



## Improving Capacity for Pennsylvania's Free Clinics

**2022 Request for Proposal (RFP): Deadline: January 21, 2022**

### Purpose

The Highmark Foundation is pleased to announce a request for proposals to provide capacity building grants through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to free clinics throughout Highmark Foundation's 62 county service region in Pennsylvania.

According to the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics' annual data collection report, two million unduplicated patients were seen in 2019 at 1,400 free and charitable clinics throughout the United States.<sup>1</sup> In Pennsylvania, over 685,000 non-elderly individuals are uninsured at a rate of 6.8 percent. Of residents ages 18 and older, 16.2 percent did not have a personal doctor or health care provider, lower than the U.S. percentage of 23.2 percent.

Free clinics are critical safety net providers for those without access to healthcare in PA. They are on the front lines and tasked with caring for the most vulnerable and high-risk patients in the community and contribute to the following outcomes: decrease the risk of infection from COVID-19, decrease mortality rates, improve access to medications, provide early intervention for chronic illness, increase patient education, and offer early intervention options.

### Potential Projects

Highmark Foundation has a history of addressing health care needs of individuals and communities in its service region. Without adequate funding, Free Clinics lack adequate resources to serve as the safety net for those in need.

The Highmark Foundation will award up to \$15,000 to free clinics to support capacity building activities and transform health care through these organizations.

The grants may be used to initiate innovative preventive health programs and services, or expand existing services for:

- Data infrastructure
- Staffing costs
- Behavioral health
- Chronic disease management

Interventions should be evidence-based, demonstrate measurable outcomes and address goals and outcomes related to the chosen capacity building activity.

### Key Dates and Timeframe

- Awardees will be announced April 2022
- Grant activity will begin May 2022
- Final report will be due January 31, 2023

The Highmark Foundation is a private, charitable organization of Highmark, Inc. that supports initiatives and programs aimed at improving community health. To be eligible for a grant, an organization must meet the following criteria:

- Be a nonprofit as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and as a public charity under section 509(a) of that code. The Foundation does not support third-party or fiduciary arrangements.
- Be located in one of 62 counties in Pennsylvania (with the exception of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or Philadelphia counties) or the state of West Virginia.

The RFP is available online by visiting <https://highmarkfoundationrfp.versaic.com/login>. All requests must be submitted online.

<sup>1</sup> 2020 NAFC ANNUAL DATA COLLECTION REPORT. (2020). National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics. 2020.

<https://www.nafcclinics.org/sites/default/files/NAFC%20Data%20Collection%20Report%202020%20Final.pdf>