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For Immediate Release

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**Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers' Social Determinants of Health Team Receives WPHCA's Annual Performance Excellence Award**

Madison, WI – Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association (WPHCA), the statewide association for Community Health Centers, awarded [Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers](#) (Sixteenth Street) WPHCA's 2024 [Performance Excellence Award](#). Each year, WPHCA recognizes a team of Community Health Center staff working towards achieving the quadruple aim: improving the health of patients, patient experience, cost-effectiveness, and staff satisfaction.

Sixteenth Street's [Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) Team](#) increased SDOH screening and follow up by more than 100% and launched the expansion of SDOH screening at four clinic locations. The improved screening revealed that:

- 67% of patients express one or more barriers to accessing care
- Needs most frequently expressed included difficulty paying for rent or mortgage (19%), difficulty paying for food (20%), and difficulty paying for health insurance (25%)
- 15% of patients also reported social isolation, defined by seeing or talking with someone close to them less than once a week

Through the SDOH screening initiative, monthly referrals to Sixteenth Street's Social Services Department increased by 281%, from 75 referrals per month in December 2023 to 286 referrals in June 2024. In total, over 500 patients were connected to Social Services as follow-up to screening and over 200 patients received information on resources available to them in Milwaukee County.

There were ten nominations for this year's Performance Excellence Award including nominations for Access Community Health Centers, Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center, Lakeshore Community Health Care, and Progressive Community Health Centers. Nominated projects included diabetes care management, depression screening, integrated behavioral health, dental quality improvement, and vaccines for children. All nominated projects are available to view [here](#).

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*WPHCA is the member association for Wisconsin's 19 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs, or Community Health Centers). Community Health Centers are non-profit, community-directed medical, dental, and behavioral health clinics. Find your local Community Health Center [here](#) and learn more about WPHCA at [www.wphca.org](http://www.wphca.org).*