



905 Franklin Street  
Waterloo, Iowa 50703  
(319) 874-3000  
[www.peoples-clinic.com](http://www.peoples-clinic.com)

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# NEWS RELEASE

## **Contact us for an interview!**

Augusta Sires, Community Relations Specialist

[asires@peoples-clinic.com](mailto:asires@peoples-clinic.com)

(319) 874-3105

## *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Waterloo, Iowa

Monday, September 30, 2019

## **U. S. Health and Human Services Recognizes Peoples Community Health Clinic with Quality Improvement Awards (QIA) for providing high-quality, effective care**

What constitutes a high-quality care provider? Is it more than just whether your doctor prescribes you a medicine or you walk out feeling better than when you walked in? Unfortunately, defining and measuring “quality care” has been a challenge to our health care system for decades. It has been especially challenging for patients to know if their chosen provider produces quality outcomes. Community health centers, though, have been collecting and submitting data on outcome quality to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for decades. This data is publicly available, and it allows you to see the outcomes that earned Iowa community health centers more than \$1.3 million in grant awards.

This August, Peoples Community Health Clinic (Peoples Clinic) received several Quality Improvement Award (QIA) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These awards recognize improvements in community health centers across the country in their work to provide effective health care for underserved communities. Grants are awarded for a variety of reasons. Health centers can receive grants for substantial improvements in health outcomes, expanding access to comprehensive care, reducing the cost of care delivery, addressing health disparities, utilizing Health Information Technology (HIT) services, and receiving Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition. Health centers can receive more than one award in a fiscal year.

Peoples Community Health Clinic received four awards totaling \$103,398 in recognition of their clinical quality measures. The clinic ranked in the top 10 % of the nation’s health centers for the



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best overall clinical performance. These grant dollars will be used to further improve health outcomes and the value of healthcare the center delivers.

“Valuing the patients we serve and striving to provide the best healthcare we can is our top priority every day,” stated Christine Kemp, CEO of Peoples Clinic.

Peoples Community Health Clinic is a member center of the Iowa Primary Care Association (Iowa PCA), a nonprofit membership association that supports health centers across the state with training and technical assistance. Aaron Todd, the CEO of Iowa PCA, said that “Our health centers in Iowa deliver high-quality care to people who may not be able to access other care settings for a variety of reasons. The prices are consistently less while the health outcomes are the same or better. We are proud that our centers received this distinction and we know they will use the awards to continue to improve the services they provide to all Iowans.”

Community health centers in Iowa received \$1,330,915 total from the QIA grants in Fiscal Year 2018.

**###END###**

*Peoples Community Health Clinic, Inc. is a nonprofit health care clinic known for providing high quality, comprehensive care to all people in the Cedar Valley, no matter their financial situation. Both uninsured and insured patients are welcome. Guided by its mission statement, Peoples Clinic is dedicated to providing access to affordable, compassionate, high quality health care to all at both its main clinic in the heart of downtown Waterloo and satellite clinic in Clarksville. Primary care, dental services, behavioral health counseling and urgent care are just a few of the Clinic’s many offerings in addition to on-site laboratory, x-ray and pharmacy. Learn more at [www.peoples-clinic.com](http://www.peoples-clinic.com).*

*The Iowa Primary Care Association (Iowa PCA) is a nonprofit membership association that provides training and technical assistance to community health centers across Iowa. Serving more than 216,000 patients across the state every year, our 13 partner community health centers provide comprehensive care to everyone, regardless of insurance status. To learn more, visit [www.iowapca.org](http://www.iowapca.org)*