



# Free and Charitable Clinics Month 2021 Toolkit

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# IAFCC's Ask

In Illinois, the most recent data available finds that there are about 912,000 uninsured Illinoisans. Many of the remaining uninsured cannot afford insurance, work at jobs that do not provide insurance or are ineligible for the ACA. The Illinois Association of Free & Charitable Clinics (IAFCC) improves access to quality healthcare for low-income individuals who are uninsured or underinsured. We have 46 members including both free and charitable clinics serving over 100,000 patients each year and an estimated 162,000 health care visits annually.

IAFCC's members are able to serve such a large number of uninsured because most of the clinics are volunteer-based, safety-net health care organizations that provide a range of medical, dental, pharmacy, and/or behavioral health services at no cost to economically disadvantaged individuals who are predominately uninsured. We can serve thousands more if the scope of the Good Samaritan Act is expanded to protect more volunteers and the clinics in which they work.

## **What is the Good Samaritan Act?**

It is legislation that provides malpractice protection for volunteers in a medical situation. This law also extends to designated healthcare professionals who volunteer their time in free dental and free medical clinics and accept no compensation.

## **What's the Issue?**

There are two areas of concern: (1) the Act does not explicitly state that the free clinics in which the volunteer's work are covered, and (2) the Act does not include charitable clinics (medical and dental) and their volunteers. (Charitable clinics are similar to free clinics but may charge a nominal fee or sliding scale for services.)

## **Why Is This a Problem?**

(1) Ambiguity about the coverage afforded to the clinic entity prompts many clinics to divert limited resources toward securing insurance coverage; funds that would be better spent to support patient care. (2) Charitable clinics are often forced to turn away qualified volunteer providers (e.g. retired physicians) due to concerns about malpractice coverage.

## **What Change is Proposed?**

Amend the Illinois Good Samaritan Act to (1) specify that free medical and dental clinics are covered as entities, and (2) expand coverage to include charitable clinics and their volunteers.

# Calendar

- **Chicago Women's Health Center Virtual Tours**  
*Starts August 1*
- **Simple Healthy Living Workshops at Indian American Medical Association**  
*August 7, 21, and 22 from 10:30-11:30 am*
- **CommunityHealth's Back to School Health Fair at Onward House**  
*August 7, Time TBD*
- **Bolingbrook Christian Health Center's "Are you fit?" Colon Cancer Screening Day**  
*August 19, from 5-7 pm*
- **Mobile Care Chicago's Vaccinations for Children at the Illinois State Fair**  
*August 20 and 21, from 9am-4pm*

*\*We will update this as more events get added\**

# Weekly Themes

August 1-31, 2021

## **Week 1 - Access**

- a. What does it mean for our clinics to provide for our communities? How are we giving them the healthy tools they need? Highlights of the work that's being done by all our clinics – e.g. showcasing some of the data projects we have supportive stats for.

## **Week 2 - Volunteers**

- a. We couldn't do anything without our volunteers! This is a great way to engage our volunteers to spread the word, share their stories about why they volunteer, what they gain and what they see they are providing in our communities. – e.g. sharing testimonials/quotes from volunteers at clinics across the state.

## **Week 3 - Patients**

- a. 98% of people will buy a product or use a service based upon a referral. Let's have patient stories from across clinics and share how many we serve and the impact in IL truly is! – e.g. sharing patient outcomes in stats or via testimonials or stories.

## **Week 4 - Partnerships**

- a. This is where we highlight donors/partners of many of our clinics? Other ways to really point out that how we're able to do the work we do is through our partnerships, funding, etc. – e.g. – highlighting some of the supporters of this month – sponsors, strong supporters, and funders.

## EXAMPLE POSTS

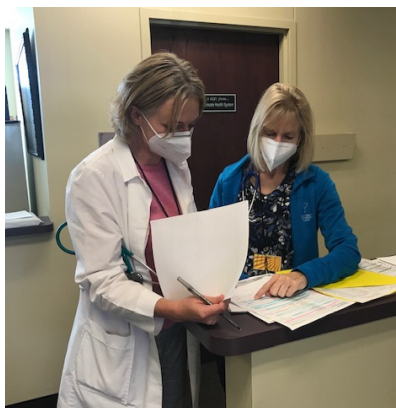


### ACCESS

"Illinois Free and Charitable Clinics take a holistic approach in the provision of health care to those who can't afford it. Many health care centers provide health education, social services, exercise classes, counseling, dental, and much more in addition to providing care.

#ILFreeClinicsMonth

#ILFreeClinicsMonth2021"



### PATIENTS/VOLUNTEERS

"Other partners - whom we could not exist without - are our medical providers: generous people who volunteer their time outside of their busy workdays. These include physicians, nurse practitioners, PAs, and DOs.

#ILFreeClinicsMonth

#ILFreeClinicsMonth2021"



### PARTNERS

"In September 2020, IAFCC partnered with Project Finish Line, a national initiative to defeat the pandemic in underserved communities.

IAFCC is proud to be working with Project Finish Line as a #CovidEnder to defeat COVID19 in underserved communities.

#ILFreeClinicsMonth

#ILFreeClinicsMonth2021"

# Color Day

August 31, 2021

To celebrate the end of another Free and Charitable Clinics Month, IAFCC encourages our clinics to participate in a color day on August 31.

We will be wearing the color blue – you can choose what shade!

We would love to see your pictures of your staff, volunteers, etc. wearing BLUE!



# Fact Sheet

We hope the information on the Fact Sheet can be helpful to you in promoting your clinic during 2021 Free and Charitable Clinics Month.

You can take the fact sheet as it is and:

- Share it as a Facebook post.
- Add it to your website.
- Send it as an attachment to an email that is sent to donors and legislators.
- Print it and put it in the mail or post it in your clinic.
- Print it and add this to a "packet " of information to bring if visiting legislators. Make sure the packet of information includes clinic information as well.

In the messaging make sure to add information about your clinic, your volunteers, and your patients. It is always powerful to add a patient or provider story as long as permission is granted by the individual before sharing publicly AND the personal information like name, age is de-identified.

*\*The fact sheet is attached to the email containing this toolkit\**

# How To Contact State and Federal Legislators

1. Go to this website:  
[www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/DistrictLocator/AddressFinder.aspx](http://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/DistrictLocator/AddressFinder.aspx)
2. Enter the address for which you are attempting to locate districts/officials, then click "Find Address".
3. Once you have determined the correct location is being displayed, click "Confirm Address" to see the associated districts/officials.

# Press Releases

August is an important month where we can highlight all the great, important work happening at our clinics.

This past year, two bills have passed Illinois' house and senate that benefit IAFCC and the work being done at our clinics.

We have attached three press releases to this email: one from IAFCC about Free and Charitable Clinics Month, one about the I-DROP bill, and one about the Health Equity and Access to Care bill.

Please feel free to send these to any state or federal legislators, or share it on your social media if it supports your messages for the month of August!

# IAFCC Mini Grants

This August, the Association is spearheading Illinois' 7th annual Free and Charitable Clinics Month because we want everyone to know the critical and vital role you play in providing quality health care in Illinois.

We will use the "Free & Charitable Clinics Month" to tell our communities who we are and what we do.

## **Our objectives are to:**

- Reach potential new patients
- Let our donors know that their contributions remain needed and valuable
- Increase recognition from local elected officials

We want our local communities to understand how our clinics address the health disparities of our patients and provide access to quality health care. The goal of the month is to celebrate and support the accomplishments and contributions of free and charitable clinics.

## **Clinics can participate in many ways, including:**

- Host an event during the month of August- do you provide COVID Tests and vaccines, other health screens or have you started up your classes. Are you considering a live or virtual open house or reception? If you do choose to hold an event we can cover the cost up to \$500 with a mini-grant.
- Submit an op-ed article to your local news outlet
- Give us your best patient stories so we can write the article and get it placed!

IAFCC will be awarding mini-grants for up to \$500.00 to support costs associated with your efforts.

If you are interested in applying for a Mini-Grant complete this application:

[www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/W5sbJewfcKf66laVN67QgPbF6](http://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/W5sbJewfcKf66laVN67QgPbF6)