

Free & Charitable Clinics: Strengthening Illinois' Health Care Safety Net



Free and Charitable Clinics Month 2022 Toolkit

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Free & Charitable Clinics Month

Free & Charitable Clinics: Strengthening Illinois' Health Care Safety Net

August is Illinois Free and Charitable Clinics Month and we want to make sure every last Illinoisan's knows about it. Join us in bringing awareness to free and charitable clinics across the state.

This year's toolkit provides resources for clinics to use to raise awareness and spread the word

- 1) Join IAFCC's month-long social media campaign and highlight the work of your clinic, go to pages 4-7.
- 2) Wear blue as a sign of your support for Illinois' free and charitable clinics on Monday, August 15, 2022, go to page 7.
- 3) Reach out to policymakers and elected officials. To learn how to find your state and federal elected officials, go to page 8.
- 4) IAFCC Mini-Grants can help your clinic host events during Free & Charitable Clinics Month, go to page 10.

Help us Spread the Word

Free & Charitable Clinics: Strengthening Illinois' Health Care Safety Net

Be proud of the work that you do, day in and day out. Participate in this year's social media campaign. Below are ideas for what to post during.

Week 1 - Clinics

Share the great work of your clinic. Highlight how free and charitable clinics strengthen the health care safety net by posting stories of how your clinic addresses critical health care needs. Present data on the benefits of your clinic to patients in the state of Illinois. For example post the number of patients seen each year or the number of COVID Vaccines or tests your clinics

Week 2 - Volunteers

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

Share patient stories from your clinic! For example, share how a patient has managed their hypertension because of your care or how a patient received needed dental care because of your clinic.

Week 4 - Collaborations

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, supporters, and funders. Please tag your collaborators in your social media posts!

**On the next page are example posts for the month.
What we do is vital to our communities and August is your
time to shine!**

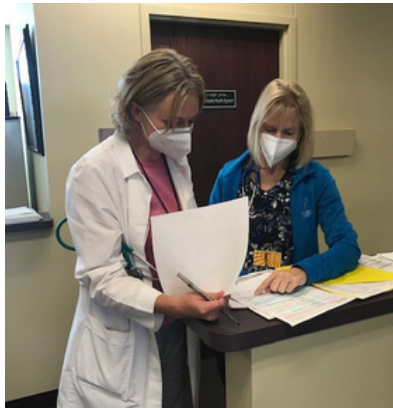
Example Social Media Posts

Below are example posts your clinic could make to highlight the great work your clinic does! Be sure to use the hashtag #IFCCMonth22 to spread the word that August is Free and Charitable Clinics month!



Clinics

"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. #IFCCMonth22 #ILFreeClinicsMonth2022"



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. #IFCCMonth22 #ILFreeClinicsMonth2022"

Collaborations

"This year IAFCC formed a relationship with the Illinois chapter of NAMI, a national organization to provide help to those with mental health issues. IAFCC is proud to be working with NAMI to help better serve those in need in Illinois. #IFCCMonth22"



Color Day

August 15th, 2022



Wear Blue Day!

To celebrate Free and Charitable Clinics Month, IAFCC encourages our clinics to participate in a color day on Monday, August 15th, 2022.

We will be wearing the color blue -you can choose what shade! You can incorporate blue in many ways: like painting your nails, wearing a blue wig or a blue hat, have fun with it! We would love to see your pictures of your staff, volunteers, etc. wearing BLUE! Also share your pictures on social media using #IFCCMonth22 #ILFreeClinicsMonth2022 #WearBlueDayIL

Please send your photos to
maddy@illinoisfreeclinics.org

Fact Sheet & Infographic

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

You can use the fact sheet or Infographic in a variety of ways:

- 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.

[Click here for factsheet and infographic](#)

How To Contact State and Federal Legislators

Please contact your legislators and let them know about the importance of free and charitable clinics. As you know, free and charitable clinics are included in Illinois FY 2023 budget- for the first time. We need to continue to stress the importance of our clinic's work to elected officials. To contact your representatives please follow the steps below:

1. Go to this website:
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.

Consider: Taking the time to speak with official's staff is incredibly important. Building rapport can be just as beneficial as speaking to official themselves! Additionally, you can contact your elected officials through their official social media accounts

House and Senate Resolutions

The House and Senate have declared August of 2022 as "Free and Charitable Clinic Month" in the State of Illinois to create community awareness of the mission and availability of free and charitable clinics across the State so that residents who are without insurance or are underinsured can receive access to vital medical care. The resolutions express gratitude and admiration for the important work the many free and charitable clinics, volunteer doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals do for our great citizens throughout the State of Illinois.

To read and print the resolutions please click the links below:

[House Resolution Link](#)
[Senate Resolution Link](#)

Thank You

**Senator
Karina
Villa!**



We are most grateful to you for understanding that our member clinics are a vital part of the health system safety net. We are so proud of the quality care that they provide to the uninsured and underinsured in Illinois!

As a fierce advocate for funding of Free and Charitable Clinics, this demonstrates how dedicated you are to your constituents and the people of Illinois.

We thank you for your continued support of IAFCC and our clinics.

Thank You

**Representative
Theresa
Mah!**



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Thank you!



Thank you!



IAFCC Mini Grants

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 valued
- 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, and 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!

Past events include a virtual tour of Chicago Women's Health, Mobile Care Chicago's Vaccinations for Children at the Illinois State Fair, and many more!

IAFCC will be awarding mini-grants for up to \$500.00 to support costs associated with your efforts. Mini Grant applications are available [here](#)

Letter about Mini Grants available [here](#)

Now What?

Keep the momentum going. Don't just share the work you do during the month of August but share it all the time.

Whether it's patient or employee stories, insights into what you see daily, or milestones that your clinic has reached, share it with your online community if you don't do it anywhere else.

Then start planning an event for next August!