



Mission Statement

“Free Clinics of Iowa’s mission is to facilitate the initiation, operation and collaboration of free medical clinics in the State of Iowa.”



Free Clinics of Iowa is a Not-For-Profit, 501c3 Organization that exists to facilitate the initiation, operation and collaboration of free clinics in the State of Iowa.

NOTE WORTHY: There are no membership fees associated with Free Clinics of Iowa and no administrative charges to Free Clinics of Iowa member clinics.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO:

- We believe free clinics are the last thread in the health care safety net for all Iowans.
- According to Iowa Health Statistics in 2003, 10% of Iowans were uninsured and among Iowa adults 19-64 years of age, 14% were uninsured. More recent data indicates these numbers are on the rise.
- In 2003, the Free Clinics of Iowa network operated with over 800 volunteers and serviced over 10,000 patients.
- There is Strength In Numbers - in terms of collaboration, advocacy, awareness and impact.

FACILITATING THE INITIATION OF CLINICS:

- "Free Clinic Operation Manual," written by James L. Blessman, MD & Founder of Free Clinics of Iowa, specifically for the initiation and operation of free clinics in the State of Iowa. The manual contains suggested process for initiating a free clinic, listing of initial resources, supplies and equipment needs, information about Iowa's Volunteer Health Care Provider Program (VHCPP), Iowa's Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), policies and procedures for clinic operation, sample forms and volunteer job descriptions.
- Assistance in facilitating stakeholder meetings within member clinic communities to establish support and awareness of free clinic initiation.
- Assistance and templates for entering into Lease arrangements with the hosting site.
- Assistance in establishing a member clinic Advisory Board/Council, if appropriate.
- Assistance to establish member clinic bank accounts (If clinic chooses to join under the Free Clinics of Iowa 501c3 umbrella)

FACILITATING THE OPERATION OF CLINICS:

- Standard FCI organizational forms, policies and procedures for day-to-day operation.
- Standard FCI volunteer applications, forms & links to optimize volunteer recruitment process.
- Provide volunteer background checks for criminal, child abuse and adult dependent abuse records.
- Maintain a master database of all member clinic volunteers and routinely verify all volunteers have an active, unrestricted license to practice in Iowa AND current malpractice coverage through the VHCPP or another means.
- Under the IRS, 501c3, tax-exempt status of the organization, all donations and contributions are tax-deductible to the donor.

OPERATION, CONT.:

- Standard FCI organizational thank you cards/receipts, expense reports & deposit reports, specifically designed to optimize year-end tax filing process.
- Provide general accounting and tax filing services. (If clinic chooses to join under the Free Clinics of Iowa 501c3 umbrella)
- Provide group-rate insurance policies for property, general liability, professional liability and medical malpractice, where the State's VHCPP does not provide coverage.
- Maintain physical space for medical records older than 5 years.
- Assistance in understanding and utilizing the VHCPP, VFC or any other State program related to the operation of free clinics or services provided by free clinics.

FACILITATING THE COLLABORATION OF CLINICS:

- Facilitate continuing education opportunities for volunteer clinic leadership (ie: Volunteer Recruitment, Retention and Recognition).
- Facilitate Clinic Managers meetings approximately two times per year, focused on improving the day-to-day operations of member clinics.
- Facilitate collaborative and networking opportunities among member clinics.
- Fund raising/grant writing initiatives facilitated by FCI Central Office for support of member clinics.
- Distribution of donated equipment supplies and pharmas to member clinics.
- Through buying in bulk, pursuit of discounted pricing on equipment, supplies and pharmas.
- Advocate on behalf of member free clinics to the media, legislative, business and civic leadership.
- Continuous free clinic operation updates and communication to member clinics provided through FCI Central Office membership and/or participation in the National Association of Free Clinics, Free Clinics of the Great Lakes Region, Volunteers in Health Care and various newsletters and publications.

MEMBER CLINIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Enter into a contractual agreement with Free Clinics of Iowa.
- Adhere to the FCI Mission Statement.
- Appoint a Volunteer Clinic Manager and a Volunteer Medical Director.
- Clearly identify member clinic as part of Free Clinics of Iowa in print or any other means of media.
- Display signage recognizing membership within Free Clinics of Iowa.
- Utilize Free Clinics of Iowa letterhead in all clinic communications.
- Utilize standard Free Clinics of Iowa forms in clinic operation and reporting.
- IF member clinic chooses to join under the umbrella of the FCI 501c3 status:
 - Track and submit expense and deposit records for general accounting and tax filing services.
- Track and submit volunteer reports for data collection, insurance purposes and verification of active, unrestricted licensure in the State of Iowa.
- Track and submit patient visit reports for accurate data collection regarding services & impact of free clinics within the State of Iowa.

**Free Clinics of Iowa: 3200 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50312
Wendy Gray, MS, Executive Director, 515-271-1642, wgray@freeclinicsofiowa.org**

“FACTS & FIGURES”

In America:

- 45 Million Americans were Uninsured at some point in 2003:
 - 14 Million Low-Income Adults – Uninsured and Ineligible for public health insurance programs
 - 2 out of 3 Work but don't have health insurance through their employers or can't afford to pay the premiums
 - 8 out of 10 Don't qualify for public health insurance programs because their income is too high
- 8.5 Million Uninsured Children – More than half of them qualify for Medicaid and SCHIP, but are not enrolled
- In 42 of the 50 States, Childless Adults are ineligible for Medicaid – even if they have no income at all

In Iowa:

- 10% of Iowans were uninsured in 2003
- 63,500 (100%) Childless Low-Income Adults are uninsured and ineligible for Medicaid
- 31,000 (69.9%) Low-Income Parents are uninsured and ineligible for Medicaid
- 50,000 – 100,000 Children are uninsured or at risk for becoming uninsured

The Health Care Safety Net:

Health Care Providers and organizations, willing to provide care to the uninsured and underserved. This loosely knit, frayed and often torn group called the Health Care Safety Net, consists of hospital emergency departments, public hospitals, community health centers, free clinics and others. We consider free clinics THE last thread in the Health Care Safety Net and are often the only access to basic and preventative health care.

Free Clinics:

- Over 800 Clinics in 47 States across the Country, Serving 3.5 Million of America's uninsured and Providing \$3 Billion in Health Care Value to the system in serving the uninsured
- 26 Free Clinic locations in Iowa, representing 38,214 Patient Visits (from 21 responding clinics) in 2004
- 12 of Iowa's free clinics comprise the Free Clinics of Iowa network – Providing Service through the efforts of more than 800 volunteers to the Uninsured in Ames, Decorah, Des Moines, Knoxville, Oskaloosa, Pella, Polk City, Waterloo and West Des Moines. This network will undoubtedly continue to grow, as Free Clinics are functioning as part of the Health Care Access Infrastructure.

(Note: “Facts and Figures” source information from the National Health Policy Forum, National Association of Free Clinics, Iowa Free Clinic Profile Review, Families USA, HRSA (Bureau of Primary Care) & Free Clinics of Iowa)



Our Mission:

Free Clinics of Iowa is a Not-For-Profit, 501c3 Organization that exists to facilitate the initiation, operation and collaboration of free clinics in the State of Iowa.

The Statistics That Drive Our Existence:

- 45 Million Americans were uninsured on any given day in 2003.
- 10% of Iowans were uninsured and among Iowa adults 19-64 years of age, 14% were uninsured in 2003
- Of America's uninsured adults, 2 out of 3 work, but either don't have health insurance through their employers or can't afford to pay the premiums.
- 8 out of 10 low-income, uninsured adults do not qualify for Medicaid or other public health coverage because their incomes are too high.
- There are 31,000 (69.9%) uninsured parents in Iowa who are ineligible for Medicaid.
- There are 8.5 million uninsured children in America (46,000 in Iowa), despite the efforts of SCHIP and Medicaid.

Our Network:

Founded by Dr. James Blessman, our organization has supported the operation of free clinics since 1994. Today, Free Clinics of Iowa is the largest network of free clinics in the state with 12 member clinics. In rural and urban settings, FCI provides basic health care services through volunteer providers and reception staff, at no cost to patients. Our clinics are generally located within community centers or churches and typically operate 2-3 hours per week. In 2003, we served more than 10,000 patients through the efforts of over 800 volunteers. We anticipate our network will continue to grow, as we increase our collaborative efforts with other independent free clinics and receive community requests for assistance in establishing new clinics.

Our Operational Support:

Support for the operation of Free Clinics of Iowa is solely dependent on our volunteer's time, pharmaceutical sample supplies, physician sample supplies, donated medical supplies, individual/private/public donations and collaborative relationships within the communities we serve. To provide quality services to our patients, we rely upon partnerships with area community hospitals, public health departments, pharmacies and specialists.

Note-Worthy:

There are no membership fees associated with Free Clinics of Iowa and no administrative charges to Free Clinics of Iowa member clinics. We believe there's Strength In Numbers - in terms of collaboration, advocacy, awareness and impact. According to the National Association of Free Clinics, there are over 800 free clinics operating in 47 states. We are THE last thread in the Health Care Safety Net.

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AMES:

Ames Free Medical Clinic
Youth & Shelter Services
420 Kellogg
Ames, IA 50010

515-233-3141
Thursdays: 6-8 pm

DES MOINES:

Sara Ford Free Clinic
Urban Dreams
1410 6th Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50314

515-288-4742
To Open March, 2005

POLK CITY:

St. Luke's Clinic, Polk City
United Methodist Church
1421 W. Broadway
Polk City, IA 50226

515-984-6274
1st & 3rd Wed./ea. mo. 6-8 pm

DECORAH:

Decorah Community Free Clinic
First Lutheran Church
604 West Broadway
Decorah, IA 52101

563-382-2638
Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 pm

KNOXVILLE:

Good Samaritan Free Clinic
First United Methodist Church,
Activity Building
308 E. Robinson
Knoxville, IA 50138

641-842-3712
2nd & 4th Thurs./ea. mo. 6-8 pm

WATERLOO:

EMA Free Medical Clinic
205 Adams St. Suite 1
Waterloo, IA 50703

319-235-5580
Thursdays: 6-8 pm

DES MOINES:

Margaret Cramer Clinic
First Assembly of God Church
2725 Merle Hay Road
Des Moines, IA 50310

515-279-9766
Thursdays: 6-8 pm

OSKALOOSA:

Central United Methodist
Church Clinic
A & Market Avenues
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

641-672-2564
Thursdays: 7-9 pm

WATERLOO:

Jubilee Community Health
Clinic, United Methodist Church
610 Allen Street
Waterloo, IA 50702

319-236-0199
Saturdays: 9-11:30 am

DES MOINES:

Maple Street Baptist Church
Free Clinic
1552 Maple Street
Des Moines, IA 50316

515-262-1931
2nd Thurs./ea mo. 6-8 pm

PELLA:

Good Samaritan Free Clinic
First Reformed Church
603 Broadway
Pella, IA 50219

641-628-3493
Thursdays: 6-8 pm

WEST DES MOINES:

Mae E. Davis Free Medical
Clinic
Eddie Davis Community Center
1312 Maple Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265

515-277-1103
Tuesdays: 7-9 pm

A Study of Iowa's Free Clinics

Conducted in 2004 by Des Moines University, College of Health Sciences

A descriptive study of Iowa's Free Clinics, including quantitative survey and qualitative interview methodologies, was conducted during the Summer of 2004 by DMU faculty and students. The study was funded by the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Health Care Access (HRSA funding). The following provide a succinct picture of the Herculean efforts to provide minimal access to thousands of Iowans:

- Twenty-four clinics and two recently opened clinics provide free medical care
- 38,000 patients (people, not patient-visits) were served during one year
- Most of the patients are adult females, White or Hispanic
- 81% are uninsured; 15% are under-insured
- 37% of medical care provided is for chronic conditions
- Access to pharmaceuticals is a central and paramount concern of ALL free clinics

Free Clinics are able to do what they do:

- Primarily due to
 - The gallant effort of many volunteers (~ 1,150; mostly part-time)
 - Minimal bureaucratic “red tape” and organizational entanglements
- In spite of limited funds (expenditures exceeding revenues by 25%)

Funding for free clinics would:

- Increase access to “some health care” for many more needy Iowans
- Enhance the quality of medical care currently being provided

Care must be taken to ensure the efforts of free clinics are not thwarted by excessive “paperwork” and resource-diverting governmental accountability:

- Funnel funding through established coalitions
- Hold coalitions accountable minimizing burden on free clinics

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