



Improving Healthcare Access

North Carolina Association of Free Clinics



Volunteers at the Compassionate Care Free Clinic in Reidsville, NC.



Compassionate Care Free Clinic of Rockingham County in Reidsville, NC.



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation (BCBSNC) continues to build on a relationship formed in 2004 with the first in a series of grants to the **North Carolina Association of Free Clinics** and its member clinics.

That initial grant provided support to existing free clinics in the state, expanded access to healthcare for the uninsured and aided communities in creating and establishing free clinics in regions of North Carolina where no free clinic existed.

A second investment phase, begun in 2009, focused on moving beyond the initial success of clinic expansion and shifted the distribution of money from base grants to outcomes-based funding. This move to outcomes-based funding was predicated on the notion that quality is tantamount to quantity of care delivered.

The number of member clinics increased from 56 in 2004 to 82 in 2012, achieving

the initial goal of clinic expansion. In the most recent outcomes report, 69 percent of the responding clinics achieved or exceeded the most recent state HRSA benchmark with 65 percent of patients achieving blood pressure control better than 140/90 and 38 percent met or exceeded the mark in diabetes control with an average of 40 percent of free clinic patients achieving HgbA1c <7.

The outcomes initiative is receiving national acclaim. The Department of Health and Human Services highlighted BCBSNC Foundation in a 2012 report to Congress as the only known example of a broad-scale quality outcomes evaluation in free clinics.



BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina

Foundation