

4/22/2021

Revised Proposal for ARPA Funding due to Johnson & Johnson vaccine recall

Salem Free Clinics, 1300 Broadway St NE, Salem OR 97301

Intro to Salem Free Clinics

Salem Free Clinics' (SFC) mission is "to provide quality, compassionate healthcare at no cost to the uninsured in our community as an expression of Christ's love." Over the last 16 years SFC has provided 60,000 free patient visits through the power of 350 annual volunteers. Historically SFC provides 5,500 free patient visits to approximately 1,800 unduplicated patients annually. SFC provides medical care (preventive, acute and chronic disease management), dental care (preventive and treatment), mental health medication management and counseling. The most common issues are related to hypertension, diabetes, and mental health. These three issues are severe, chronic and have significant implications on the patient's quality of life and length of life. In order to address these chronic issues, SFC offers diabetes support services, ongoing mental health counseling, and access to free and low-cost prescriptions to manage hyperglycemia, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, etc. Along with these chronic illnesses, SFC sees and treats an extremely wide variety of presenting acute conditions as we strive to meet the healthcare needs in our community.

Overview of population served

SFC serves the uninsured working poor, those who earn too much to qualify for public assistance (e.g. Oregon Health Plan - OHP, Medicaid) but not enough to be able to purchase health insurance, as well as the undocumented who don't qualify for state or federal services. Our client population resides in Marion or Polk County and is low income. According to our EMR specifications, our patient population in 2020 identified as 57% Hispanic or Latino/Spanish, 60% female, and the average age was 48. Many of our patients have limited English proficiency; therefore, SFC works tirelessly to have medical interpretation services available at all of our clinics. Many of the patients served by SFC have historically experienced many disparities. SFC established a Patient Navigator Program to help low-income patients navigate the complex healthcare system. Our bilingual patient navigators confront systemic barriers that disproportionately burden racial and ethnic minorities and prevent them from accessing the care they need. As our patient navigator team has built trust with our patient population, they come to us for many issues beyond medical care (e.g. housing, food, medication assistance, etc.).

The location of SFC's services also reduces barriers to accessing healthcare. Our main facility, which provides medical, dental and psychiatric mental health care, is located at 1300 Broadway Street NE in District 22 (Broadway Commons building). The clinic is centrally located and accessible by public transportation. Medical and mental health care is also provided at our satellite location in Dallas, OR called Polk Community Free Clinic. Lastly, we provide counseling in partnership with Corban University, also located on the Broadway Commons campus in downtown Salem.



SALEM FREE CLINICS

Bringing Hope & Health to Our Community

COVID-19 at SFC

During stay home orders, we pivoted to provide patient care via telephone and video visits. Telehealth reduces the spread of COVID-19 and provides our vulnerable patient population with continued access to healthcare during this crisis. In order to effectively provide telehealth video services, SFC subscribed to OhMD, a software that offers e-form signing capabilities and secure texting that is compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) as well as state and federal guidelines. SFC's providers are now able to virtually assess patients, write prescriptions, order lab work, and more. While we will continue to offer patient care over the telephone and through video visits, we began in-person patient appointments on June 22, 2020 and resumed dental services the first week of August. By investing in OhMD software and training our providers to provide remote care, SFC was able to provide approximately 1,400 telephonic visits in 2020. This new ability will increase access to care for our population for years to come.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put extreme stress on the healthcare system while revealing health inequities that have existed for years. The economic downturn and subsequent loss of employer-based health insurance has shone a light on the fragility of health coverage for many workers. The fact that states are facing large cuts to their Medicaid programs while seeing an increase in demand for coverage only exacerbates the situation. Given this, we expect that demand for all of SFC's free services (medical care, dental care, mental health medication management, and counseling) will grow as COVID-19 related unemployment results in more people losing their jobs and their health insurance.

SFC's plan to help our patients recover from pandemic's impact and overcome vaccine hesitancy

Salem Free Clinics is opening more clinics (a four hour window) to provide for the increase of medical needs in our community. We have built tremendous trust with our patient population and we are helping our patients overcome barriers to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

RN – Nurse Manager

- Increase in patient appointments \$44,400

Patient Navigator –

- Help patients overcome barriers (e.g. housing, food, vaccine education and reassurance) \$23,976

Mental Health Counselor,

- Virtual or in-clinic, English & Spanish speaking @ \$100 per session approximately 500 sessions for about 40 patients \$50,000
- We have a partnership with the graduate students from Corban University to provide counseling for our English speaking patients, but currently there are no Spanish speaking counseling students and the wait list is 2 months or more.



Dental Expansion

- Digital X-ray \$15,000
- Dental - supplies \$5,000
- Dental assistant \$12,000
 - Mandated shut-downs and patient fear upon reopening has put increased demand on our Dental Clinic. We hope to stream line our processes by purchasing a digital x-ray machine that will bring our clinic into the 21st Century. Community dental partners would like to send and receive films digitally and currently we don't have the ability. We also need to purchase supplies to begin offering restorative fillings. Hiring or contracting a Dental Assistant is needed for our increased demand.

Medical Interpreter

- Staff and contract services - Spanish Speaking \$12,000
- Spanish speaking individuals make up 57% of patient population. We have several volunteer interpreters, but this has to be augmented with professional paid interpreters to ensure quality care for our patients.

Women's health services expansion

- Supplies (e.g. providing initial free birth control to patients, \$20 per Pap smear (we have a partnership with a diagnostic center that gives us 25 Pap's a month at 75% off), other exam supplies, etc.) The women's health expansion at SFC is due to the recent closure of Marion County Health Department's Women's Health Services. \$10,000

Conclusion

Salem Free Clinics believes it's not right that a 94 year old man cried in our lobby because he couldn't afford the \$800 quote to have two teeth extracted. It's not right that a family living out of their car can't bring their daughter back to school because they can't afford the doctor and the prescription for pink-eye. It's not right that a woman has stage 3 uterine cancer because she has never had access to GYN services. It's not right that a middle school girl can't play soccer because her family can't afford a sport's physical.

Salem Free Clinics was able to make these injustices in our community right, by serving these individuals at our free clinic. With your funding, we will continue serving the marginalized in our community and expand our services to serve even more. Thank you for your consideration.



SALEM FREE CLINICS

Bringing Hope & Health to Our Community

Recover from pandemic's impact – Medical, Mental Health, Dental and new Women's Service's Clinics	
RN – Nurse Manager – Increase in patient appointments	\$44,400
Patient Navigator - to help patients ameliorate barriers to getting vaccine (e.g. transportation, understanding)	\$23,976
Mental Health Counselor, virtual or in-clinic, Spanish speaking @ \$100 per session approx. 500 sessions for about 40 patients	\$50,000
Dental Expansion - new digital X-ray (increases ability to partner with volunteer dentists)	\$15,000
Dental supplies	\$5,000
Dental assistant	\$12,000
Medical Interpreter - staff and contract - Spanish Speaking	\$12,000
Women's health services expansion supplies (e.g. providing free birth control to patients, \$20 per pap smear, other exam supplies, etc.) This is due to the recent closure of Marion County Health Department's Women's Health Services	\$10,000

\$172,376