



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

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**ORDINANCES INTRODUCED TO CITY COUNCIL WILL IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES
ACROSS CHICAGO**

Six Leases Introduced for Approval to Allow Community Health Care Providers to Operate in City-Owned Buildings

The Emanuel Administration today introduced ordinances that would authorize lease agreements with six community-based Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) to provide high-quality health care services to Chicagoans in their neighborhoods through City-owned buildings.

“These community health care providers will allow expanded health care hours and in many cases provide new, additional services to help improve the health of Chicagoans while the City will also continue to provide the high-quality health services that many people rely on for care,” said Dr. Bechara Choucair, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Chicagoans will continue to receive the high-quality health care they rely on for their families, now with extended hours in the evenings and weekends and in many cases, additional services. All of the health clinic services will continue to be on the same pay scale without an increase to co-pays and all of the City's current patients will continue to have uninterrupted access to primary care services with the FQHCs. These community-based federally-qualified health care providers bring additional experienced, qualified and compassionate health care professionals into communities across the city and have been serving the people of Chicago for years; collectively, these FQHCs serve over 500,000 people in Chicago yearly.

Health care services offered at these locations include Family Medicine, Women and Infant Care (WIC), HIV testing, vaccines and flu shots, dental service coordination, mammograms. All Chicagoans who currently receive health care through the city will continue to have uninterrupted access to these primary health care services. Additional services that will be provided through the



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FQHCs include extended hours, including nights and weekends, health education and counseling, social service coordination, as well as access to bilingual and bicultural staff.

The FQHCs were selected after an RFP process this past winter. Erie Family Health Center in West Town, Mercy Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Lower West, University of Illinois Mile Square Health Center in Englewood, Heartland International Health Center will operate alongside the City in Uptown, Chicago Family Health Center in South Chicago and Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center in Roseland.

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