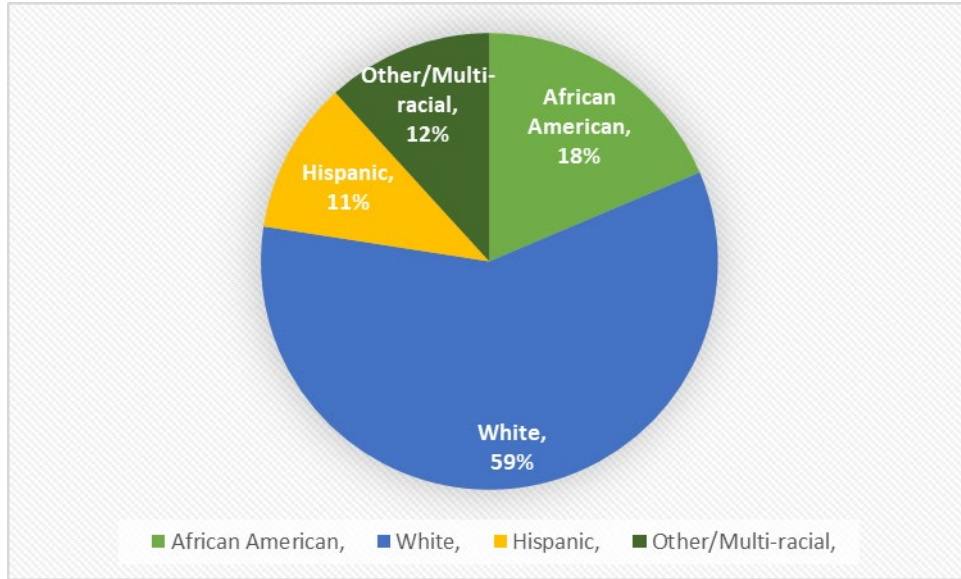
Patient Demographics

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 87% of the patients in these clinics are below 200% of the federal poverty level. Sixty-one percent of clinic patients were employed either full or part time.

Demographic data indicates that Michigan’s funded free clinics care for a racially and ethnically diverse population as well as many ages. Most clinic patients are adults between 19-64 years of age. Similar to the previous year, over 40% of the responding clinics, however, reported that at least some portion of their patient population was 18 years of age or younger. Seventy-four 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 provide a further breakdown of clinic patient demographics.

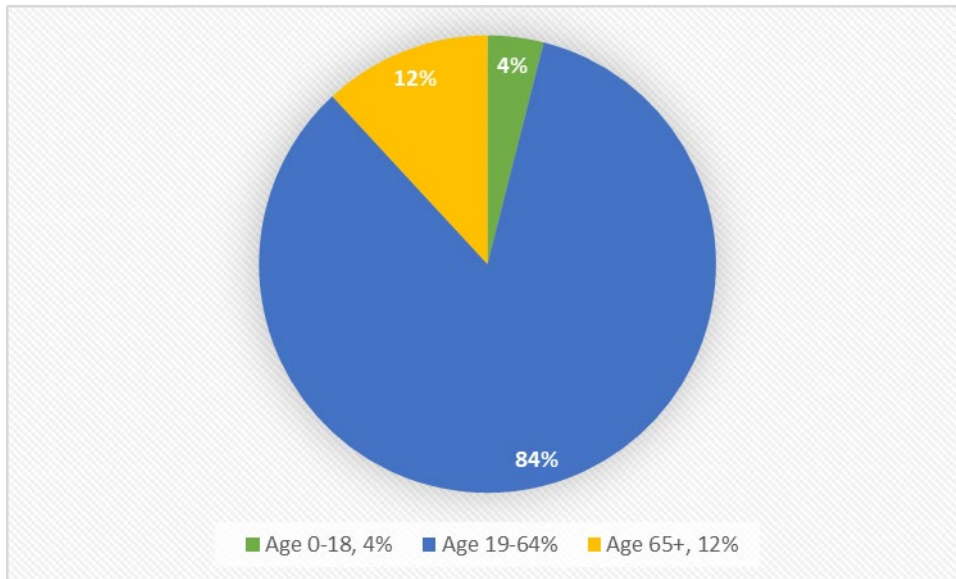
Figure 3. Patient race

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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

Similarly to past years, the most common uses of grant funds in 2023 were for salaries, and medical and testing supplies, with 24 and 17 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 (12 clinics), administrative services (three clinics), outreach, durable medical equipment, renovations, health promotional programs, and medications. Figure 5 details the percentage of awarded funds clinics used to support identified costs.

Figure 5. Funding spent to support identified clinic costs

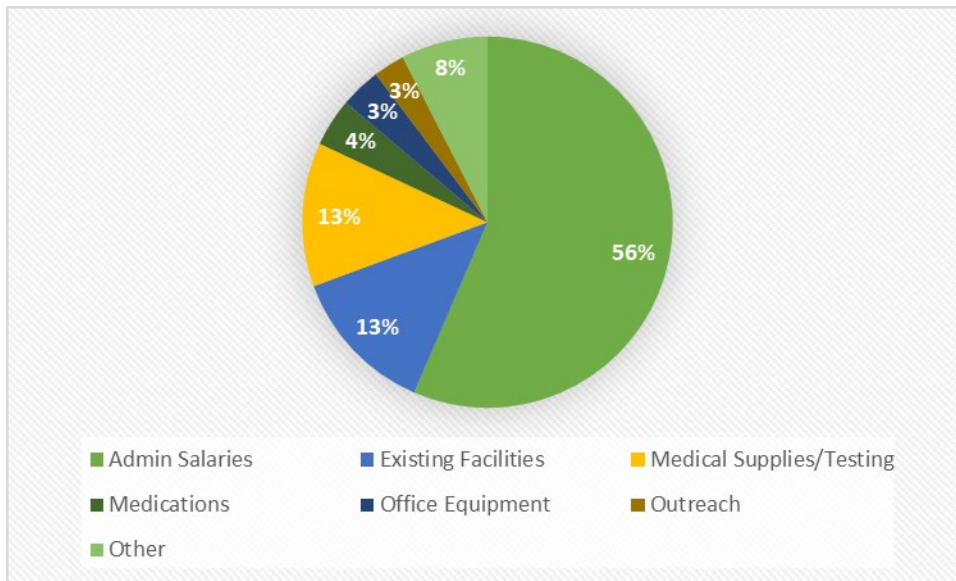


Figure 5 illustrates the percentage of total MDHHS free clinic funding used to support identified clinic costs.

Further Information and Observations

During the 2023 Safety-Net Symposium, several attending free clinics and the Free Clinics of Michigan representatives noted challenges faced by the free clinics. They shared that since the COVID-19 pandemic, they had experienced difficulty obtaining the required 50% of volunteer providers to meet funding eligibility. A few newly formed free clinics were in attendance, and they were looking forward to applying for future funding from the Free Clinic Funding Program.

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 2023 Funded Free Clinic Organizations

Clinic Name	Clinic City	Clinic County
Boyne Area Free Clinic, Inc.	Boyne City	Charlevoix
Cabrini Clinic	Detroit	Wayne
Caring Heart Health Clinic	Marlette	Sanilac
Cass Clinic	Detroit	Wayne
C-ASSIST	Dearborn	Wayne
Centro Multicultural La Familia, Inc.	Pontiac	Oakland
City on a Hill Health Clinic (City on a Hill Ministries)	Zeeland	Ottawa
FernCare Free Clinic, Inc.	Ferndale	Oakland
Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic	Pontiac	Oakland
Helen M. Nickless Volunteer Clinic (McLaren Bay Medical Foundation)	Bay City	Bay
Holland Free Health Clinic	Holland	Ottawa
Hope House Free Medical Clinic	Big Rapids	Mecosta
Hope Medical Clinic, Inc. Wayne	Westland	Wayne
Hope Medical Clinic, Inc. Ypsilanti	Ypsilanti	Washtenaw
Kalamazoo Gospel Mission	Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo
Lake Huron Foundation's People's Clinic for Better Health	Port Huron	St. Clair County
Love in Action of the Tri-Cities	Grand Haven	Ottawa
Love in Action of the Tri-Cities Dental Clinic	Grand Haven	Ottawa
Luke Project 52 Clinic of Flint	Fenton	Genesee
Malta Dental and Medical Clinic	Detroit	Wayne
MAPI Charitable Clinic	Lathrop Village	Oakland
Northern Care Center	Cheboygan	Cheboygan
Ogemaw Hills	West Branch	Ogemaw
Presbyterian Health Clinic of Branch County	Coldwater	Branch
Renewed Hope Free Health Clinic	Allegan	Allegan
Robert R. Frank Student Run Free Clinic	Detroit	Wayne
SAY Detroit	Highland Park	Wayne
St. Peter's Free Clinic of Hillsdale County, Inc.	Hillsdale	Hillsdale
Stehouwer Free Clinic (Cadillac Area Community Health Clinic)	Cadillac	Wexford
The Fountain Clinic	Marshall	Calhoun
The Luke Clinic - Detroit DBA The Luke Project 52 Clinic	Detroit	Wayne
The Luke Clinic - Flint DBA The Luke Project 52 Clinic	Flint	Genesee
Trinity Community Care	Shelby Township	Macomb
University of Michigan Student-Run Free Clinic	Pinckney	Livingston
Wyandotte Clinic for the Working Uninsured	Wyandotte	Wayne

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