

A New Seward Community Health Center

IMPACT:

Our goal is to improve the lives of people in Seward and Moose Pass by transforming how healthcare is delivered. With an estimated completion date of 2027, Seward Community Health Center's new clinic will enable a more holistic approach to healthcare that makes it easier for people to access the care and resources they need to thrive.

HISTORY & NEED:

Seward Community Health Center (SCHC) is a non-profit organization created for the people, by the people. Our community-supported 501(c)(3) was formed in 2010 when Seward residents approved a City ordinance aimed at improving access to care and the overall health of Seward residents. SCHC first received federal funding in November 2013 and was given only 120 days to begin providing services as a Federally Qualified Health Center. To meet the deadline, SCHC was given space in the hospital building and a detached dry office trailer – intended as a temporary arrangement until a new facility could be secured.

Fast forward nearly 10 years: we have tripled our patient volume, with nearly 7,000 patient visits annually. Our staff size has also grown to accommodate the increased demand. We now have nearly 30 staff filling 23 full-time positions. **Space constraints are now severely restricting our ability to provide new and expanded services to our community.**



WHY THIS SHOULD BE A LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY:

This facility is more than just a new clinic. It gives our community – our state – the opportunity to reshape the face of healthcare, starting at the community level. As you know, our healthcare system is broken and this project provides an example of how to fix a piece of it. Regular, stable, and extensive primary care decreases the need for more expensive healthcare. The new SCHC facility will change how we deliver healthcare because it will be more focused on prevention and education and less focused on treating the issue right in front of us. We're already behind in the type of care we could be providing to our community. We need to be proactive for the next pandemic. **Our state leadership can be a part of creating a new model for healthcare in Alaska, and you can help.**



CAMPAIGN GOAL AND DETAILS:

Current projections predict this project to cost approximately \$20 million, which includes furniture, fixtures, equipment, campaign, and other costs. As of October 2023, we have already secured a \$5 million federal grant toward this project and engaged with The Foraker Group in capital campaign consulting. We anticipate most of the remaining funding will come from additional state and federal grants, with the remainder coming from foundation and community support. SCHC's board has committed to building this structure without debt so staff can focus on delivering high-quality care.

HIGHLIGHTS AND BENEFITS OF THE NEW CLINIC:

The SCHC new clinic will be a place for wellness and community, not just a place to treat illness. By including a teaching kitchen, meeting spaces, and other partners in health, residents will have greater access to “whole person” care.

- **Close to current location** – SCHC has already purchased the land for this project at 431-501 First Ave
- **Two-story facility with 20,000 ft²**
 - Large enough to accommodate current and future needs, plus include partners in health
- **Double the number of exam rooms**
 - More appointment availability
 - Shorter patient wait times
 - Ability to bring specialists to Seward regularly
 - Telehealth rooms to connect with remote specialists without leaving Seward
- **Increased access to behavioral health services** – more space for individual and group therapy
- **Improved privacy** – space for patients to have private conversations with nursing, enrollment, and billing staff
- **Integration of preventive care, wellness, and health education** – including a teaching kitchen with attached community meeting spaces
- **Infectious illness care** – Isolated exam room with separate entrance
- **Efficiency and effectiveness** – Bringing staff together under one roof to provide “whole person care”
- **Inclusion of other partners in community health**

SUSTAINABILITY:

A feasibility study conducted by Agnew::Beck Consulting indicates that current patient volumes and pricing practices will allow SCHC to be profitable in a new building within 5 years of opening.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Interested in supporting this important project for Seward residents? We are seeking advocates, volunteers, and people interested in making leadership gifts at this time.

MORE INFORMATION:

Craig Ambrosiani, Executive Director
907-224-8505
cambrosiani@sewardhealthcenter.org
www.sewardhealthcenter.org/newclinic

