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Western Wayne Family Health Centers to Receive \$150K from Siemens Foundation to Support COVID-19 Response

- **Metro Detroit-Based Community Health Center is one of 12 Receiving Financial Support from the Non-Profit Organization**

The [Siemens Foundation](#) today announced it is providing \$150,000 to Metro Detroit-based Western Wayne Family Health Centers (WWFHC) to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The community health center is one of 12 receiving financial support from the non-profit organization established by Siemens USA. Aligning with its dedication to social equity, the Siemens Foundation, including funding provided by Siemens Healthineers, is committing a total of \$1.5 million to support these critical healthcare providers so they can continue serving their communities when they are needed most.

While the community health center has been using tele-medicine for several years for psychiatry, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated its use of the technology to better serve patients now and in the future. WWFHC switched to using tele-medicine when the pandemic hit Michigan and quickly learned that it can help address some of the barriers many of their patients face.

“Western Wayne Family Health Centers is very happy to receive this grant from the Siemens Foundation,” said Linda Atkins, CEO of WWFHC. “Even though our centers are located in ‘The Motor City,’ many of our patients don’t have cars, and public transportation can be challenging to navigate. This grant will allow us to purchase remote monitoring equipment for our patients so they can electronically send us data about their blood pressure and other important information for their care and enable better ways to communicate.”

All based in Southeastern Michigan, WWFHC has four locations in communities where there is limited access to primary care, dental or behavioral health services in Inkster, Taylor, Lincoln Park and Dearborn. In 2019, the health center served over 17,000 patients with 65,000 visits. Care is available to anyone, with a sliding fee scale based on income applied for charges for those without insurance. Most insurance plans are accepted, including all Medicaid and Healthy Michigan coverage.

“Since the onset of this pandemic, we have seen numerous organizations go above and beyond to ensure our health care facilities in Southeast Michigan have the resources to get through this crisis,” said Senator Gary Peters. “This funding will directly help the dedicated team at Western Wayne Family Health Centers care for their patients remotely by utilizing telemedicine. I applaud this support, and I’ll continue working to support Community Health Centers as they provide live-saving care to Michiganders each and every day.”

“We’ve seen an incredible amount of strength and courage from Michiganders during this time of uncertainty, whether it’s from people and nonprofits donating food, money, and resources to those that need it or from businesses using their technology to manufacture personal protective equipment,” said Governor Whitmer. “This action from the Siemens Foundation will help us protect families in Western Wayne County and health care professionals on the front lines and slow the spread of COVID-19. I’m proud to work with the Siemens Foundation and every organization that steps up during this time to protect Michigan families.”

WWFHC was selected using equity criteria developed by the Siemens Foundation in consultation with the National Association of Community Health Centers, the Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers, and Siemens. The centers are free to use the funding as it deems necessary in response to the crisis.

“As the COVID-19 crisis disproportionately threatens lower-income and medically underserved communities, it’s important for us to support the institutions that sustain our social compact,” said David Etwiler, CEO of the Siemens Foundation.

“Community health centers and their staff are on the front lines providing basic primary care every day and they now play an especially critical role in our medical services infrastructure when emergency services and hospital settings are

overwhelmed. Vital services like these are paramount to supporting equity across America.”

The \$1.5 million total commitment is funded, in part, by the Siemens Healthineers Fund of the Siemens Foundation, supported by Siemens Healthineers business in the United States.

“It is a critical time to ensure all patients and families are able to access the care they need,” said Dave Pacitti, Siemens Foundation Board of Directors member; President of Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc.; and Head of the Americas for Siemens Healthineers. “The nation’s community health centers are a vital safety net for millions of patients, and these investments will help them to continue providing affordable care that strengthens the entire U.S. healthcare system in combatting the pandemic.”

For more information on the Siemens Foundation, follow @SFoundation on Twitter or visit [siemens-foundation.org](https://www.siemens-foundation.org).

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