

Celebrating 35 years of services



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.

In 2023, Access to Care provided primary health care services to 5,495 individuals in suburban Cook County and northwest Chicago, addressing the critical needs of those facing financial barriers. These individuals received comprehensive support, including unlimited doctor's visits, laboratory tests, X-rays, prescription drugs, flu and pneumonia vaccines, and behavioral health services.

Dear Friends of Access to Care,

In 2023, the Council marked a remarkable 35 years of dedicated service, driven by the mission to facilitate access to primary health care services for residents of suburban Cook County facing financial barriers. Since its inception in 1988, the Access to Care (ATC) program has been the driving force behind this mission, providing crucial medical services to nearly 128,000 unduplicated individuals, many of whom have relied on our assistance for several years.

Our journey is a testament to the unwavering support we've received from the community. Heartfelt appreciation is extended to the Illinois Department of Public Health, Cook County Public Health Department, and our private and public funders, whose steadfast commitment has empowered us to consistently deliver essential primary care services. Their generosity enabled us to serve nearly 5,500 individuals in 2023, all of whom received primary healthcare services.

Access to Care remains a lifeline for the uninsured and under-insured, a role made possible by the generous support of our partners. The collaborative efforts of our funders, doctors, providers and various intake sites collectively contribute to our ability to provide affordable essential services to those facing financial challenges.

Our gratitude knows no bounds for the continued support that brings our mission to life. Within this annual report, the stories and testimonials shared illuminate the tangible difference Access to Care is making in the lives of those we are privileged to serve.

With much gratitude,



Tony Bono
Chair
Board of Directors



Kathi Franklin
President & CEO

CELEBRATING 35

In 1986, the "Health Care in Cook County Initiative" was launched by the Chicago Community Trust, culminating in the collaborative efforts of four agencies and the establishment of the Suburban Primary Health Care Council.

1986

Between 1988 and 1989, the Council secured a grant to devise and execute primary health care services for low-income, uninsured residents in suburban Cook County. This initiative was followed by the successful demonstration of the Access to Care program, launched in northwest and southeast suburban Cook County.

1988

From 1991 to 1994, Access to Care gained endorsements and funding support, facilitating its expansion to encompass all of suburban Cook County. In 1993, expansion efforts were further bolstered by increased funding from the Cook County Board of Commissioners. Notably, in 1994, the program experienced a substantial increase of nearly 60% in the number of patients served.

1991

During the period of 1996 to 1998, the Suburban Primary Health Care Council was honored with the Governor's Hometown Award for its distinctive services. Subsequently, in 1998, the program received endorsement from The American College of Physicians/Northern Illinois Region.

1996

Between 2001 and 2003, the program's patient population reached full capacity, leading to the accumulation of a waiting list indicative of the escalating demand for services.

2001

From 2006 to 2008, Access to Care hosted its inaugural annual fundraising Gala and was bestowed with the title of the 2008 Health Care Provider of the Year by the Campaign for Better Health Care.

2006

+ YEARS!

In 2009, Access to Care surpassed the milestone of providing affordable health care services to over 100,000 unduplicated individuals.

2009

During 2011 and 2012, an additional \$1 million grant from the Cook County Health and Hospital System helped enroll everyone on the waiting list in the Access to Care program. Concurrently, the program actively promoted the Affordable Care Act and marketplace insurance plans.

2011

In 2014, Access to Care bid farewell to Victoria Bigelow after 25 years of service and welcomed Kathi Franklin, the former Chief Operating Officer, as the new President by the board.

2014

Between 2016 and 2019, Access to Care enhanced its online presence and implemented an email program to fulfill all online requirements, including dissemination of fundraising initiatives, special events, and ongoing organizational endeavors. In 2017, the program launched the Behavioral Health Services pilot to integrate mental health care into its primary care services. Additionally, Access to Care expanded its services to encompass breast ultrasounds, free diabetic testing strips, free flu and pneumonia vaccinations, and access to major pharmacies.

2016

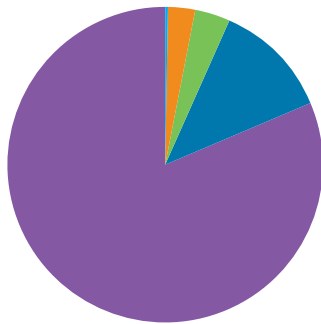
From 2021 to 2023, the program was chosen to participate in the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Community Support Program with the Cook County Department of Public Health, aiming to disseminate pertinent COVID-19 information, conduct outreach, expand existing programs to aid households facing isolation and quarantine, and bolster access to testing for those in need. Northwestern Medicine recognized Access to Care as an agency addressing healthcare disparities.

2021

Access to Care joined the West Cook Coalition with the goal to reduce health disparities in the region. Additionally, we celebrated over 35 years of dedicated service.

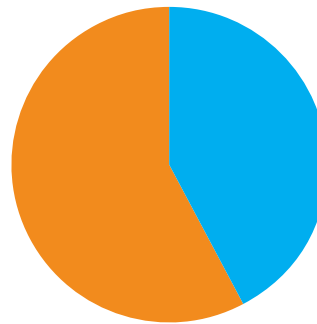
2023

Our Members



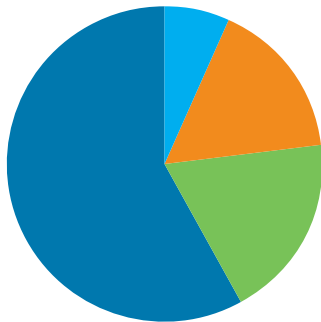
Ethnicity

- Other 0.2%
- Black 2.7%
- Asian 3.6 %
- White 12%
- Hispanic 81.5%



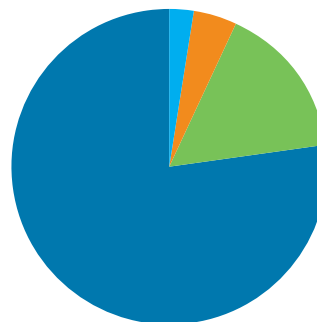
Gender

- Male 42.4%
- Female 57.6%



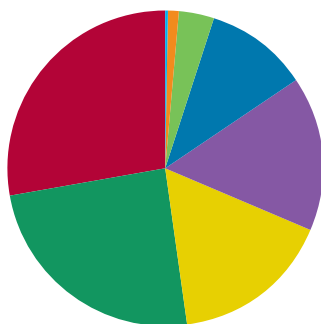
Age

- Over 64 years old 6.9%
- 56-64 years old 16.2%
- 35 and under 19.1%
- 36-55 years old 57.8%



Language

- Other 2.5%
- Arabic 4.5%
- English 16%
- Spanish 77%



Family Size

- 8 – 0.4%
- 7 – 1.2%
- 6 – 3.5%
- 5 – 10.7%
- 3 – 15.7%
- 4 – 16.5%
- 2 – 24.3%
- 1 – 27.7

Over 70% of our members are employed.

Frequent Services and Diagnoses

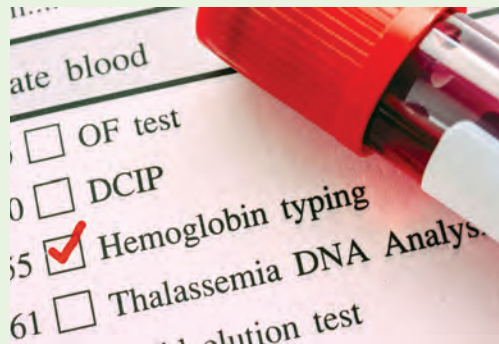
Top Radiology Procedures

Mammogram
Breast Ultrasound
Lower Extremities
Spine
Chest



Top 5 Labs

Glycosylated (A1c) Hemoglobin
Comprehensive Metabolic Panel
Lipid Panel
Thyroid Stimulating Hormone
Assay of Vitamin D



Top 5 Diagnoses

Hypertension
Type 2 Diabetes
Hyperlipidemia
Prediabetes
Low Back Pain



The Access to Care Program Provides

- Unlimited visits with a primary care physician near their home 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, and \$40 for non-preferred brand name prescriptions
- Eight sessions of behavioral health support for \$5 per session, additional sessions available on a sliding scale
- Free: Diabetic test strips, and vaccinations for flu and pneumonia

Member's Voice

Diana T.

"I always had health insurance, but after COVID, I lost my job, and then I got sick from my heart. I found another job without insurance and thought I could pay for it out of pocket, but I could not afford it. I am so grateful for having Access to Care, thank you so much! Thanks for saving lives, easing pain and creating a better future. Bless you guys!"

Diana's Journey

Diana, a dedicated daycare teacher with over 25 years of experience, cherishes the joy of nurturing children's minds. Despite her passion, financial constraints prevent her from affording

health insurance. Previously diagnosed with a heart condition, Diana had to go without medical treatments like blood thinners and cholesterol medication, leading to two years of anxiety.

In February 2023, a complimentary examination at Loyola gave her hope, but financial hurdles remained. Access to Care became her lifeline, offering routine medical visits and prescription access. Beyond physical health, the program supports Diana's mental well-being, helping her navigate the challenges of her job and caring for her mother with dementia.

Diana's story reflects the transformative impact of accessible healthcare, enabling her to make positive lifestyle changes and lead a healthier, more fulfilling life.



Our Community

Access to Care serves suburban Cook County and northwest Chicago (west of Pulaski Rd. and north of North Avenue)

Access to Care collaborates with various community partners, including townships, municipalities, and social service agencies. These organizations address issues such as food shortages, workforce development, homelessness, family services, youth development, and more. Below are organizations that serve as Intake Sites for Access to Care and enroll their constituents for program services. These organizations view Access to Care as a valuable resource in their community.



North

- Access at the Northwest Family Health Center
- Access Genesis Center for Health and Empowerment
- Arlington Heights Health Center
- Barrington Township
- Frisbie Senior Center
- Greater Elgin Family Care Center (Creekside, McHenry, Seneca, Streamwood, Summit)
- Hanover Township
- Maine Township
- Niles 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
- Worth Township

West

- Access Desplaines Valley Health Center
- Berwyn Township
- Beyond Hunger
- Leyden Township
- Norwood Park Township
- Oak Park Public Health Department
- Proviso Township
- Town of Cicero

Community OUTREACH



At Access to Care, we prioritize building strong relationships within the community. Our ongoing efforts include recruiting new community based organizations to establish intake sites and broaden our outreach. We actively engage with the community through participation in local chamber events and partnerships with food pantries and libraries.

Funders and Supporters

Access to Care receives invaluable support from a blend of public, corporate and private contributions and compassionate individuals deeply committed to our community's well-being. Alongside the gracious donors mentioned here, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the countless physicians and healthcare professionals whose unwavering commitment allows us to provide essential services at significantly discounted rates, resulting in five million dollars of in-kind donations. We express our sincere gratitude to everyone for their unwavering support and generosity.

Public

- Barrington Township
- City of Des Plaines
- Cook County Dept of Public Health
- Elk Grove Township
- Leyden Township
- Niles Township
- Northfield Township
- Palatine Township
- Riverside Township
- Schaumburg Township
- State of Illinois
- Village of Arlington Heights
- Village of Mount Prospect
- Village of Schaumburg
- Wheeling Township

Private

- Andrew Family Foundation
- Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
- Carl R. Hendrickson Family Foundation
- Chicago Bar Foundation
- Community Memorial Foundation
- Faith United Protestant Church
- George E. Eisenberg Foundation

- Gift of Hope
- Northwestern Memorial Healthcare
- Pillars Community Health
- The Portes Foundation
- West Cook Coalition
- Westlake Health Foundation
- Yield Giving

Corporations

- Amazon Web Services
- Ascension of Illinois
- CitiusTech
- JP Morgan Chase
- Porte Brown LLC
- Quest Food Management System
- Serve You Rx
- Venari Partners Limited
- Walgreens Company

Individuals

- Beril Basman
- Tony Bono
- David Carvalho
- Pam Comporese
- Erin Doyle
- Joan Engstrom
- Ann Fei

- Matthew Fitz
- Jeff & Stephanie Fox
- Kathi Franklin
- Dawn Gay
- Noe Janus
- Gerald Kirschbaum
- Maurice Lemon
- Mark Matusik
- Scott Mazanek
- Sean McDermott
- Edward Miranda
- Roxanne Nava
- Katherine Nee
- Lucilene Nogueira
- Barkley Payne
- Michelle Peters
- Ronald Ree
- Liza Rivera
- Brent Robertson
- John Squeo
- Ranga Srinivasan
- Harriet & Gene Stachowiak
- Meg Thompson
- Blake Vaneekeren

Guiding with Purpose and Passion

SPHCC Board of Directors

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Ranga Srinivasan

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*American Medical Association
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Lois Coxworth Gallagher,
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March Grach
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*Senior Program & Project
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Director of Development

Karen Doan
Systems Administrator

Israel Hernandez
*Community Outreach
Coordinator (January – May)*

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*Director of Public Relations &
Outreach (January – March)*

Lourdes Becerra, MA
*Director of Public Relations and
Outreach (June – December)*

Linda Paz
Program Coordinator

Andrea Solis
Program Specialist



Access to Care Board members gather at the Annual Luncheon to advance healthcare accessibility.

*Michael Gorman

Access to Care mourns the passing of our former Board Chair, Mike Gorman, in June 2023.



Filling the gap for the uninsured

Join us in filling the gap for the uninsured in our community.

For 35 years, Access to Care has been dedicated to providing essential healthcare services to those in need.

Making an Impact

We have proudly served community residents, many of whom have relied on our services for several years. Through partnerships with over 400 healthcare providers, we offer deeply discounted services, making quality healthcare accessible to all members of our community.

Your Support Matters

As a Friend of Access to Care, you can help us continue our vital work in providing primary healthcare to those who need it most. Your generous donations enable us to expand our reach and impact, ensuring that no one is left behind when it comes to healthcare access.

Get Involved

Join us in our mission today. You can make a difference by donating through our website or Facebook page:

Website: accesstocare.org

Facebook: facebook.com/accesstocare

For more information or to donate directly, contact our office at 708-531-0680 or email us at info@accesstocare.org.

Together, we can build a healthier and more equitable community for all.

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 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 within our service area regardless of race, religion, country of origin, gender identity, orientation, physical and mental ability.