



Catholic Charities

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Catholic Charities Volunteer Medical Clinic Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Catholic Charities Volunteer Medical Clinic?

At the Volunteer Medical Clinic, volunteer doctors, nurses and other health care professionals provide medical care to people in our community who do not have access to medical care through public benefits or private insurance. Patients are not charged for their visits to see a health care professional.

Is this clinic new?

This is a new model for the clinic located in the Spanish Catholic Center at 1618 Monroe St. NW. Catholic Charities is returning to its roots by offering pro bono health care consultations to the most vulnerable in our community. When the Spanish Catholic Center opened its doors in the 1960s, it was the only medical clinic where pro bono doctors provided free care to patients in need. Now there is Medicaid insurance and over 30 clinics that provide care to patients with low income in the D.C. area. Yet, there are many people in the community who do not qualify for Medicaid and who do not have access to affordable insurance. These are the people served by Catholic Charities Volunteer Medical Clinic.

What makes the Volunteer Medical Clinic an exciting place to volunteer?

Catholic Charities Volunteer Medical Clinic intentionally fosters a Culture of Caring among the volunteers, staff and patients. As a volunteer at the clinic, you become part of a team of volunteers working together to provide exceptional medical care to those without other health care options without charging patients for their visits. Volunteering at the Volunteer Medical Clinic is a transformative experience. You'll "get" more than you "give."

We are inspired by this passage from the Christian scripture: *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

1 Peter 4:10

Do I need to have my own malpractice insurance?

No. The Catholic Charities Volunteer Medical Clinic is a HRSA deemed Federal Tort Claims Act Health Center. We submit the credentials of each volunteer practitioner for approval to receive free Federal Tort Claims Act medical malpractice insurance, which includes a tail.

What type of practitioners and other volunteers are you looking for?

Catholic Charities Volunteer Medical Clinic welcomes volunteer doctors and nurse practitioners who provide primary care, as well as some chronic care specialists. We are recruiting three practitioners, three nurses and additional volunteers — scribes, translators and others — for each four-hour clinic session.



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How many shifts per week are volunteers expected to work? How long are the shifts?

Practitioners and other volunteers are asked to commit to serving two four-hour shifts a month for a year. After a year, you and the clinic director will discuss the next phase of your engagement.

Do I need to speak a language other than English?

We've got you covered! While it is helpful if volunteers speak Spanish, it is not required. We are recruiting volunteer medical interpreters and scribes to assist those practitioners who don't speak the language of their patient.

If I have my own practice and one of my nurses or medical assistants wants to volunteer with me, can we be guaranteed to work the same shift?

Yes. There is a question in the application where volunteers can indicate if they'd like to serve with another specific volunteer.

Will I receive any training?

Yes. At orientation, you will learn about the characteristics and needs of typical patients. During the training, you will learn specific clinic practices and meet other volunteers. You will be asked to complete an online orientation to the electronic health record (eClinicalWorks/eCW), which is used in the clinic.

Am I expected to provide my own supplies?

No. The clinic is a fully stocked operation. You will learn about which supplies and materials are available during clinic training.

How are you protecting everyone against COVID-19?

The health and safety of our patients, volunteers and staff are a top priority. We screen every person entering our facility and provide all appropriate PPE (masks, gloves, face shields, etc.) as needed. We are offering patient visits both in person and virtually via HIPAA-compliant Zoom.

What volunteer opportunities exist in the clinic beyond clinical roles?

Catholic Charities Volunteer Medical Clinic engages volunteers in several roles to support clinic operations, including language interpreters, scribes, eligibility counselors, medication assistance support, health education and resource navigators.

Are current medical or nursing students who need to fulfill a rotation requirement eligible to work in the clinic?

The clinic has relationships with local medical and nursing programs to provide students with experience serving our patients.

I'm interested! What's my next step?

Please send an email to brigid.prosser@CC-DC.org with any questions and/or expressing your interest and complete an online [volunteer application](#).

Updated: August 2020