

## For Immediate Release:

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## **Media Contact:**

Jayme Stocker / jayme.stocker@seattle.gov/ 206-507-5353

## Seattle/King County Clinic Announces Return in 2024 With Free Dental, Vision & Medical Care

The full Clinic returns to Seattle Center, February 15 – 18, 2024

SEATTLE – After a successful return in April 2023 from a three-year hiatus, Seattle/King County Clinic will be back at Seattle Center for its ninth year on Feb. 15 – 18, 2024. This valued community project will continue its mission to provide free dental, vision, and medical services for those who have difficulty accessing and/or affording healthcare.

Led by Seattle Center and Seattle Center Foundation, Seattle/King County Clinic brings together healthcare organizations, civic agencies, nonprofits, and private businesses to transform Seattle Center facilities into a giant healthcare operation. Approximately 500 licensed healthcare professionals and 500 general support volunteers donate their time and expertise each day of the Clinic with the goal of helping more than 3,000 people in need during the four-day period.

In 2023, 3,066 people received free dental, vision, and medical care valued at \$2.6 million. With its low-barrier service model, the Clinic helped to fill some of the gaps left by the healthcare system that make it difficult for un-or-underinsured as well as un-or-underemployed people to receive the basic care they need.

This year, after much discussion and collaboration between Seattle/King County Clinic, Climate Pledge Arena, and Seattle Center, the Clinic team decided to continue producing the event on Seattle Center's campus for the foreseeable future. Clinic organizers believe this is the most effective way to serve community members in need of healthcare and ensure a sustainable model.

"We are proud to be entering our ninth year of service to the community," said Julia Colson, Project Executive. "From the beginning, a patient-centered approach has been at the forefront of our decision-making, allowing us to reach and serve a diverse population of patients who struggle to access care. This would not be possible without the investment and involvement of our partners, volunteers, and donors who have been instrumental to the longevity and impact of the Clinic. We appreciate Climate Pledge Arena's collaboration, adaptability, and financial commitment in order to best serve this project. It's partnerships like these that represent the true spirit of community and allow Seattle/King County Clinic to continue making a difference in our region."

"Seattle/King County Clinic is uniquely important to the city and the region and Climate Pledge Arena is proud to be involved in such a powerful community event," said Steve Mattson, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Climate Pledge Arena "We respect the Clinic's decision to keep the event on campus and are grateful to be a part of the team and help ensure the Clinic's long-term success."

Seattle/King County Clinic is made possible through thousands of donated work hours as well as cash and in-kind contributions. In its first eight years, that support helped the clinic provide more than \$23 million in direct services to 27,000 patients. Donations are accepted at seattlecenter.org/donations.

Volunteer registration will open **Monday, October 2, 2023**. Additional information can be found at <u>seattlecenter.org/volunteers</u>.

Learn more about Seattle/King County Clinic at <u>seattlecenter.org/skcclinic</u> or by calling 206-684-7200.

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