



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

August 7, 2024

**CONTACT:**

Lara Cooper

lara@cstrategies.com

**VNA Health Care Receives \$500,000 Grant to Expand Indian Avenue Clinic in Aurora**

*New space to expand clinic by 10,000 square feet and renovation of existing space will allow VNA to reduce barriers to care, expand maternal health care services*

**Aurora, IL** - VNA Health Care, the largest Community Health Center in the Chicago suburbs, received a \$500,000 grant in the FY2025 Illinois State Budget to expand their [Indian Avenue clinic](#) in Aurora, which was obtained by Assistant House Majority Leader Barbara Hernandez and State Senator Karina Villa. The grant will help fund VNA's plans to expand the clinic by 10,000 square feet and renovate 6,500 square feet of existing space. The expansion will increase the total number of exam rooms to 47, expand the wellness kitchen, and create a play area for young children to wait while their parents attend their own medical visits. It will also allow VNA's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) services to be relocated to the Indian Avenue clinic and provide co-location with services focused on young families.

"VNA Health Care has called Aurora home for more than a century, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to grow our clinic and our services at our Indian Avenue health center to bring affordable, accessible care to even more local residents, including maternal health services," said **VNA Health Care President and CEO Linnea Windel**. "We are most grateful to Leader Hernandez and Senator Villa for their strong support of our work and their advocacy for this much-needed funding for the expansion of our Indian Avenue clinic. We look forward to beginning construction in 2025."

Like at all of VNA's locations, at the renovated Indian Avenue location, patients will be able to access health care services regardless of insurance status or ability to pay, as well as Spanish language care through bilingual team members and language translation services. To further increase access, the clinic also has regular evening and weekend hours, and offers same-day and walk-in appointments.

"Too often, individuals are discouraged from seeking health care services due to language barriers and high costs," said **State Senator Karina Villa (D-West Chicago)**. "VNA has tailored their care to serve the needs of our community by providing affordable, comprehensive and culturally competent health care, addressing a critical need in our state. I am grateful to have VNA Health Care as a trusted resource in Aurora and honored to support their work with this funding."

“I am proud that Aurora can count the VNA Health Center as a community institution, and it was a privilege to help them in their mission to provide affordable healthcare to all those who need it,” said State Rep. Barbara Hernandez, D-Aurora. “Across the state, too many families are forced to make impossible choices between groceries and lifesaving prescription drugs, and between warm winter clothes and regular visits with their doctors. Cracking down on high-cost healthcare and ending the necessity for these decisions should always be a priority, and VNA is bringing us closer to that goal every day.”

To date, VNA has secured \$1.8 million in funding for its Indian Avenue clinic expansion, including \$1.5 million from the Dunham Foundation and \$100,000 from the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. In total, the project’s cost is estimated at \$9 million. The expansion will allow VNA to meet the health care needs for more Aurora residents, particularly children and young families, who often have reduced access to care. VNA currently operates four clinics in Aurora, serving over 30,000 residents in the city each year.

###

### **About VNA Health Care**

*VNA Health Care is the largest Community Health Center (also known as a Federally Qualified Health Center) in the Chicago suburbs. VNA provides comprehensive primary care, home care, and health and wellness programs to more than 80,000 patients annually and has served people regardless of insurance status or ability to pay for more than 100 years. VNA strives to improve the standard of health for all with high-quality, accessible, and compassionate care delivered in VNA health centers, community settings, and patient homes. To learn more, visit [www.vnahealth.com](http://www.vnahealth.com).*