



2013

Alivio Medical Center

An Active Presence for a Strong Community

Mission and History

Mission

Alivio Medical Center is a bilingual, bicultural organization committed to providing access to quality cost-effective health care to the Latino community, the uninsured and underinsured, and not to the exclusion of other cultures and races. This mission is expressed through the provision of services, advocacy, education and research and evaluation provided in an environment of caring and respect.

History

When Alivio Medical Center first opened its doors to an eagerly awaiting community on January 4, 1989, the vision to create a community-based health center, responsive and culturally sensitive to many of Chicago's most underserved and vulnerable communities, was finally realized. The neighborhoods of Pilsen, Little Village, and Back of the Yards have been historic points of entry for immigrants and are now home to a growing Mexican immigrant population and an expanding community of Mexican Americans.

Today, Alivio serves uninsured, working poor families and individuals who have historically not accessed healthcare due to language and cultural barriers, intimidation of traditional healthcare institutions, little awareness of available resources and fear of immigration status. Consequently, health promotion, health education, and preventive health care are integral parts of Alivio's comprehensive programs. Alivio's bilingual bicultural providers serve all patients regardless of ability to pay.

Alivio's mission has been validated by the growing demand for its services. The neighboring communities of Archer Heights, Bridgeport, Brighton Park, McKinley Park, Gage Park, and Armour Square are now part of Alivio's expanding service area. To serve these additional communities, Alivio constructed a second community health center in the Pilsen neighborhood which opened on January 3, 2000. A third freestanding clinic opened in Cicero, IL in July 2008. Additionally, three new School-Based Health Centers are now also part of the Alivio network.

Alivio Medical Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center and receives federal funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Target Population and Statistics

Alivio's patients are predominantly working poor, immigrant families and individuals with the following characteristics:

High levels of poverty:	98% fall at or below the 200% federal poverty level
Uninsured/underinsured:	39% of the primary care patients are uninsured
Medical coverage:	51% receive Medicaid benefits for prenatal care and delivery only
Gender:	66% are female; 34% are male
Ages:	35% are 12 years of age or younger; 3% are 65 years of age
Ethnicity:	97% are Latino (primarily Mexican)
Language:	70% are best served in a language other than English
Education:	71% of Alivio's patients have not completed high school

In Calendar Year 2012, Patient Statistics were:

Patients -	26,297
Visits -	121,061



Hispanics (68%) are less likely than White non-Hispanics (90.3%) to be covered by health insurance (US Census 2000).

Service Area and Services

Alivio Medical Center's service area encompasses the predominantly Mexican communities of southwest Chicago: Pilsen (Lower West Side), Little Village (South Lawndale), Heart of Chicago (Gage Park), and Back of the Yards (New City). As the population of Alivio's service area has increased over the years, many residents migrated to the neighboring areas of Armour Square, Brighton Park, Archer Heights, Bridgeport, and McKinley Park and the western suburbs of Cicero and Berwyn, Illinois.

Offering primary health care with an emphasis on maternal/child health, Alivio uncompromisingly promotes the care and well-being of mothers, babies, and families. Services include:

Clinical

Dentistry
 Diagnostic Laboratory
 Family & Adult Medicine
 Glaucoma Screenings
 Obstetrics, Gynecology & Midwifery
 Title X Family Planning Program
 Pediatrics
 Perinatal
 Pharmacy (340B Drug Pricing Program)
 with 20%-50% discounts on prescription medicines

Education and Outreach

All-Kids (Illinois SCHIP) Enrollment
 Case Management
 Compañeros en Salud (Health Advocates)
 Domestic Violence Counseling
 Exercise & Fitness Classes
 Mi Salud es Primero, (Diabetes Program)
 Individual & Family Counseling
 Lactation Classes
 Nutrition Classes and Counseling
 Prenatal Education
 Senior Advocacy (Medicare Enrollment)
 Women, Infants, Children

Did you know?

Alivio Medical Center seeks support to meet the increasing needs of our population. Did you know that:

- One in three Latinos is without health insurance, and the rate of uninsured among immigrants is two and a half times greater than native born.
- The number of people with diabetes in the Hispanic population in the United States is five times greater than in the general population.
- Hispanic women in Chicago are three times more likely than other groups to receive no prenatal care, contributing to infant deaths, birth defects and illness.
- Need for ambulatory care exceeds Chicago's current capacity by more than 2 million visits each year.



Awards and Honors

Alivio Medical Center achieved The Joint Commission re-accreditation in 2012. Only 38% of all community health centers in Illinois have achieved such status. The Joint Commission accreditation recognizes Alivio not only for its outstanding service, but also for all aspects of the organization's operations. Alivio Medical Center has further been recognized as a national model of community health as evidenced by the receiving the following awards:

2012 - Carmen Velásquez receives the "Jaime Escalante" award for her leadership from the Festival Latino del Libro y La Familia, the UIC 2012 Minority Health in the Midwest Conference's "Eradicating Health Inequities: Advancin Solution – Oriented Discourses" and the Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her continuing service and support presented by LMSA-MIDWEST.

2011 – Alivio Medical Center receives the Helen Rodriguez –Trias Health Award from the National Council of La Raza; Carmen Velásquez receives the Luminary Award from Senior Citizen Hall of Fame; the Recognition Award from the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation.

2010 – Carmen Velásquez receives the Woman of the Year Achievement Award from the Women Health Executive Network; Martha "Marty" Sanchez, Alivio's Community Liaison receives the Imagen Award for Latino Women for commitment to community from the Imagen Foundation. Alivio Medical Center receives American Diabetes Association recognition for its Diabetes Self-Management Education Program; Carmen Velásquez receives the Dream Award from Northwestern University. Maria Sauerzapf, RN becomes a member of the prestigious Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools and is recognized by Spectrum Nursing Magazine for her community service; Carmen Velásquez recognized in Hispanic Business Magazine as one of The 100 Influential Thought Leaders.

2009 – Carmen Velásquez receives the Ohtli Award from the Mexican Government; the Humanitarian Award from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office; the MALDEF Lifetime Achievement Award; the Latino Leaders Magazine Maestro Leaders Award; the Viva Award from Cristo Rey High School; Dora Garcia, Alivio's associate Executive Director receives Illinois Primary Health Care Association's George M. O'Neill Leadership Award

2008 – Carmen Velásquez receives the UIC Urban Health Award; the Community Award from El Hogar del Niño; Alivio Medical Center receives the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award from the American College of Physicians for its original approach in the delivery of healthcare

2007 – Carmen Velásquez receives the Achievement Award from LULAC; the Brigid Award from Concern Worldwide U.S.

2006 – Carmen Velásquez receives the Anti-Defamation League's Women of Achievement Award; the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois Association for Multilingual Multicultural Education

2004 & 2005 – Carmen Velásquez receives the Cesar Chavez Award from the Rainbow/Push Coalition; Alivio Medical Center receives the Nuestra Vision Siempre Jovenes award from Jovenes U.S.A. In 2004, Carmen Velásquez receives the Georgia Doty Health Education Fund's Health Warriors Award and is recognized in the Chicago Sun Times as one of Chicago's top ten most powerful women in the nonprofit arena; Alivio Medical Center receives Citibank's "3rd Annual Hispanic Heritage" award; the Dr. Jorge Prieto "Medical Achievement" award; Pilsen Neighbors' "Si Se Puede" award; Dove's "Los Premios Tesoro" award; NCLR's "Midwest Regional Office Recognition" award

Locations

Morgan Street

966 W. 21st St.
Chicago, IL 60608

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Clinic Hours

Monday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm
Tuesday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm
Wednesday, 11:00 am – 8:00 pm
Thursday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm
Friday, 8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm

Western Avenue

2355 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60608

Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Clinic Hours

Monday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm
Tuesday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm
Wednesday, 11:00 am – 8:00 pm
Thursday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm
Friday, 8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm

Cicero, IL

4842 W. Cermak Rd.
Cicero, IL 60804

Clinic Hours

Monday, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm
Tuesday, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm
Wednesday, 11:00 am – 8:00 pm
Thursday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Friday, 9:00 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday, 9am – 1pm

School-Based Health Centers

John Spry Community School and Community Links High School

2400 South Marshall Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60623

Clinic Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Little Village Lawndale High School Campus

3120 South Kostner Ave.
Chicago, IL 60623

Clinic Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Jose Clemente Orozco Academy of Fine Arts & Sciences

1940 W 18th St
Chicago, IL 60608

Clinic Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

**Additional Information can be found by
calling Alivio's general phone number 773-
254-1400 and at:**

www.aliviomedicalcenter.org

Executive Management Team

Carmen Velásquez
Executive Director

Dora Garcia
Associate Executive Director

Abdul Hafeez Bhurgri, M.D.
Medical Director

Thurman Gills
Director of Finance

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