

Free Clinics

(Created from information provided by the Ohio Association of Free Clinics)

Problem:

- There are approximately 1.2 million uninsured in Ohio; that is 12,000 in each House District and 36,000 in each Senate District (1 in 5 are uninsured)
- Last year, Free Clinics saw an increase in patients from 43,000 to more than 54,000 statewide (30% increase) providing approximately \$67 million in health care services while seeing their funding cut by \$90,000.

What We Want:

- **We are asking that the Legislature keep line item 440431 in the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) budget fully funded and restore it to 2008/09 levels, 2.1M over the biennium.**

Background Information

- **Ohio's free clinics act as the primary care home for the uninsured.** They do workforce development every day by getting and keeping people healthy for their jobs.
- Since 2000, the Ohio Association of Free Clinics and The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland have received 1.6M in each biennium. Later, more dollars were added, about .5M for each biennium, to fund medical malpractice reimbursement. The total amount previously received was approximately 2.1M per biennium. In FY2009, Free Clinics were subject to cuts in the larger ODH General Revenue Fund (GRF) budget because they were no longer part of the Tobacco Settlement after the Governor securitized these funds. In 2008, they received 300K for the Ohio Association of Free Clinics (OAFC), 500K for Greater Cleveland and the 268K for medical malpractice reimbursement. In 2009, they began taking cuts to these dollars, just as they were starting to see steep increases in numbers of patients and more clinics coming online.
- Instead of the OAFC getting 300K, they received 223K in FY2009. Several weeks after that check arrived, they were asked by ODH to return 13K to them, as they had gone through another round of cuts. They complied, even though this greatly hurt their budget and the ability of their clinics to provide increasingly necessary services in their communities. Therefore, in 2009, Free Clinics only received 210K while they are serving record numbers of patients.
- **Unlike Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Free Clinics receive no Medicaid, Medicare or third-party payments for services.** We also do not charge people at the door, like FQHCs (sometimes as much as \$40.00 for an uninsured patient to be seen the first time). And unlike FQHCs, Free Clinics did not receive specific federal stimulus dollars of about 6M.

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Ohio Association of Free Clinics

2008 Free Clinic Snapshot

- **Clinic Information**
41 Member Clinics (51 counties)
- **Patient Information**
Total Patients 54,444
Total Visits 106,138
- **Client Distribution**
Men (23,420) 44%
Women (25,032) 48%
Children (4,396) 8%
- **Types of Services**
Primary Care 67%
Specialty Care 23%
Mental Health Care 7%
Dental Care 3%
- **Prescription Information**
Prescriptions Dispensed 228,688
Value of Prescriptions \$13,181,440
- **Funding Sources**
Local Foundations 27%
Hospitals 16%
Federal Government 11%
Individual Donors 9%
State Government 9%
Local Government 5%
United Way 5%
Special Events 5%
Other 13%
- **Service Value**
For every **\$1.00** invested in free clinics,
\$6.53 is provided in care
- **Total Value of Health Care Provided**
\$67,090,759.15

Free Clinic Safety Net Services – Budget Line Item 440431

- This line item pays for medical liability insurance for free clinics and federally qualified health center look alike, including the medical liability insurance for the clinics and health care providers. Currently, this line item is only used for medical liability insurance. However, in FY 2010 and FY 2011, the line item will be used to fund some uncompensated care and emergency medical assistance services. The executive recommends funding of \$624,751 in each fiscal year, which is an increase of 223.7% over FY 2009 adjusted appropriations of \$193,014. Again, the increase in FY 2010 is due to line item reallocation.
- The line item will receive a transfer of \$200,000 in each fiscal year from line item 440469, Health–Federal Stimulus. ODH is currently examining the impact of this funding level.

Ohio's Free Clinics Act as the Primary Care Home for Ohio's Uninsured.

To Get Involved: Your legislators work for you and need to hear your voice. Join together with ABLE and find out how you can have your voice heard. CONTACT ABLE TODAY!