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2027 Clinic to Mark the End of 12-Year Program

November 12, 2026 (SEATTLE) – The spring 2027 Seattle/King County Clinic, April 29-May 2, will be the final Clinic, bringing to a close 12 years of impactful, collaborative service. Developed in 2014 as a short-term project to bridge healthcare gaps in the region, Seattle/King County Clinic has had a profound impact on patients, volunteers, partners, and supporters and provided free healthcare to roughly 3,000 patients each year.

Seattle Center Project Executive, Julia Colson, states, “This was an incredibly difficult decision to make. We understand this news is hard and impactful for many in our community, particularly at a time when there are increasing challenges to healthcare access.” Colson continues, “From the very beginning, we knew that the Clinic was a temporary response to an ongoing community need, and that this model could never be a viable permanent solution.”

With the Clinic sunsetting, there will be an enhanced focus on connecting patients to community resources at the 2027 Clinic, in addition to providing the high-quality services patients have benefited from each year. Once the Clinic has concluded, Seattle Center’s goal will be to redirect the Clinic's assets and relationships to permanent healthcare entities that can serve these patients. Seattle Center will convene community engagement efforts to help identify future programs.

Randy Engstrom, Director of Seattle Center, states, “We wish we could continue offering the Clinic until everyone has the healthcare they need. Unfortunately, the realities of the changing circumstances and healthcare landscape prevent us from continuing.”

As a community-driven project—one that operationally and financially relies on the cooperation, goodwill, and resources of dozens of partners and thousands of volunteers—the Clinic, at its core, reflects the systems around it. Many factors have combined to affect its sustainability beyond 2027, including difficulty procuring in-kind resources and services, lack of equipment availability, staffing changes, rising costs within a more restricted funding climate, and Seattle Center operational impacts. Essential equipment and services for the Clinic’s operations will no longer be available, with no viable alternatives. These pressure points, which go beyond financial resources, continue to compound and intensify.

Colson adds, “When we started the Seattle/King County Clinic, we made a foundational commitment to our patients, volunteers, and partners that we would never compromise on the quality of services provided or the standards required to deliver them responsibly. As the complexities and resources necessary to produce a project of this scale continue to change, we recognize that we won’t be able to honor that commitment beyond the 2027 Clinic.”

As Seattle/King County Clinic comes to a close, Seattle Center remains dedicated to making a continued impact on the region. Engstrom says, “In tandem with the 2027 Clinic, we will lead an in-depth community engagement process with community partners, local organizations, and leaders to explore how we can harness the project’s knowledge, care, and energy to find new and sustainable ways to meet needs. Seattle Center’s ongoing commitment to social impact positions us to collaborate on these opportunities in ways that best capitalize on our campus, experience, and expertise.”

This community of compassionate care has made a lasting impact on our region. The Clinic is a testament to what’s possible when people come together to care for their neighbors, demonstrating the power of collective action to meet community needs.

Engstrom states, “As we look toward the next chapter, we hope the Clinic’s legacy will reach far beyond the work that emerges from our own planning, inspiring new initiatives, shaping more responsive systems, and creating new opportunities for people to connect, collaborate, and care for one another.”

Washington Healthcare Access Alliance has a list of resources for people looking for healthcare services at https://www.wahealthcareaccessalliance.org/search-for-clinics.

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About Seattle/King County Clinic

Seattle/King County Clinic is a project led by Seattle Center and Seattle Center Foundation. Uniting healthcare organizations, civic agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and thousands of volunteers, the Clinic transforms Seattle Center’s facilities into a comprehensive healthcare operation. It provides free dental, vision, medical, and social services to individuals who face barriers to accessing and affording essential care. The Clinic reflects what Seattle Center is at its core: a civic entity that brings people together to support one another and meet real community needs.