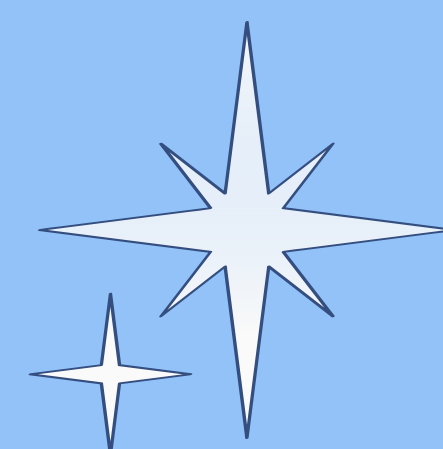


Free & Charitable Clinics: Strengthening Illinois' Health Care Safety Net



IAFCC

Free and Charitable Clinics Month 2023 Toolkit

#IFCCMonth23

#ILFreeClinicsMonth2023

Visit our Website



Contact Us:
ariana@illinoisfreeclinics.org

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FREE & CHARITABLE CLINICS MONTH

August is Illinois Free and Charitable Clinics Month and we want to make sure every last Illinoisan 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 1-4.

2

Wear blue as a sign of your support for Illinois' free and charitable clinics on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, go to page 3.

3

Reach out to policymakers and elected officials. To learn how to find your state and federal elected officials, go to page 5.

4

Highlight all campaigns and outreach with the IAFCC Free & Charitable Clinics Month Hashtags!
#IFCCMonth23 #ILFreeClinicsMonth2023

Help us Spread the Word

#IFCCMonth23
#ILFreeClinicsMonth2023

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

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

Week 1: Clinics

Share the great work of your clinic.

Highlight how free and charitable clinics strengthen the healthcare safety net by posting stories of how your clinic addresses critical healthcare needs. Present data on the benefits of your clinic to patients in the state of Illinois.

For example, the number of patients seen in a year, COVID vaccines or tests administered, or if your clinic has specialists.

Week 2: Volunteers

We couldn't do anything without our volunteers!

This is a great way to engage our volunteers to spread the word and share their stories about why they volunteer, what they gain, and what they see they provide in our communities.

For example, share testimonials and quotes from volunteers working in clinics across the state on their stories, experiences, & their impact.

Week 3: Patients

Share patient stories from your clinic!

It is crucial for clinics to shine a spotlight on the individuals they serve. By highlighting patient stories, clinics can vividly demonstrate the impact of their work, foster empathy, and inspire potential funders to invest in their mission.

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

Thank you to our donors/partners!

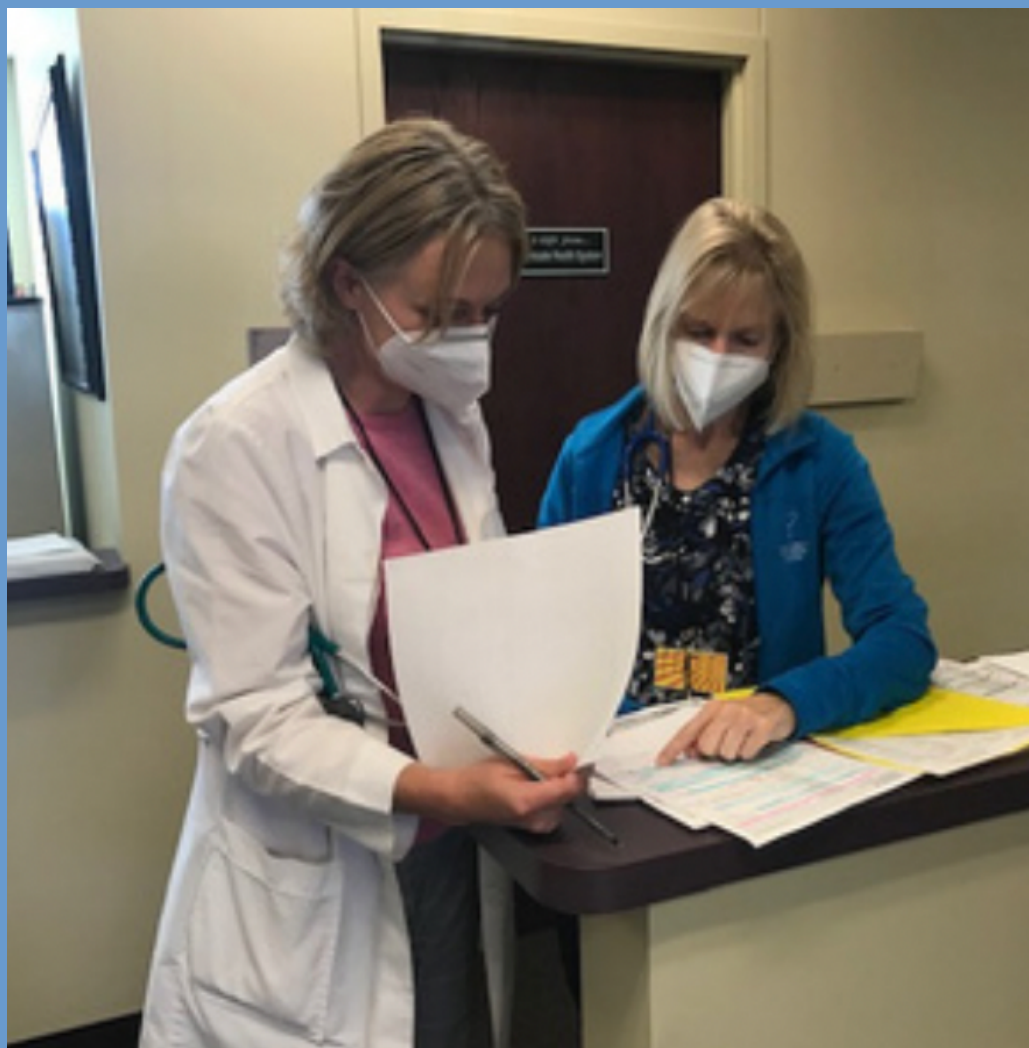
This is where we highlight donors/partners of many of our clinics. Another way to point out how we're able to do the work we do is through our partnerships, funding, etc.

For example, you may highlight some of the supporters of this month – sponsors, supporters, and funders. Please tag your collaborators in your social media posts!

EXAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Here are example posts your clinic could make to highlight the great work your clinic does! Be sure to use the hashtag #IFCCMonth23 to spread the word that August is Free and Charitable Clinics month!

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.

#IFCCMonth23 #ILFreeClinicsMonth2023"



ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF
FREE & CHARITABLE CLINICS

Clinics



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

#IFCCMonth23 #ILFreeClinicsMonth2023

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. "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.

#IFCCMonth23"

August 16, 2023

Wear Blue Day

**WEAR BLUE FOR FREE &
CHARITABLE CLINICS MONTH!**



To celebrate Free and Charitable Clinics Month, IAFCC encourages our clinics to participate in a color day on **Wednesday, August 16th, 2023**

We are wearing all shades of blue! You can incorporate blue into your day by painting your nails or using fun head gear such as a blue wig or hat.

Have fun with it!

Share your pictures on social media using

**#IFCCMonth23 #ILFreeClinicsMonth2023
#WearBlueDayIL**

Send your photos to
ariana@illinoisfreeclinics.org



**We would love to see your pictures of your
volunteers & staff members wearing BLUE!**



Fact Sheet & Infographic

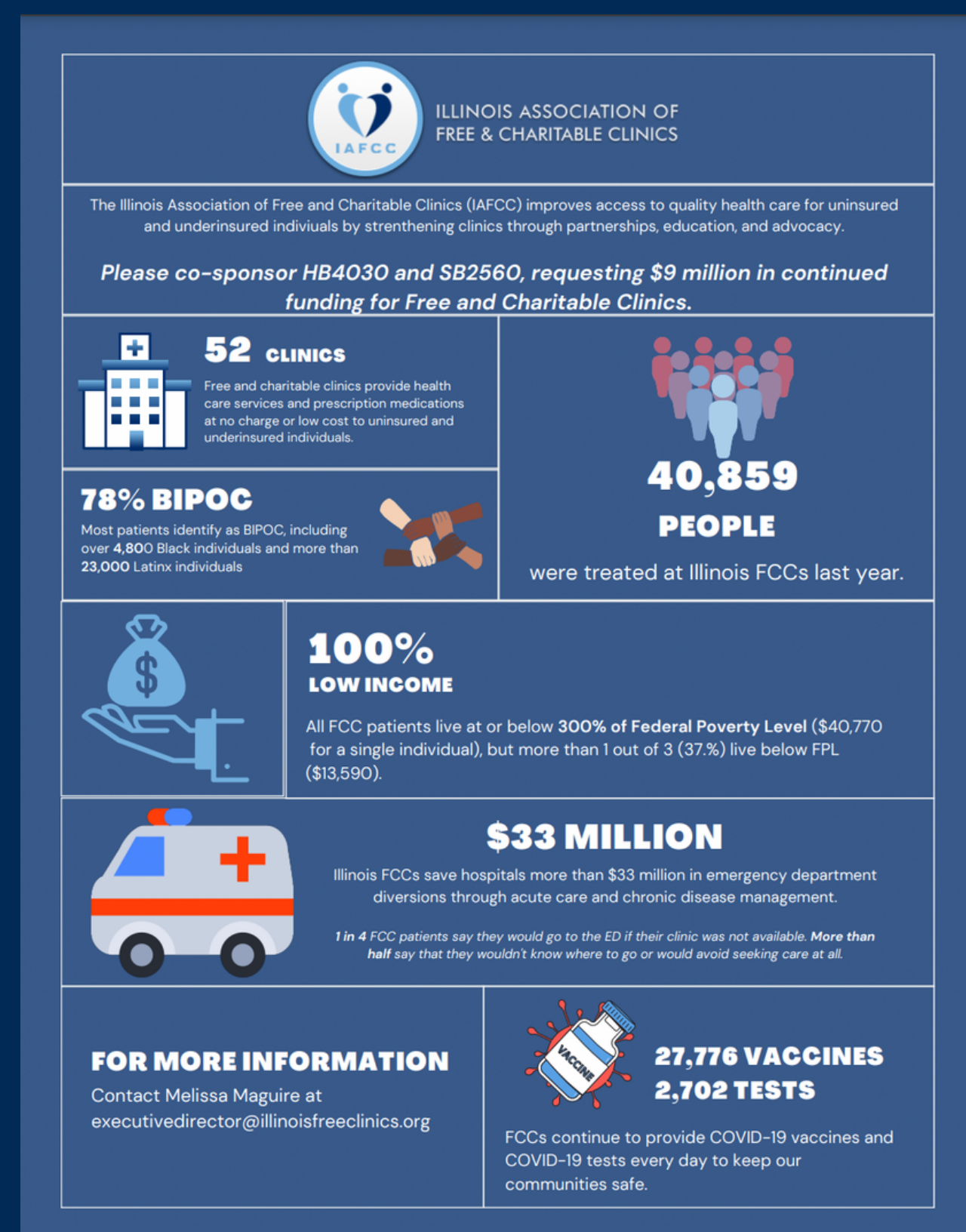
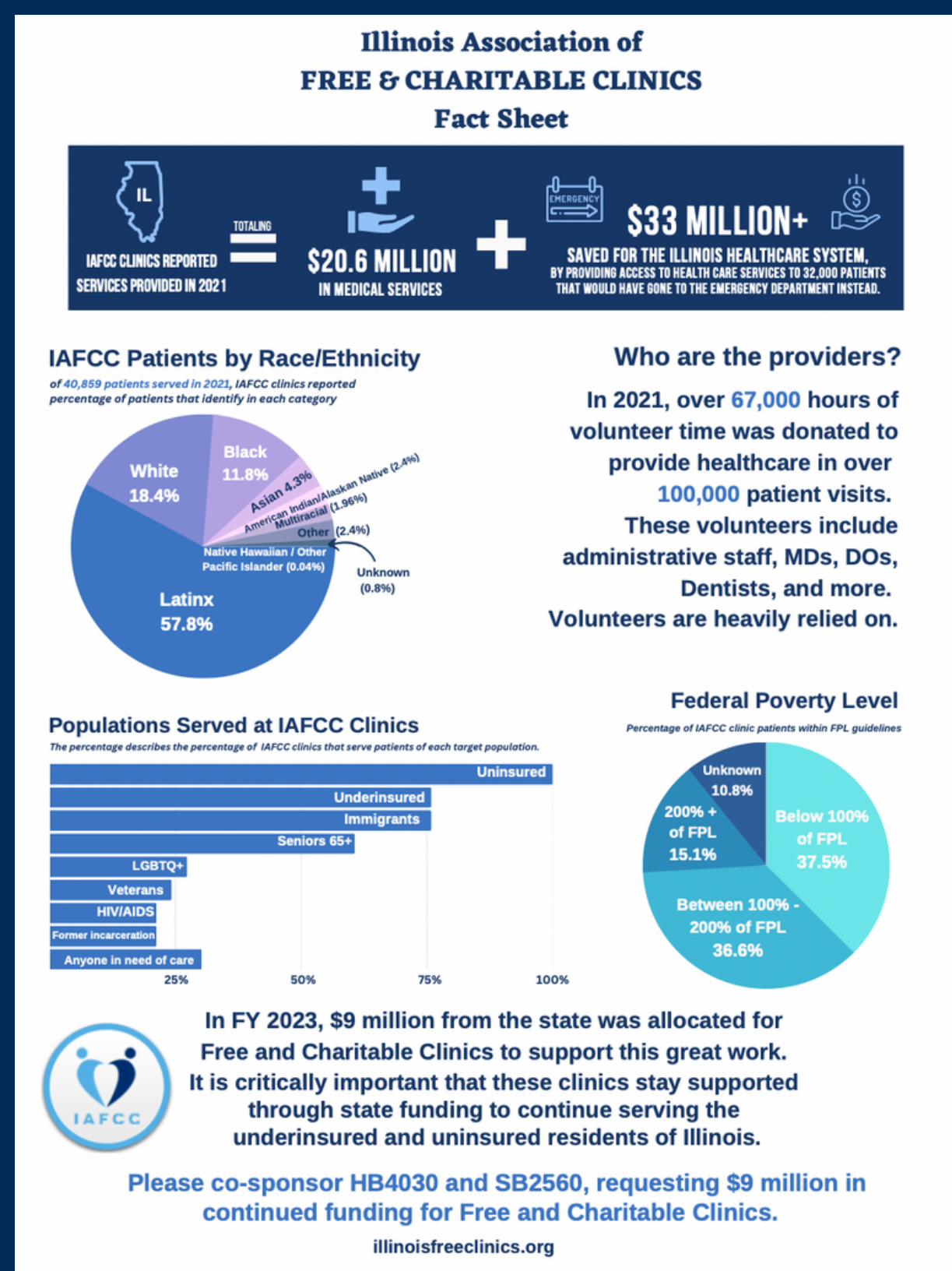
We hope the information on the Fact Sheet and Infographic can be helpful to you in promoting your clinic during Free and Charitable Clinics Month.

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

- Share them in a Facebook post.
- Add them to your website.
- Send them as attachments to emails to donors and legislators.
- Print and mail to stakeholders, or post them in your clinic.
- Create a packet of information to send off to legislators, including these sheets and information on your clinic.

Make sure to include details on 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 such as name and age are de-identified.



[Click here to download PDFs](#)

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 2024 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



Illinois Association of Free & Charitable
Clinics Month 2023

FREE & CHARITABLE CLINICS MONTH: MINI GRANTS

This August, the Association is spearheading Illinois' 9th annual Free and Charitable Clinics Month because we want everyone to know the critical and vital role you play in the safety net health care system in Illinois.

The mini-grant can be used to help cover costs related to Free and Charitable Clinics Month. Clinics may apply for mini-grants up to \$500.00 to cover expenses related to events, marketing, and outreach material and/or products for patients.

**The due date for the mini-grant is June 30th -
to apply please click the link below:**

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/3F0ugcWLfdw961C4>

Now what?

What can you do to increase awareness?

1. Declaration of August as Free & Charitable Clinics Month in your community
2. Thank your legislators
3. Invite your legislators to tour your clinic
4. Inform the community of the impact of the clinics with data and patient experience
5. Inform the community of the impact of Free and Charitable Clinics in Illinois ([IAFCC News Releases](#))
6. Promote the valuable role IAFCC clinics play in nimbly responding to the current needs of Illinois' uninsured and underinsured. Help us understand and communicate the role you play by completing this survey: [IAFCC Impact & Response Form](#)
7. Stay up to date on all relevant bills and resources [IAFCC Advocacy & Policy Page](#) and [IAFCC FCC Month Page](#)
 - a. Hospital Accountability and Transparency Act
 - b. I-DROP
 - c. Affordable Insulin Act



Now what?

As a critical part of the Illinois health care safety net, the IAFCC clinics are dedicated to providing free, comprehensive, high quality, health care to the uninsured and underinsured through mostly donated resources. Due to the support provided by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker and the members of the General Assembly, the IAFCC was able to distribute nearly \$9 million from a first ever State of Illinois appropriation in the current State Fiscal Year to serve a population of Illinois residents in which 100 percent live below the federal poverty level through an estimated 100,000 patient visits that saved Illinois hospitals more than \$33 million in emergency room visits, over \$20 million in value of donated care for a total of over \$53 million. The small investment in the clinics goes along way. For the upcoming fiscal year, the IAFCC asked for continued funding of \$9 million and were appropriated \$4 million.

The sector has supported and educated on policies that increase resources for patients, decrease barriers to care and provide critical access points for those that are most in need of health care including behavioral and dental care.

We urge all of Illinois to support the clinics in their communities.
We encourage you to learn about the role clinics play in providing health care and strengthening the safety net.

We welcome you to join in the activities of Free and Charitable Clinics Month!

Sincerely,
Melissa Maguire
Executive Director, IAFCC