

**Uninsured Rates in Illinois Increase in 2017
Access to Care is Poised to Fill These Gaps**

Westchester, IL (September 14, 2018) -- The annual U.S. Census Bureau report, American Community Survey, from 2016 to 2017, the percentage of people without health insurance coverage increased in 14 states. Illinois is one of those states. The American Community Survey reported that "In 2017, people in poverty (the population living below 100 percent of poverty) had the lowest health insurance coverage rate, at 83.0 percent," nationwide.

Access to Care serves residents of suburban Cook County who are either not eligible for public insurance programs or simply cannot afford private insurance. Access to Care has seen first-hand that low-income families are struggling to get coverage in Illinois.

"When County Care was established in 2013 expanding Medicaid in Cook County, we saw a significant drop in the number of uninsured. But there is still great need," said Kathi Franklin, President of Access to Care. "And in the past 12-18 months we have seen a rise in the demand of services for people in our communities. Our clients have shared that before being on our program they had to choose between putting food on the table or purchasing medications they desperately needed."

Access to Care provides primary health care services to suburban Cook County and northwest Chicago residents at or under 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines (a one-person household gross income \$36,420, a four-person household gross income \$75,300). Eligible residents are assigned to a local, private physician, who they can see on an unlimited as needed basis. Every effort is made to find a physician who speaks the member's native language. The program is centered around keeping health care affordable. Each doctor's visit has a \$5 co-pay and prescription medications range from \$15-\$40.

For additional information about Access to Care, eligibility requirements, service area, application procedures, and history please visit www.accesstocare.org, or call (708) 531-0680.

About Access to Care

Celebrating 30 years, Access to Care is a non-profit primary health care program for low-income, uninsured or underinsured residents of suburban Cook County and northwest Chicago (west of Pulaski and north of North Avenue). Our clients enjoy our benefits of: \$5 primary care doctor visits, \$5 labs and x-rays, and prescription medications of \$15 to \$40. For more information please call (708) 531-0680 or visit www.accesstocare.org.

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