



ILLINOIS FREE AND CHARITABLE CLINICS CELEBRATE \$9 MILLION STATE APPROPRIATION

Meaningful Investment in Uninsured Illinoisans Signals Growing Commitment — With More Work Ahead

For Immediate Release on Monday, June 1, 2026

From the desk of Laura Ciresi Starr, Executive Director

On behalf of the IAFCC Board and Illinois Free and Charitable Clinics

LA GRANGE, IL — Today is a good day for health care in Illinois. The Illinois General Assembly has approved a \$9 million appropriation for free and charitable clinics in the FY27 State Budget. The Illinois Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (IAFCC) is grateful, energized, and ready to put every dollar to work.

This funding, administered through the Illinois Department of Public Health, affirms what our clinics have always known: free and charitable clinics are not a safety net of last resort. They are trusted pillars of their communities, delivering care with dignity to the people who need it most. While our clinics are positioned to serve even more Illinoisans, this investment moves us meaningfully in the right direction, and we are committed to building on this momentum.

Fierce Advocates Made This Possible

IAFCC extends a special thank you to Leader Theresa Mah and Senator Karina Villa, who brought forth this legislation and have championed Illinois' Free and Charitable Clinics in Springfield for five years running. Your voices — and your persistence — made this possible.

IAFCC also thanks the Senate Appropriations Health and Human Services Committee and the House Appropriations Health and Human Services Committee for hearing testimony on the impact of the sector and engaging seriously with the needs of Illinois communities.

We are grateful to all of the legislators who demonstrated their support through co-sponsorship of SB3519 and HB5117: Sen. Karina Villa and Leader Theresa Mah; Sen. Julie Morrison, Sen. Mike Porfirio, Sen. Laura Fine, Sen. Emil Jones III, Sen. Mike Simmons, Sen. Seth Lewis, Rep. Matt Hanson, Rep. Camille Lilly, Rep. Lisa Davis, Rep. Barbara Hernandez, Rep. Anne Stava, Rep. Michael Crawford, Rep. Suzanne Ness, Rep. Maura Hirschauer, Rep. Debbie Meyers-Martin, Rep. Kevin Olickal, Rep. Janet Yang Rohr, Rep. Martha Deuter, Rep. Mary Beth Canty, and Rep. Lilian Jimenez.



Funding Arrives at a Critical Moment

This appropriation comes as Illinois free and charitable clinics face unprecedented demand. As Medicaid and Marketplace coverage have shifted and Health Benefits for Immigrants enrollment has ended, clinics have held the line — ensuring that equitable, high-quality care remained within reach. This investment means they can keep doing that. The need is great, and IAFCC will continue making the case for the full resources our communities deserve.

Congratulations to the General Assembly on passing this budget in a genuinely difficult year. IAFCC looks forward to continuing this partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health in pursuit of health access and equity for every Illinois resident.

About IAFCC

The Illinois Association of Free and Charitable Clinics represents dozens of free and charitable clinics across Illinois, providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care to uninsured and underinsured residents. To find a clinic near you, visit illinoisfreeclinics.org.