SEATTLE/KING COUNTY CLINIC

SEATTLE/KING COUNTY CLINIC TO SUNSET AFTER 2027 EVENT

As we look ahead with both gratitude and care for our community, we want to share that 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 our community, Seattle/King County Clinic has had a profound effect on patients, volunteers, partners, and supporters and provided free healthcare for roughly 3,000 patients each year.

We understand this news is hard for many in our community, particularly at a time when there are increasing challenges to healthcare access. This was a difficult decision to make. 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, we will enhance our 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, our goal will be to redirect the Clinic's assets and relationships to permanent healthcare entities that can serve these patients.

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.

When we started the 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 difference in the region. 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.

We are incredibly proud of the lasting impact this community of compassionate care has had 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. 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.