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VNA Health Care To Build New Health Center to Expand Services to Thousands of Joliet Residents

VNA to utilize a nearly \$1.3 million in grant funding from HRSA to support construction

Joliet, IL - Today, VNA Health Care, the largest community health center in the Chicago suburbs, announced their plans to build a new health center in Joliet that will allow them to serve thousands more patients in the region each year. The new health center, which will be built on land owned by VNA on the 1400 Block of West Jefferson Street, will allow VNA to significantly expand their services for the Joliet community.

In the last fiscal year, VNA served 1,500 patients and provided 3,000 exams with family practice, obstetrics and pediatric services at their current location in Joliet, which currently is rented. At the new, expanded 10,000 square foot facility, VNA expects to serve 5,000 more patients and complete 25,000 more exams over the next 30 months in family practice, mental and behavioral health, obstetrics, and pediatric services. The new facility will also have a wellness center and kitchen, laboratory and drive through pharmacy.

"VNA Health Care is grateful to serve communities throughout suburban Chicago and we are thrilled to be building a new health center in Joliet that will allow us to grow and serve the Joliet area with high quality services that focus on improving health equity and decreasing health disparities," said Linnea Windel, President and CEO of VNA Health Care. "VNA is grateful to the Health Resources & Services Administration for providing us with federal funding to support our construction, and we look forward to growing in service to the Joliet community."

The Health Resources & Services Administration - Bureau of Public Health (HRSA) recently awarded VNA \$1.3 million in federal funding to support construction of the new location. The funding was authorized by the American Rescue Plan of 2021, which provided HRSA with funding to support construction, expansion, alteration, renovation, and other capital improvements to modify, enhance, and expand health care infrastructure.

Joliet and the surrounding communities that will be served by the new VNA location have a low income population of 63,000, but only 23,000 are currently served by Community Health Centers. In Will County, 8.2% of residents live below the poverty line. To address the 31.5% of the Hispanic/Latino population in Will County that speaks English less than "very well," VNA's Joliet location will have all services in both English and Spanish with additional languages available through translation services. This new health center will provide services to improve health outcomes for the community, including chronic disease management and access to cancer screenings like mammograms.



"The services that VNA Health Care provides are absolutely critical to ensuring the health and wellbeing of residents in Joliet and throughout the Chicago suburbs," said Congressman Bill Foster (IL-09). "I am thrilled that VNA Health Care is receiving federal funding to build this new health center, and I am especially glad that they are taking extra steps to increase language accessibility to better serve the community. As a member of Congress, I will continue to fight for additional funding to support and expand our community health centers."

VNA plans to break ground on the new facility in Spring 2022.

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