Access to Care
FILLING THE GAP FOR THE UNINSURED
2225 Enterprise Drive ■ Suite 2507 ■ Westchester, Illinois 60154
(708) 531-0680 ■ FAX (708) 531-0686 ■ www.accesstocare.org

November 3, 2015

I am Kathryn Franklin, President of Access to Care. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today and thank you for your support of the Access to Care program.

Access to Care is a non-profit primary health care program for low income, uninsured and under insured residents of suburban Cook County and northwest Chicago.

One of the many good features about ATC is the way we are able to leverage public funds with private resources. One of the important ways we do this is with our network of more than 600 physicians and 130 physician sites. Attached is a map of our physician sites. The back of the map has some client demographics. Members of ATC can sign up and be assigned a medical home in their own community. We currently serve approximately 5,000 patients annually.

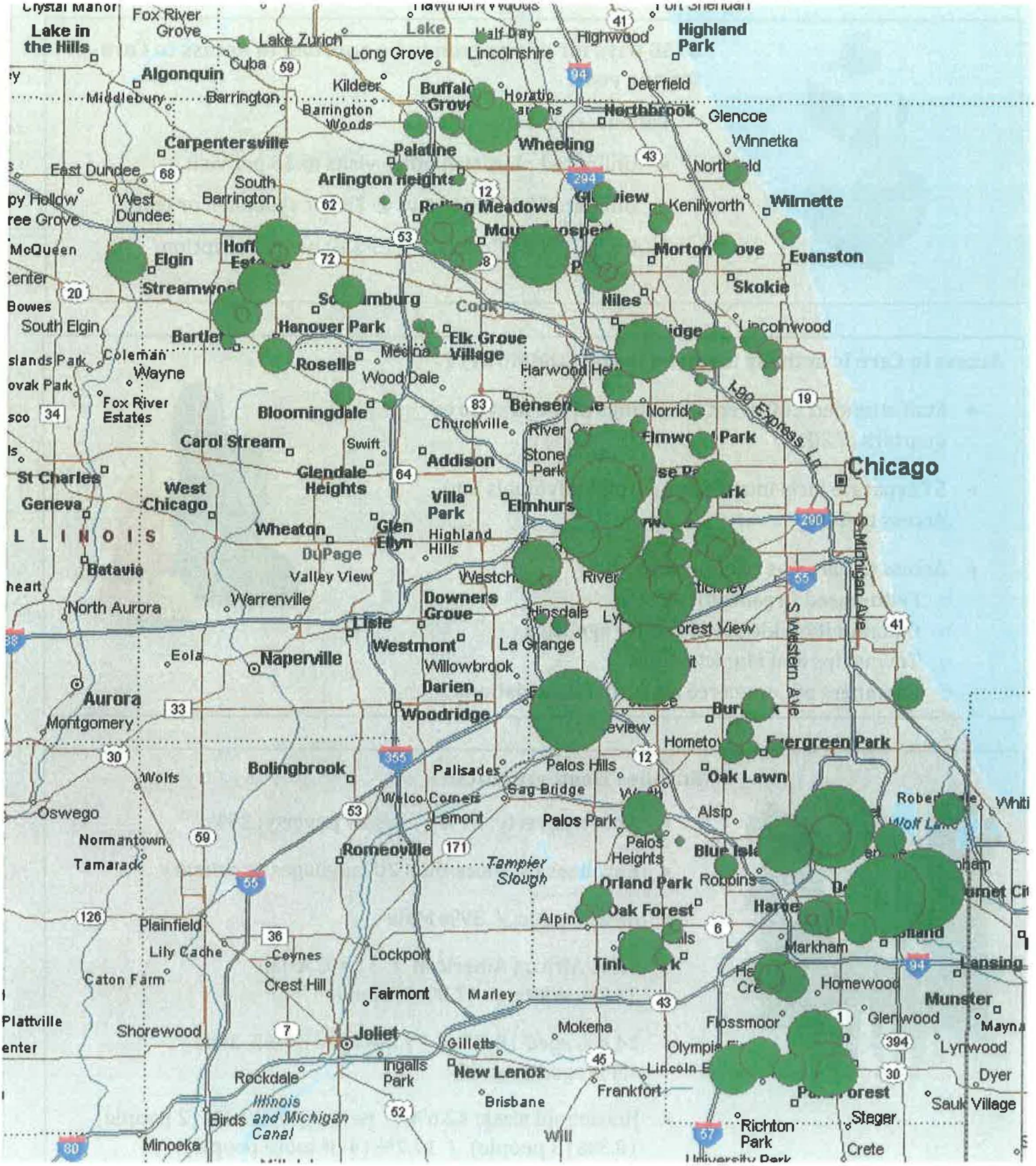
ATC is very community based. We have relationships with community wide social service agencies, townships and municipalities, chambers of commerce, associations, faith based organizations and service oriented clubs. I have brought with me letters of support from some of them and ask that these letters be included in the testimony. Through the first three quarters of 2015 we have attended nearly 200 events or meetings. We consider ourselves a partner with the County, as it is our largest donor. Everywhere staff goes they bring County Care materials. We have conservatively referred 10,000 people to County Care. Earlier this year, Access to Care was awarded a certificate of appreciation from Alivio Medical Center in recognition of our outreach efforts.

Access to Care is very cost efficient. We are able to provide an unlimited number of physician office visits, lab tests, x-rays and prescription drugs for $750 a year per person.

When clients come to us – it is usually because they are sick. Most have a chronic illness or two. ATC keeps them out of the emergency room. Often patients from the County's hospitals are referred to us for follow-up care. About half of the Access to Care members are immigrants who are not eligible for County Care either because they have not been in the country legally long enough or they are undocumented. Many of the other half tend to be in some kind of life transition. They may have lost a job, going through a divorce, or there may be a death or illness in the family that has caused a loss of income. During these difficult times, their focus is on keeping a roof over their heads and food on the table. Many times, we have heard a client say that they had to choose between medicine and food or medicine and rent.

I am here today because the funding for ATC has been cut in half in the County's preliminary budget. I am here to ask you to reinstate that funding – or at least some of it. If funding is cut many people may not get the care they need. ATC is a good steward of County funds. The program, because of provider discounts, is able to stretch $1 dollar into $2 worth of services. This is surely a good investment and use of County funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.



Access to Care Physician Sites

The Westchester Community Church
of the UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1840 Westchester Blvd.
WESTCHESTER, ILLINOIS 60154
(708) 865-1282

JOSEPH E. MILLS III
SENIOR PASTOR

September 15, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

I have been dealing with Access to Care for several years. They are a gift to families I know. In a society that critiques the phrase "safety net", the blunt fact is that we have, in Westchester, and nearby, many families who are less than one paycheck away from poverty. We have, in our church, several families who are legitimately "the working poor". They work 3 jobs, pay taxes, and don't have enough money to take care of basic life needs. Access to Care provides basic medical needs, that otherwise would go un-met, and then, like dominoes, more things get "un-met" as they miss work, cannot pay more bills, etc. They, and we as a society, need Access to care. Please reinstate funding to Access to Care to the same level as the past few years.

Having volunteered for years at area nursing homes and hospitals, I know what happens when the poor and working poor suddenly need medical care. They go right over to the local hospital emergency room, and overburden an already over-worked staff. I have been at many hospitals when the emergency room is far beyond capacity. Hospitals were not, and should not be the place for basic, non-life threatening medical care. The cost to the remaining public becomes much greater and to the hospitals themselves. Access to Care provides an alternative that, quite frankly, I believe helps save money in our medical "chain of care", and a better alternative.

Please continue to support Access to Care at the same level or more. This is not simply a moral issue; it is a complicate economic and justice issue as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We need Access to Care.

Sincerely Yours,

Rev. Joseph E. Mills III, Pastor
The Westchester Community Church
United Church of Christ

Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition

October 7, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Many of the people in our area are dependent on it for their medical care. Most notably, undocumented individuals who have no other resource for care.

Every day uninsured individuals run the risk of illness or injury preventing them from going to work or school. A person who is in poverty or who is undocumented may not know how or where to access medical services, without a program like Access to Care. With Access to Care the barriers to primary care access and affordability are removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many individuals' only health care are the services provided by Access to Care. It is very important!

Sincerely,

Esther E. Sciammarella, M.S.,
Executive Director

Institute for Minority Health Research (MC 764) • University of Illinois at Chicago • 1819 West Polk Street, Suite 246 • Chicago, IL 60612
www.ChicagoHispanicHealthCoalition.org • TEL: 312-842-2340 • chhc@chicagohispanichealthcoalition.org
The Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization • EIN # 36-4193052

Portage Park Chamber of Commerce

5829 West Irving Park Road
Chicago, Illinois 60634
Phone: 773-777-2020
Fax: 773-777-0202
www.portageparkchamber.org

October 15, 2015

John Fritchey
Commissioner – 12th District
Cook County Board of Commissioners
2539 North Southport Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614

RE: Access to Care

Dear Commissioner Fritchey:

I am writing in support of a continuation of funding for Access to Care, a non-profit organization which serves low to moderate income residents of Cook County by providing free or low-cost medical care. For many individuals and families on the northwest side of Chicago and suburban Cook County, Access to Care has offered an opportunity to see a physician without going to the emergency room. For those who qualify for this means-tested program, they pay only $5 for a doctor visit, $5 for lab tests and X-rays, and $15 to $40 for prescription medication.

By establishing an ongoing relationship with a general practice physician, individuals and families can get more timely care and avoid the acute/emergency medical attention created when people without coverage fail to seek immediate and appropriate treatment. Also, Access to Care provides assistance to people with coverage under the Affordable Care Act who have very high deductibles by offering them the ability to see a doctor for only $5.

At a time when there is increasing stress on the Cook County health system, Access to Care is a great partner in relieving the pressure on Stroger and Provident Hospitals and the various county clinics which struggle to treat the uninsured and underinsured. It would be in the best interest of local residents and the Cook County budget to continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the past few years.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss my unqualified support of Access to Care, please do not hesitate to contact me at 773-777-2020 or at **beebuilding@aol.com**.

Best regards,

PORTAGE PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

George Borovik
Executive Director

Katie Barnickel

From: Eventbrite <orders@eventbrite.com>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 6:09 AM
To: Katie Barnickel

casa·esperanza

Octubre 22 del 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Many of the people in our area are dependent on it for their medical care. Most notably, undocumented individuals who have no other resource for care.

Every day uninsured individuals run the risk of illness or injury preventing them from going to work or school. A person who is in poverty or who is undocumented may not know how or where to access medical services, without a program like Access to Care. With Access to Care the barriers to primary care access and affordability are removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many individuals' only health care are the services provided by Access to Care. It is very important!

Sincerely,

Pablo A. Cruz
Site Director
OLMC Community Center "Casa Esperanza"

CEDA
Community and Economic Development Association
of Cook County, Inc.

October 23, 2015

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you to continue funding Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past years. Access to Care is a nonprofit organization serving low-income, uninsured and underinsured people in suburban Cook County and Northwest Chicago. The program serves approximately 5,000 people each year.

I represent one of the founding agencies of the Suburban Primary Health Care Council which administers the Access to Care program. The Community Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA) has worked with Access since its inception in which **the need for services of Access to Care continues to increase.** It is estimated that there are nearly 44 million Americans without health insurance. Almost 400,000 of those individuals live in suburban Cook County and Northwest Chicago.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act by helping people with high deductibles see a local doctor at an affordable rate, even though they have not yet met the deductible amount.

Here are some of the amazing benefits Access to Care offers:

- $5 office visits
- $5 for lab and x-ray
- Prescription medication from $15 to $40

Access to Care is a very efficient and much needed program. The cost of care for one person per year is $750. One visit to an emergency room will cost more than that. I believe the best interests of local residents, as well as the Cook County budget, is to continue to provide the same amount of funding to Access to Care as previous years.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this request

Sincerely,

Harold T. Rice

Harold Rice Jr.
President and CEO

Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc.
567 W. Lake Street, Suite 1200 • Chicago, Illinois 60661
Phone: 312-795-8876 • Fax 312-795-1034
www.cedaorg.net

NursesPlus
Park Forest Health Department

Dear Commissioners,

I am very proud to say that I represent one of the founding agencies of the Suburban Primary Health Care Council which administers the Access to Care program. The Park Forest Health Department is also a registration site. I writing to ask you to continue funding Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past years.

Access to Care is a non-profit primary health care program for low-income, uninsured and underinsured people in suburban Cook County and northwest Chicago. For many individuals and families Access to Care has offered an opportunity to see a local, primary care physician for $5. Access to Care keeps people out of the emergency room for routine care.

Patients establish a relationship with their Access to Care physician. This way they can get more timely care and avoid need for the acute medical attention that is created when people without coverage fail to seek the appropriate treatment. Also, Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act by helping people with high deductibles to a local doctor at an affordable rate, even though they have not yet met the deductible amount.

The benefits provided by Access to Care are: $5 office visits, $5 for lab and x-ray and prescription medication from $15 to $40. Access to Care has a network of over 500 participating physicians that see patients in their office for a $5 co-pay. The services offered by the participating providers has been estimated to be worth $3 million.

Access to Care is a very efficient program. The cost of care for one person for one year is $750. One visit to an emergency room will cost more than that. I believe the best interests of local residents, as well as the Cook County budget, to continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the past few years.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jenise Ervin, MSN

Jenise Ervin MSN
Director, Park Forest Health Department

Community First Medical Center

Dear Commissioner,

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Many of the people in our area are dependent on it for their medical care. Most notably, undocumented individuals who have no other resource for care. Without this funding Community First Medical Center will see an increase in emergency room visits, since these individuals will have no other alternative.

Every day uninsured individuals run the risk of illness or injury preventing them from going to work or school. A person who is in poverty or who is undocumented may not know how or where to access medical services, without a program like Access to Care. With Access to Care the barriers to primary care access and affordability are removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many individuals' only health care services are those provided by Access to Care. It is very important!

Sincerely,

Sharon O'Malley RN
Community Outreach/CME Coordinator
Community First Medical Center
5645 W. Addison Street
Chicago, Il 60634
Phone: 773-794-8486 Fax 773-527-5058 Pager: 312-433-2503
somalley@cfmedicalcenter.com

Charles David Hughes, Jr.
2509 Stonebridge Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062

October 23, 2015

Dear Commissioners

I am very proud to say that I am a founding member of the Suburban Primary Health Care Council and the Access to Care program. I can't believe that almost 30 years have gone by since then. I was the CEO of The Community Economic Association of Cook County, IL (CEDA). I am ow retired, but still very much involved with Access to Care. I understand that in the preliminary 2016 County Budget, funding for Access to Care has been cut by 50%. I plead with you to reinstate the lost funding or at least part of it.

Access to Care is a non-profit primary health care program for low-income, uninsured and underinsured people in suburban Cook County and northwest Chicago. For many individuals and families Access to Care offers the opportunity to see a local, primary care physician for $5. Access to Care keeps people out of the emergency room for routine care.

The need for Access to Care existed in 1991 and still exists today. There are many people that need the services of Access to Care even with the Affordable Care Act being implemented.

If funding is cut, many, many people may lose their only access to affordable health care services. Many of those people will end up going to their local emergency rooms for primary health care services which could be handled in a private office for much less money.

I was proud of what our committee created in 1988 and I am still proud of it. The program has changed and adapted to the constantly changing health care environment. It helps people and that is what matters.

Sincerely,

Charles David Hughes

Charles David Hughes, Jr.

Creating circles of support for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families

Diane Farina White
President/CEO

Board Chair

Shea Fowler
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Board of Directors

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Destination XL Group

Jennifer Richards, CPA
Crowe Horwath

Andrew J. Van Singel

Wendy Whitcomb
UNISYS Corporation

Kiyoshi Yamaki, Ph. D
University of Illinois at Chicago

Dear Commissioner,

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Many of the people in our area are dependent on it for their medical care. Most notably, undocumented individuals who have no other resource for care.

Every day uninsured individuals run the risk of illness or injury preventing them from going to work or school. A person who is in poverty or who is undocumented may not know how or where to access medical services, without a program like Access to Care. With Access to Care the barriers to primary care access and affordability are removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many individuals' only health care are the services provided by Access to Care. It is very important!

Sincerely,

Necole Mills
Director of CSS Academy
Community Support Service Inc.

Community Support Services, Inc.
9021 Ogden Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513
708.354.4547 Fax 708.354.7412
www.CSSservices.org

Chicago Canine Club
16W129 83rd Street, Burr Ridge, IL 60527
630.654.0004
www.chicagocanineclub.com

HealthConnect One

October 15, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Many of the people in our area are dependent on it for their medical care -- most notably, undocumented individuals who have no other resource for care.

Every day uninsured individuals run the risk of illness or injury preventing them from going to work or school. A person who is in poverty or who is undocumented may not know how or where to access medical services. With Access to Care the barriers to primary care access and affordability are removed. Without a safety net such as Access to Care, patients will turn to emergency departments for medical services that should be provided by primary care practitioners.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the full level. Many individuals' only health care comes from the services provided by Access to Care.

Sincerely,

Rachel Abramson

Rachel Abramson

Executive Director, HealthConnect One

northwestside housingcenter
5233 W. Diversey Avenue | Chicago, IL 60639
p 773/283-3888 | f 773/283-8821
www.nwshc.org

October 19, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Many of the people in our area are dependent on it for their medical care. Most notably, undocumented residents who do not have alternative resources for care.

Every day uninsured individuals run the risk of illness and/or injury preventing them from going to work or school. A person who is in poverty or who is undocumented may not know how or where to access medical services, without a program like Access to Care. With Access to Care the barriers to primary care access and affordability are removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for only $5.00. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many individuals' only health care are the services provided by Access to Care. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at 773/283.3888 ext. 101.

Thank you,

James W Rudyk Jr

James Rudyk, Jr.
Executive Director, NWSHC

TOWNSHIP OF ORLAND

Paul A. O'Grady
Supervisor

Cindy M. Murray
Clerk

Patrick Feldner
Maria Sanfilippo
Antonio Rubino
John Lynch
Trustees

Rich E. Kelly
Assessor

Brian H. Younker
Highway Commissioner

Office Locations

Administrative Office
Assessor's Office
Youth & Family Counseling Services
14807 S. Ravinia Avenue
Orland Park • IL 60462

Main Fax Number
(708) 403-4260

Administrative Office & Assessor's Office
Telephone Number
(708) 403-4222

Youth & Family Counseling Services Office
Telephone Number
(708) 403-4001

Highway Department Office
16125 S. Wolf Road
Orland Park • IL 60467

Telephone Number
(708) 403-5148

Fax Number
(708) 403-5165

www.orlandtownship.org

October 6, 2015

Dear Commissioner;

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Many of the people in our community depend on it for their medical care. Particularly, undocumented individuals who have no other resource for care.

Every day uninsured individuals have to face barriers to get medical care. A poor and undocumented individual has to fight to get medical care. With Access to Care, the barriers to primary health care of immigrant status and income are removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many peoples only health care is the services provided by Access to Care. It is very important!

Sincerely,

Caitlin McElroy
Health Services Coordinator

TOWNSHIP OF PROVISO

4565 HARRISON STREET, HILLSIDE, ILLINOIS 60162
708.449.4300

MICHAEL A. CORRIGAN
SUPERVISOR

ANTHONY
"TONY" WILLIAMS
CLERK

STEVEN J. ZAWASKI
ASSESSOR

EVELYN CHAVEZ
TRUSTEE

JOSEPH CHRISTOPHER
TRUSTEE

MARI HERRELL
TRUSTEE

CLARENCE E. THOMAS
TRUSTEE

October 5, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Access to Care has been an incredibly valuable resource for our community. There are many people that depend on it for medical care. Without it, they would have no care at all. Please reinstate funding to Access to Care to the same level as the past few years.

If people cannot have "Access to Care", they will wait until their condition is so bad that they will go to the nearest emergency room and this will become uncompensated care for the hospitals. Or an uninsured individual, if necessary, will go to Stroger Hospital, placing a bigger burden on the County than a visit to their Access to Care doctor.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We need Access to Care.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Corrigan
Supervisor
Proviso Township

SENIOR SERVICES
FAX: 708.202.1265

GENERAL ASSISTANCE
FAX: 708.202.1264

ASSESSOR
FAX: 708.202.1267

CLERK
FAX: 708.202.1266

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Faith United Protestant Church
First Midwest Bank. Park Forest
Franciscan St. James Health
God's Side Christian Wears
Grace United Protestant Church
Ingalls Health System
Members at Large: Margot Courson, Karla Fiaoni
New Faith Baptist Church

The Pantry of Rich Township

Old Plank Trail Community Bank
Park Towers. Richton Park
Rich Township Democratic Organization
Rich Township Republican Organization
Rich Township Senior Services
Sam's Club. Matteson
St. John's Faith United Church of Christ
St. Lawrence O'Toole Church
Township of Rich
Victory Apostolic Church. Matteson
Village of Matteson
Village of Park Forest
Village of Richton Park
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc,
Tau Alpha Zeta Chapter, Richton Park
Vitas

22013 Governors Hwy. - Richton Park, IL 60471 - Phone (708) 748-6722 - Fax (708) 748-8796

October 2nd, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Many of the people in our area are dependent on it for their medical care. Most notably, undocumented individuals who have no other resource for care.

Every day uninsured individuals run the risk of illness or injury preventing them from work or school. A poor and undocumented individual very often does not know where to get medical care other than the local emergency room.. With Access to Care the barriers to primary health care of immigrant status and income are removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many individual's only health care is the services provided by Access to Care. It is very important!

Sincerely,

Vicki Sline
The Pantry of Rich Township Director

The Westchester Community Church
of the UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1840 Westchester Blvd.
WESTCHESTER, ILLINOIS 60154
(708) 865-1282

JOSEPH F. MILLS III
SENIOR PASTOR

September 15, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

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Sincerely Yours,

Marge Nelson

Marge Nelson

The Westchester Community Church
of the UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1840 Westchester Blvd.
WESTCHESTER, ILLINOIS 60154
(708) 865-1282

JOSEPH E. MILLS III
SENIOR PASTOR

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Sincerely Yours,

Sue Becerra

Sue Becerra

The Westchester Community Church
of the UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1840 Westchester Blvd.
WESTCHESTER, ILLINOIS 60154
(708) 865-1282

JOSEPH E. MILLS III
SENIOR PASTOR

September 15, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

I have been dealing with Access to Care for several years. They are a gift to families I know. In a society that critiques the phrase "safety net", the blunt fact is that we have, in Westchester, and nearby, many families who are less than one paycheck away from poverty. We have, in our church, several families who are legitimately "the working poor". They work 3 jobs, pay taxes, and don't have enough money to take care of basic life needs. Access to Care provides basic medical needs, that otherwise would go un-met, and then, like dominoes, more things get "un-met" as they miss work, cannot pay more bills, etc. They, and we as a society, need Access to care. Please reinstate funding to Access to Care to the same level as the past few years.

Having volunteered for years at area nursing homes and hospitals, I know what happens when the poor and working poor suddenly need medical care. They go right over to the local hospital emergency room, and overburden an already over-worked staff. I have been at many hospitals when the emergency room is far beyond capacity. Hospitals were not, and should not be the place for basic, non-life threatening medical care. The cost to the remaining public becomes much greater and to the hospitals themselves. Access to Care provides an alternative that, quite frankly, I believe helps save money in our medical "chain of care", and a better alternative.

Please continue to support Access to Care at the same level or more. This is not simply a moral issue; it is a complicate economic and justice issue as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We need Access to Care.

Sincerely Yours,

Rev. Joseph E. Mills III, Pastor
The Westchester Community Church
United Church of Christ

Calumet Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
14435 Kolin Ave.
Midlothian, IL 60445

October 7, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years.

Many of the people in our community, depend on it for their medical care. Every day uninsured individuals have to face barriers to getting medical care. A poor individual has to fight to get medical care. With Access to Care the barriers to primary health care of immigrant status and income are removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many people's only health care is the services provided by Access to Care. It is very important!

Linda Arvia
Calumet Heating & Air Conditioning
708-385-8051

PO Box 1378, Bedford Park, IL 60499-1378
773-495-7865
www.graceseedsministry.org
graceseedsministry@gmail.com
Rev. Linda Wygant
lwygant@graceseedsministry.org

September 11, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Access to Care has been an incredibly valuable resource for our community. There are many people that depend on it for medical care. Without it, they would have no care at all. Please reinstate funding to Access to Care to the same level as the past few years.

If people cannot have "Access to Care", they will wait until their condition is so bad that they will go to the nearest emergency room and this will become uncompensated care for the hospitals.

Or an uninsured individual, if possible, will go to Stroger Hospital, placing a bigger burden on the County than a visit to their Access to Care doctor.

Through our Share the Harvest project, part of Grace Seeds Ministry, we meet many neighbors who are struggling to put food on their families' tables and are forced to make seemingly impossible choices between buying food and seeking medical care and medication. We need Access to Care. Our neighbors need Access to Care.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Linda Wygant

Rev. Linda Wygant
Planter and Cultivator
Grace Seeds Ministry
Share the Harvest Project

aafs
arab american family services
مركز خدمات العائلة العربية الأمريكية

September 9, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

My name is Itedal Shalabi, Co-Founder/Executive Director of Arab American Family Services (AAFS). A nonprofit social service agency founded in 2001, provides caring, compassionate, multilingual assistance to **(South Suburban)** Chicagoland residents. AAFS offers support in the areas of public benefits, immigration, domestic violence, mental health, and elderly services and sponsors outreach programs to build healthier families and communities. As a locally focused, nonpolitical and nonreligious agency, AAFS works to build bridges of respect and understanding between Arab-American and mainstream-American cultures. By helping local neighbors overcome personal crisis, strengthen their families, and live healthier, more successful lives, AAFS is making a profound and positive impact in our community.

I am requesting that you please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Many of the people in our community, depend on it for their medical care. Particularly, undocumented individuals have no other resource for care. My staffs have informed me many times, how thankful and grateful those individual clients were feeling after being accepted into Access to care program. That they can go to do a checkup or visit a doctor has been such a relief for them and their loved ones.

Every day uninsured individuals have to face barriers to getting medical care. A poor and undocumented individual has to fight to get medical care. With Access to Care the barriers to primary health care of immigrant status and income are removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many people's only health care is the services provided by Access to Care. It is very important!

Sincerely,

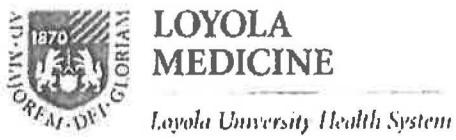
Itedal Shalabi, MSW
Co-Founder/Executive Director

9044 S. Octavia Avenue
Bridgeview, Illinois 60455
www.aafsil.org

p 708 599 AAFS (2237)
f 708 599 8229
crisis hotline 708 945 7600

J. Paul O'Keefe, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Medicine
2160 South First Avenue
Building 102 Room 7604
Maywood, IL 60153

Telephone: (708) 216-2332
Fax: (708) 216-0814
Email: pokeefe@lumc.edu



September 24, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

I am one of the physician providers in the Access to Care program at the Loyola University Medical Center. I also serve in the Access to Care Board of Directors. For our patients Access to Care has been an incredibly valuable resource. The majority of our patients are Spanish speaking and do not have access to the other primary care providers in the community. Many are undocumented. We have incorporated Access to Care into our Internal Medicine and Medicine/Pediatrics continuity ambulatory clinic programs and are able to provide continuous primary care for wonderful hardworking patients who live in communities surrounding our medical center. Without Access to Care, they would have no care at all. I am asking you to please reinstate funding to Access to Care at the same level as the past few years.

Without "Access to Care", patients will wait until their condition has advanced to the point that they must go to the nearest emergency room adding to the burden of uncompensated care for the hospitals.

Others among the uninsured, if possible, will go to Stroger Hospital, which will impose a larger burden on Cook County government than a visit to their Access to Care doctor.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We need Access to Care.

Sincerely,

Paul O'Keefe

Paul O'Keefe
Professor and Chairman
Department of Medicine

POK/ac

Westlake Hospital

Dear Commissioner,

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Many of the people in our area are dependent on it for their medical care. Most notably, undocumented individuals who have no other resource for care.

Every day uninsured individuals run the risk of illness or injury preventing them from going to work or school. A person who is in poverty or who is undocumented may not know how or where to access medical services, without a program like Access to Care. With Access to Care the barriers to primary care access and affordability are removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many individuals' only health care are the services provided by Access to Care. It is very important!

Sincerely,

Karen Montiel

Karen Montiel
Community Health Coordinator
Westlake Hospital
1225 W. Lake Street
Melrose Park, IL 60160

AMITA

October 23, 2015

Cook County Commissioner Tim Schneider
118 N Clark Street
Room 567
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Commissioner Schneider: Tim

I am writing to you on behalf of Access to Care, an agency with which we have worked for many years to provide low cost primary care in our community.

I understand that Cook County is considering reducing its funding to Access to Care by 50%. I am very aware of the difficult budget decisions that must be considered at this time, and I understand that it may seem like a reasonable place to cut since the ACA has begun to lower rates for the uninsured. However, for low income persons and especially undocumented immigrants the ACA plans with high deductibles don't help accessing primary care. With Access to Care, these individuals can still access primary care and some common lab services for $5.00. This is a godsend for families who are making the right decision by purchasing insurance, but still find themselves having difficulty getting the primary care services they need at a reasonable price.

If at all possible, please consider funding Access to Care at its current levels. Many families depend upon these low cost services to maintain their health and avoid emergency room visits.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kelley

Kelley Clancy
Sr. Vice President, Advocacy
AMITA Health

Greater Elgin Family Care Center

370 Summit Street
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 608-1344
www.gefcc.org

September 28, 2015

RE: Continued funding for Access to Care

Dear Commissioner:

Please accept this document as encouragement from Greater Elgin Family Care Center to continue funding Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Fully 36% of the patients seen by Greater Elgin Family Care Center in 2014 were uninsured, some 13,500 different people. Not only are they dependent upon GEFCC for their medical care, but many are dependent upon Access to Care to create access to their medical care, most notably undocumented individuals who have no other source of care.

Every day uninsured individuals run the risk of illness or injury preventing them from participating in work or school and, therefore, making them less productive and contributing members of our society as a result. An uninsured individual very often does not know where to get medical care other than the local emergency room. With Access to Care, the barriers to primary health care of immigrant status and income are partially removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at its current level. Many individuals' only health care is supported by Access to Care.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Tanner, MSW, ACSW, LCSW, MBA
President/CEO

Southland Ministerial
Health Network
"Providing Information, Inspiration and Resources"

September 9, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Access to Care has been an incredibly valuable resource for our community. There are many people that depend on it for medical care. Without it, they would have no care at all. Please reinstate funding to Access to Care to the same level as the past few years.

If people cannot have "Access to Care", they will wait until their condition is so bad that they will go to the nearest emergency room and this will become uncompensated care for the hospitals.

Or an uninsured individual, if possible, will go to Stroger Hospital, placing a bigger burden on the County than a visit to their Access to Care doctor.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We need Access to Care.
If there is anything that I or any members in my organization can do to help, let me know.

Sincerely,

Apostle Carl L. White Jr.
President
Southland Ministerial Health Network

15406 Lexington Ave. ▪ Harvey, IL 60426 ▪ (708) 596-7610 ▪ Fax: (708) 596-7618 ▪ Email: smhn2901@gmail.com

TOWNSHIP OF BERWYN

Supervisor
Elizabeth A. Pechous
Town Clerk
Thomas J. Pavlik
Assessor
David J. Avila

"A Tradition of Service"

Board of Trustees
Aimee Sordelli
Beverly Pastorek
Donna Calvello
Edward Espinoza

September 9, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Many of the people in our Berwyn community, depend on it for their medical care. Particularly, undocumented individuals that have no other resource for care. Berwyn's population is about 70% Hispanic. The majority work at jobs that do not pay a lot. Health insurance provided through their employment is not an option. Access to Care is often the only affordable access they have to receive health care.

Every day uninsured individuals have to face barriers to getting medical care. A poor and undocumented individual has to fight to get medical care. With Access to Care the barriers to primary health care of immigrant status and income are removed.

Access to Care also compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

On a personal note, Berwyn Township has been partnering with Access to Care for over 25 years. As our Health Systems change, they have been many of our resident's one constant. They have been there to provide much needed health services.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many individuals only health care is the services provided by Access to Care. It is very important!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Pechous

Elizabeth A. Pechous
Berwyn Township Supervisor
President, Board of Health
(708) 788-6600 office
(708) 788-0432 fax
(708) 732-2437 personal cell

BREMEN TOWNSHIP

M. Maggie Crotty, Supervisor

16361 South Kedzie Parkway Markham, Illinois 60428 708-333-9530 / Fax: 708-333-1958

Assessor Willie A. Jones

Keith Gomillia, Trustee
Larry Sargis, Trustee

John D. Lord, Clerk

Norman Pestlin, Trustee
Kathryn Straniero, Trustee

September 21, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years. Many of the people in our community, depend on it for their medical care. Particularly, undocumented individuals have no other resource for care.

Every day uninsured individuals have to face barriers to getting medical care. A poor and undocumented individual has to fight to get medical care. With Access to Care the barriers to primary health care of immigrant status and income are removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many people's only health care is the services provided by Access to Care. It is very important!

Sincerely,

M. Maggie Crotty

September 25, 2015

Dear Commissioner,
Please, reinstate funding to Access to Care to previous funding levels. Access to Care is an incredibly valuable resource for our Westchester community. Many people depend on help for their medical care. Without Access to Care's assistance, the underinsured may have no care at all.

If people cannot have "Access to Care", they will wait until their condition needs emergency room care. This becomes uncompensated care for the hospitals. Or an uninsured individual, if possible, will go to Stroger Hospital, placing a bigger burden on the County than a visit to their Access to Care doctor. Remember, a stitch in time saves nine. In this case early intervention and stable care saves lives, too.

Please, Fund Access to Care, so more people can enjoy good health.

Sincerely,

Alice Kaufman
alicekaufman@mkbrody.com

Brody's Balloons
2415 Braga Drive
Broadview, Illinois 60155
Phone 708-483-6060 Fax 708-233-0130

Calumet Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
14435 Kolin Ave.
Midlothian, IL 60445

October 7, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Please continue to fund Access to Care at the same level as in the immediate past few years.

Many of the people in our community depend on it for their medical care. Every day uninsured individuals have to face barriers to getting medical care. A poor individual has to fight to get medical care. With Access to Care the barriers to primary health care of immigrant status and income are removed.

Access to Care compliments the Affordable Care Act provisions by helping people with high deductible insurance plans to see a doctor for $5. Those people with very high deductibles appreciate access to affordable primary health care services even when they have not yet met their annual deductible.

Please continue funding Access to Care at the same level. Many people's only health care is the services provided by Access to Care. It is very important!

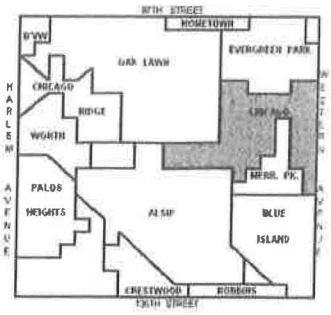
Linda Arvia

Linda Arvia
Calumet Heating & Air Conditioning
708-385-8051

Township of Worth

11601 S. Pulaski
Alsip, Illinois 60803
708-371-2900

Office of the
Township Supervisor
General Assistance
Kevin M. Hughes



September 23, 2015

Cook County Board
118 N. Clark St
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: Access to Care

Dear Commissioners,

Access to Care (ATC) has been an incredibly valuable resource for the people in Cook County. Many individuals/families in our community depend on this program for their medical care because without it they wouldn't be able to afford doctor's care or their prescriptions medication. ATC also compliments the Affordable Care Act. Those with very high insurance deductibles and the uninsured depend on ATC for their basic medical care. With this program, they are able to be treated by doctors before any serious medical condition develops. Without this program, you will see an increase in the financial burdens for these low income individuals/families, local emergency rooms and all of the County Medical System facilities. The insured with high deductibles or uninsured will use these facilities for basic medical treatment and will be unable to pay their charges for these visits. This will leave their expenses to be passed on to our community or to the Cook County tax payers.

Please continue funding ATC at the same level because many individuals/families only health care services are those provided by ATC.

Sincerely,

Joanne Oliphant
Worth Township General Asst. Office

OAK FOREST PARK DISTRICT

15601 SOUTH CENTRAL • OAK FOREST, ILLINOIS 60452-3298 • (708) 687-7270 • FAX (708) 687-9937
www.oakforestparks.org

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PARKS & RECREATION

STEVE BALDWIN
SUPERINTENDENT
MAINTENANCE

JOSEPH J. McDONNELL
TREASURER

KENNETH GOFF
ATTORNEY

October 2, 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Access to Care has been an incredibly valuable resource for our community. There are many people that depend on it for medical care. Without it, they would have no care at all. Please reinstate funding to Access to Care to the same level as the past few years.

If people cannot have "Access to Care", they will wait until their condition is so bad that they will go to the nearest emergency room and this will become uncompensated care for the hospitals.

Or an uninsured individual, if possible, will go to Stroger Hospital, placing a bigger burden on the County than a visit to their Access to Care doctor.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We need Access to Care.

Sincerely,

Cindy Grannan

Cindy Grannan
Director of Parks & Recreation

TOWNSHIP OF SCHAUMBURG
EST. 1850

1 Illinois Boulevard
Hoffman Estates, Illinois
60169-3314

847/884-0030
TTY 847/884-1560
FAX 847/884-0194

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Assessor
John R. Lawson, CIAO

Highway Commissioner
Scott M. Kegarise

A History of Service...
A Commitment to the Future

www.schaumburgtownship.org

October 9, 2015,

Dear Commissioner,

Access to Care has been an incredibly valuable resource for our community. There are many people that depend on it for medical care. Without it, they would have no care at all. Please reinstate funding to Access to Care to the same level as the past few years.

If people cannot have "Access to Care", they will wait until their condition is so bad that they will go to the nearest emergency room and this will become uncompensated care for the hospitals.

Or an uninsured individual, if possible, will go to Stroger Hospital, placing a bigger burden on the County than a visit to their Access to Care doctor.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We need Access to Care.

Sincerely,

TOWNSHIP OF SCHAUMBURG

Mary Wroblewski

Mary Wroblewski
Supervisor

Lois Coxworth-Gallagher
1346 Western Ave
Flossmoor, IL 60422

October 23, 2014

Dear Commissioners

I am very proud to say that I am a founding member of the Suburban Primary Health Care Council and the Access to Care program. It is hard for me to believe that almost 30 years have gone by since then. I was the Executive Director of the Park Forest Health Department. I understand that in the preliminary 2016 County Budget, funding for Access to Care has been cut by 50%. I urge you to reinstate the lost funding or at least part of it.

Access to Care is a non-profit primary health care program for low-income, uninsured and underinsured people in suburban Cook County and northwest Chicago. For many individuals and families Access to Care offers the opportunity to see a local, primary care physician for $5. Access to Care keeps people out of the emergency room for routine care.

The need for Access to Care existed in 1991 and still exists today. There are many people that need the services of Access to Care even with the Affordable Care Act being implemented.

If funding is cut, many, many people may lose their only pathway to health care services. Many of those people will end up going to their local emergency rooms for primary health care services which could be handled in a private office for much less money.

I was proud of what our committee created in 1988 and I am still proud of it. The program has changed and adapted to the constantly changing health care environment. It helps people and that is what matters.

Sincerely,

Lois Coxworth-Gallagher