



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CONGRESSWOMAN LAUREN UNDERWOOD PRESENTS VNA HEALTH CARE WITH \$500,000 FOR NEW JOLIET HEALTH CENTER**

*At construction site for new 14,000 square foot facility, Underwood presented check to VNA leadership; new facility will expand VNA's service capacity in Joliet*

**Joliet, IL** - Today, Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (IL-14) joined VNA President and CEO Linnea Windel, other VNA leaders and patients to present VNA Health Care with a check for \$500,000 in federal funds for the construction of their new Joliet facility. The funding for the new location will allow VNA to greatly expand their services for the Joliet and surrounding communities. Estimated to open later in 2023, the new facility will span 14,000 square feet and be home to 26 medical exam rooms, waiting areas, nursing stations, mental and behavioral health counseling rooms, a laboratory, a pharmacy, and a wellness kitchen.

"VNA Health Care is committed to providing high-quality, affordable care to as many people in the Chicago suburbs as possible, and our new facility will help us expand our reach and impact here in Joliet. We are grateful to Congresswoman Underwood for her support of our mission and advocacy in Washington to help us meet our goals, said VNA President and CEO Linnea Windel. "The funds we received today will support the construction of our new facility, and we look forward to welcoming Congresswoman Underwood back to the site later this year to celebrate its grand opening and VNA's expansion of services for the Joliet community."

In addition to the \$500,000 presented today, VNA was previously awarded \$1.3 million in federal funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration - Bureau of Primary Health Care (HRSA) 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.

"I am proud to deliver over \$20 million to fund 15 projects across our community, including \$500,000 to build a new health center in Joliet," said Congresswoman Underwood. "Expanding access to health care is key to improving the health and well-being of families. Joliet is experiencing a shortage of primary care and mental health providers, and this health center will ensure that local families, especially those who are uninsured and underinsured, can receive the care they need."

Joliet and the surrounding communities that will be served by the new VNA location have a low-income population of approximately 49,000, but only 18,500 are currently served by Community Health Centers. In Joliet, approximately 11% of residents live below the poverty line. The new facility will allow VNA to serve 5,000 more patients and complete 25,000 more exams over the next 30 months.

VNA aims to provide services to improve overall health outcomes for the community, including through chronic disease management, access to cancer screenings like mammograms, benefits assistance, and nutrition education. They will offer all services in both English and Spanish with additional languages available through translation services. VNA's current Joliet location is in a leased space and all services will eventually move to the new location upon project completion. The facility is planned to open for services later in 2023.

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**About VNA Health Care**

*VNA Health Care is a Community Health Center (also known as a Federally Qualified Health Center) and serves more patients who live in the Chicago suburbs than any other Community Health Center. VNA provides care for more than 75,000 patients annually and is committed to improving health equity and decreasing disparities. VNA has served people regardless of insurance status or ability to pay for more than 100 years and 2022 marked its 20th Anniversary as a Community Health Center. To learn more, visit [www.vnahealth.com](http://www.vnahealth.com).*