
MINNEAPOLIS, July 22, 2020

Siemens Foundation Provides \$200K to Four Minnesota Community Health Centers to Support COVID-19 Recovery and Social Equity

- **The community health centers are four of eight additional centers receiving financial support from the non-profit organization, raising the total to more than \$2M to 20 providers since April.**
- **Locations chosen to address the needs of the medically underserved, underrepresented and uninsured, advancing the Foundation's long-term commitment to social equity and justice.**

The [Siemens Foundation](#) today announced it is providing \$200,000 to four community health centers in Minnesota to help in the COVID-19 crisis recovery and address racial disparities in accessing quality, affordable healthcare. Axis Medical Center, Minnesota Community Care, NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center and Southside Community Health Center are four of eight community health centers receiving financial support from the non-profit organization established by Siemens USA. These grants complement the \$1.5 million in grants provided by the Siemens Foundation in April to 12 community health centers across the country.

“Axis Medical Center, with the greatest appreciation, received generous financial support provided by the Siemens Foundation. The grant moneys provided will go a long way to promote Axis's mission,” said **Theodore James, CEO of Axis Medical Center**. “The mission and imperative of Axis is to serve the medical needs of the underserved populations of Minneapolis. In the 13 years since being founded by a doctor from Tanzania, Axis has become the go-to clinic for a large portion of the Minneapolis population who seek culturally and linguistically appropriate medical care. Axis is known for being very efficient, making every dollar count. Siemens

Foundation has through this gift will make a difference that will impact thousands of lives.”

“COVID-19 and the death of George Floyd have awoken the world to the complex impacts of social inequality, but this is nothing new for Community Health Centers,” said **Reuben Moore, CEO of Minnesota Community Care**. “At Minnesota Community Care, we’ve worked to address these disparities through public health services and solutions designed by communities for more than 50 years.”

“At NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, amid the COVID-19 pandemic and killing of George Floyd, we had to quickly pivot to a model outside our clinic walls to reach people where they were: in their homes and on the streets,” said **Stella Whitney-West, CEO of NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center**. “Telehealth became the model that allowed us to do that and with this grant from the Siemens Foundation, we will expand telehealth, COVID-19 testing and our cultural models of care to address racial trauma across the communities and the people we serve.”

“On behalf of the Southside community—staff, patients, and neighbors—I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Siemens Foundation for the support to our organization,” said **Ann Cazaban, CEO of Southside Community Health Center**. “It is partners like you that support the work we do to improve the health of our patients and communities by delivering exceptional care, removing barriers, and promoting healthy lifestyles. Our shared mission and sense of purpose of promoting equity and justice through healthcare unites us and reminds us how important each and every one of us is to the success of Southside. We are using the funds on innovation to stand up our telehealth program in all departments including dental, and we are finding that patients like this new way of receiving health care. It’s quick, convenient, efficient, and here to stay. Thanks to partners like the Siemens Foundation, Southside will continue to work for change toward our vision that every member of our Southside community has the opportunity to lead a happy and productive life built on a foundation of good health.”

“The Siemens support comes at an opportune time as the communities served by Health Centers in the Twin Cities are currently experiencing great uncertainty and significant trauma,” said **Jonathan Watson, CEO of the MNACHC**. “The

combination of COVID-19, trauma from the murder of George Floyd and the loss of jobs in many communities, means that Community Health Center services will be needed now more than ever,” added Watson.

“Community clinics are critical partners for MDH, providing necessary services to underserved communities and people experiencing health inequities,” said **Jan Malcom, Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Health**. “As we work to address the disparate impact of COVID-19 on these communities, their work is even more important.”

The Siemens Foundation has made a commitment to support these critical healthcare providers so they can recover and rebuild from the repercussions of the pandemic. The grants reinforce the Foundation’s continued resolve to promote diversity, equity and inclusion amid national efforts to address racism and promote racial justice.

“Six months into the pandemic, COVID-19 continues to disproportionately affect people of color, particularly Black people,” said David Etwiler, CEO, Siemens Foundation. “Our commitment to eliminating health, education, and social justice disparities experienced by Black people is stronger than ever.”

The community health centers were identified using equity criteria developed by the Siemens Foundation in consultation with the National Association of Community Health Centers and the Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers.

The centers will receive funds over the next few weeks and are free to allocate it where it is needed most.

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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About the Siemens Foundation

The Siemens Foundation has invested more than \$122 million in the United States to advance workforce development and education initiatives in science, technology, engineering and math. Our mission is inspired by the

culture of innovation, research and continuous learning that is the hallmark of Siemens' companies. Together, the programs at the Siemens Foundation are narrowing the opportunity gap for young people in the U.S. in STEM careers and igniting and sustaining today's STEM workforce and tomorrow's scientists and engineers.