

Community Solutions for Health Care Equity

Access to Care
FILLING THE GAP FOR THE UNINSURED



Our mission is to facilitate access to primary health care services for residents of suburban Cook County and northwest Chicago who lack such access because of financial barriers.

ACCESS TO CARE IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROGRAM
FOR LOW-INCOME, UNINSURED AND UNDER-INSURED
RESIDENTS OF SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY AND
NORTHWEST CHICAGO.

Dear Friends of Access to Care,

Another year of surprises for health care, our members and the world at large came in with 2022. The pandemic continued to confuse us with its ever-changing adaptations, thankfully now less potent against vaccines and boosters. Europe became a war zone impacting economies globally and increasing insecurities.

For Access to Care, addressing health and related economic concerns of our members was challenging and rewarding at the same time. We were grateful to continue working with Cook County around pandemic vaccination and member education. We were able to provide information to our members to address their various psycho-social needs during these difficult economic times.

We were grateful also to the State of Illinois for their support of Access to Care with a generous grant to help us continue our mission. Our many loyal suburban townships and villages, private foundations and growing number of individual donors ensured our ability to provide access to much needed care. We do not take any of them for granted and are buoyed by these votes of confidence in our work and the support of our members.

As it becomes more apparent to everyone that there are great social and economic disparities in our nation that impact health outcomes, Access to Care continues to provide a unique model in health care that utilizes public-private funds and existing health care infrastructures to provide help to those most in need with very few alternatives for receiving care. In 2022, we partnered with many local organizations as well as the Cook County Public Health Department to address these disparities in health care and beyond.

Of course, without our many wonderful physicians, labs, pharmacy and radiology providers, our program would not be able to serve the many in need. We appreciate their time, dedication and accommodation and thank them in the name of those we serve.

With much gratitude,



Tony Bono
Chair
Board of Directors




Kathi Franklin
President & CEO

Health and health care disparities refer to differences in health and health care between groups that stem from broader inequities.*

These health differences are linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage and adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health. Health disparities can occur based on race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, age, mental health, physical disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, geographic location, or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion. Disparities in health insurance coverage, access to and quality of care can be observed among these underserved groups.

*Kaiser Family Foundation

Social and Economic Factors Drive Health Outcomes					
Economic Stability	Neighborhood and Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community and Social Context	Health Care System
Racism and Discrimination					
Employment Income Expenses Debt Medical bills Support	Housing Transportation Safety Parks Playgrounds Walkability Zip code / geography	Literacy Language Early childhood education Vocational training Higher education	Food security Access to healthy options	Social integration Support systems Community engagement Stress Exposure to violence/trauma	Health coverage Provider availability Provider linguistic and cultural competency Quality of care
Health Outcomes: Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations					
					

Community solutions are key to addressing the multi-faceted nature of health and health care disparities.

Access to Care has, from its inception as a program devised by four distinct community organizations, leveraged the strengths of existing infrastructures to build a unique model to provide access to primary health care for those most in need. Addressing transportation challenges, low income, lack of insurance coverage, and even immigration challenges, we have continued to add to the safety net in suburban Cook County.

Through generous grants from our supporters, we continue working with community-based organizations to address these multi-faceted issues impacting the health of our members.



We supported efforts by Cook County by educating Access to Care members and health care providers about the services and assistance available through Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt (CCLAHD).

“Cook County launched CCLAHD to assist our residents facing issues surrounding evictions, foreclosures, and debt,” said Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle. “And while we’ve seen success, it will take all of us coming together and reaching out to folks to let them know about the resources available – that’s where our community partners

come in. We’re proud to be partnering with Access to Care to get the word out about CCLAHD to our residents in greatest need.”

We collaborated with Metropolitan Family Services’ Portage Park and Norwood Park Health Equity Coalition, part of Protect Chicago Northwest region initiative, led by the Northwest Center. This coalition aims to decrease health inequities by maximizing outreach, collecting residents’ input, and leveraging local resources in the Portage Park and Norwood Park neighborhoods of Chicago. These communities continue to be deeply impacted by COVID-19 and required continued support in 2022.

“We’re committed to supporting our local community during these difficult times. Connecting residents in this area to critical social services is more important than ever as the pandemic continues to take a toll,” said Roxanne Nava, Executive Director, Metropolitan Family Services, North/Skokie Valley Centers. Access to Care connected residents with local primary health care services and acted as vaccine ambassadors in the community.

Recognized by Northwestern Medicine as an agency that can address healthcare disparities, we were able to serve under-resourced communities facing challenges with primary health care physicians right in their own community.

“Northwestern Medicine is committed to making our community as healthy as it can be,” said Posh Charles, Senior Vice President, Northwestern Memorial HealthCare. “Our goal is to collaborate and support local agencies to address healthcare disparities across all socioeconomic backgrounds.”

2022 Highlights



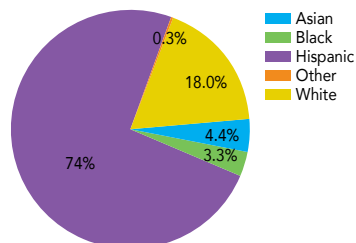
We served our members and community:

- 4500 Access to Care members
- health education through bilingual member newsletters and via our website and social media platforms
- outreach activities, in-person and virtually, making over 250 contacts with various community groups and organizations, to introduce the program and sign-up eligible individuals, reaching over a thousand individuals working with our community partners
- over 3,300 phone calls requesting help: Our Resource Desk provided information and referred community members (including non-Access to Care members) for needs beyond health care, including food pantries, job centers, immigration services, and more
- annual luncheon, in person, (first time since the pandemic required isolation) brought Access to Care friends and supporters together to celebrate their contributions

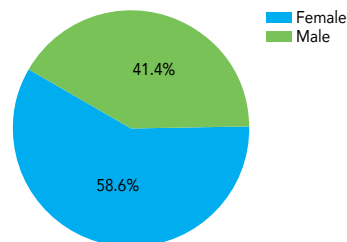
Who We Are and What We Do

Our Members

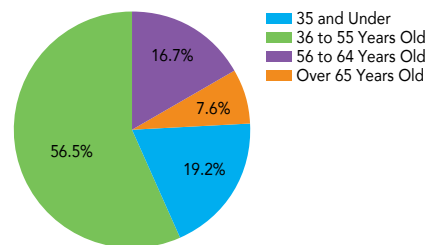
ETHNICITY



GENDER



AGE



Over 45% of members are below the federal poverty level.

Over 70% of members are employed.

Our Results

Access to Care’s annual cost for each member was \$659 in 2022.

We delivered unlimited access to primary care services in our members’ own communities.

Over 80% of Access to Care resources support program services.

Our grant funding is leveraged with donated services of nearly \$5,000,000.

Access to Care enables individuals to remain productive and contributing members of society. Untreated chronic illness impacts quality of life including the ability to work and be productive.

Members identify 20 different languages as their primary language. The top three are Spanish (69%), English (19%) and Arabic (8%).

Many Access to Care physicians are bilingual and the program tries to match members with physicians who can speak their primary language.

Most Frequent Diagnoses

Diagnoses

- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Hyperlipidemia
- Low back pain
- Thyroid Disorder

Laboratory Procedures

- Comprehensive metabolic panel
- Hemoglobin, A1C
- Lipid panel
- Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH)
- Assay of vitamin D

Radiology Procedures

- Mammogram
- Breast ultrasound
- Lower extremities’ x-rays
- Upper extremities’ x-rays
- Spine/Lumbosacral x-rays

Medications by Therapeutic Class

- Diabetes/Endocrine
- Cardiovascular/Heart Disease:
 - High Blood Pressure
- Antihyperlipidemics
- Musculoskeletal: Pain Relief
- Antidepressants

About 31% of our members receive medications for three or more disease states.

57% of our members receive medications for 2 or more disease states.

Nearly 25% of our members are diagnosed with diabetes compared to about 6% of the general population.

Without Access to Care, Lives at Risk



"...because of the program, I found out I had cancer. If it weren't for Access to Care, I don't think I would be speaking with you now."

"...so grateful for this program... It has given me peace of mind knowing I can easily see the doctor whenever I'm sick. My family is healthy because of Access to Care."

"...(hope) that Access to Care does not end because it is very good for me and my whole family."



"...since being in Access to Care, it has been a blessing to my health, thank you very much."

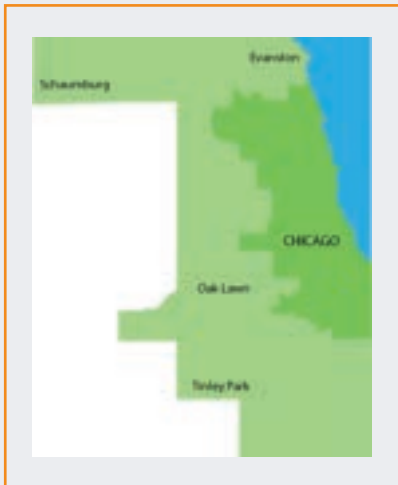
"...very grateful for the service they offer, especially to people like me who have no way of having medical insurance. Thank you so much."

"...I like to thank you for all that you do. The help you give to people like me and so many more. I truly thank God for you all. God bless."

"...I referred two friends that were able to get into the program and one found out she had cancer. I tell them, the attention they give one... they don't look if (you) have or don't have money... for all of the help, it's like, I don't know how to explain, but it's something really great, the attention and care given from Access to Care."

Our Community

Townships, municipalities, and social service agencies address community needs such as food shortage, housing, immigration, and employment. These organizations assist Access to Care in linking members and others to available community services. Listed on this page are those who served as intake sites, helping us enroll members and build awareness of the program for those who are in need.



THE AREAS WE SERVE:
Suburban Cook County and northwest Chicago (west of Pulaski Rd and north of North Ave)

Access to Care is endorsed by the Institute of Medicine of Chicago, the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians, the Illinois chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Northern Illinois chapter of the American College of Physicians and is officially supported by the Chicago Medical Society and is a previous recipient of the Governor's Hometown award.

NORTH

ACCESS at Northwest Family Health Center
ACCESS Genesis Center for Health and Empowerment
Arlington Heights Health Center
Barrington Township
Elk Grove Township
Frisbie Senior Center
Greater Elgin Family Care Centers
Creekside, McHenry, Seneca, Streamwood Summit)
Hanover Township
Maine Township
Niles Township
Northfield Township
Northwest Compass Omni Youth Services
Palatine Township
Schaumburg Township
Village of Arlington Heights
Village of Mount Prospect
Village of Schaumburg
Village of Wheeling
Wheeling Township

SOUTH AND CHICAGO

ACCESS Family Health Society
Arab American Action Network
Arab American Family Services
Aunt Martha's Chicago Heights Community Health Center
Bremen Township
Cook County Department of Public Health
Orland Township
Palos Township
Rich Township
Southland Ministerial Health Network
TCA Health Center
Village of Park Forest
Worth Township

WEST

ACCESS Des Plaines Valley Health Center
Berwyn Township
Beyond Hunger
Leyden Township
Norwood Park Township
Proviso Township
Town of Cicero

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Northfield Township
Palatine Township
Riverside Township
Schaumburg Township
Wheeling Township
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Village of Mount Prospect
City of Des Plaines

PRIVATE

Barrington Area Community Foundation
Community Memorial Foundation
Faith United Protestant Church
George E. Eisenberg Foundation
In Search of a Cure
Magellan Cares Foundation
Metropolitan Family Services
Northwestern Memorial Healthcare
Park Ridge Community Fund
The Chicago Bar Foundation
Westlake Health Foundation

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Serving with Dedication and Care

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The Access to Care Program

Filling the gap for the uninsured and the underinsured

We have served over 125,000 unduplicated community residents and many of them over several years.

Access to Care contracts with over 400 providers to offer deeply discounted services to its members.

Member Benefits

Unlimited visits with a primary care physician in their own community for only \$5 per visit

Unlimited laboratory and x-ray services for only \$5 per test or procedure

Prescription plan with local pharmacies: \$15 for generic, \$30 for preferred brand, or \$40 for non-preferred brand name prescriptions

Behavioral health support, including 8 sessions for \$5 each with additional sessions available on a sliding scale

Breast ultrasound for \$5

Free diabetic testing strips

Free vaccinations for flu and pneumonia

Friends of Access to Care can help provide our community with primary health care.

Donations can be made through our website and Facebook page:

www.accesstocare.org

www.facebook.com/accesstocare

or by directly contacting our office:

info@accesstocare.org

708-531-0680

Suburban Primary Health Care Council (SPHCC), Westchester, IL

The not-for-profit corporation that administers the Access to Care program was formed in 1988 by a confederation composed of the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc., the Cook County Department of Public Health, the Northwest Suburban Cook County Health Care Task Force, and the Park Forest Health Department.

Access to Care welcomes all residents of our service area regardless of race, religion, country of origin, gender identity, orientation, physical and mental ability.