



# PROVIDING MIGRANT WORKER HEALTH CARE & DENTAL SERVICES

## Noble Community Clinics is building a new Stevens Point facility to better service area needs

By Joe Kertzman, managing editor, *Badger Common'Tater*

Not only does Noble Community Clinics (formerly Family Health La Clinica) provide health care, dental, and behavioral health services for migrant workers at several locations throughout Wisconsin, but the clinics are also open to anyone who seeks care, regardless of whether someone has commercial, private, Medicare,

Medicaid or no insurance coverage at all.

“We provide supporting services to all, including but not limited to insurance enrollment, referral management, and transportation,” says Ivan Coziahr, chief operating officer for Noble Community Clinics.

“Cost for discounted services is based on income and household size via a sliding fee scale. A person may qualify even if they have commercial insurance, but perhaps are on a high deductible plan.”

Noble Community Clinics also operates a mobile unit that travels to farms, migrant labor camps and businesses, making it seamless for employers to provide health care, dental and other services to employees at reduced rates or virtually no cost (depending on income) through federal grant funding.

With “50 years of caring” under its belt, Noble Community Clinics provides medical, dental, behavioral health, and mobile health services,



**Above & Left:** Exterior and interior renderings show the new Noble Community Clinics facility to be completed in July 2025 and opened in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, across from P.J. Jacobs Junior High School.



as well as substance use recovery, in-house retail pharmacy, and in-school preventive dental services. It will also add chiropractic and optical services in its new Stevens Point location.

Seven locations serve patients throughout Wisconsin with access to everyone, regardless of insurance income, language, or age, filling a gap in medical services and offering high-

quality, affordable care.

The clinic began with a small group of activists and medical volunteers in the 1960s and was formally organized in Wautoma, in 1973, specifically to address the needs of migrant and seasonal agricultural workers in the state of Wisconsin, the most underserved people in the area.

**Above:** Noble Community Clinics (formerly Family Health La Clinica) operates a mobile unit that travels to farms, migrant labor camps, and businesses, making it convenient for employers to provide health care, dental, and other services to employees. Depending on household size and income, services may be provided at reduced rates or no cost through federal grant funding.

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## **Providing Migrant Worker Health Care & Dental Services . . .**

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### **NON-PROFIT STATUS**

La Clinica, as it was known, started as a seasonal health center run by volunteers for thousands of migrant agricultural workers traveling to the heart of Wisconsin each year to work in the fields. La Clinica became formally recognized as a non-profit organization in 1973.

In 1977, a permanent facility was opened in Wild Rose to better serve migrant and seasonal workers through a dedicated staff. As La Clinica grew its resources and infrastructure, organizational leaders looked for ways to share their services with all residents of Central Wisconsin.

In the 1980s, La Clinica received federal funding through the Health Resources & Services Administration to become a community health center, a legal designation that allows it to offer wide-reaching health services in the area. Now, the general population can benefit

from the services provided.

The clinic went from serving migrant seasonal ag workers to servicing anyone, filling gaps and addressing unmet healthcare access needs, particularly for people who are underinsured or uninsured.

Noble Community Clinics accepts all patients of all insurance coverages, ranging from Medicare and Medicaid to many commercial insurances. Twenty percent of Noble Community Clinics patients have no insurance.

In addition to Wautoma, clinic locations include Beaver Dam, Friendship, Mauston, and Stevens Point. Noble is also in the middle of constructing a new 38,000-square-foot facility being built across from P.J. Jacobs Junior High School, in Stevens Point, with a planned grand opening in July 2025.

### **CLINIC EXPANSION**

“We’re doubling the size of the dental clinic, going from four



**Ivan Coziahr, chief operating officer of Noble Community Clinics, says costs for underinsured or uninsured services are based on income and household size via a sliding fee scale.**

dentists to nine and from two behavioral health professionals to 10,” Coziahr says. “On the primary medical care side, we’ll grow from one full-time and one part-time provider to three.”

“The new clinic includes chiropractic and optical services, as well as an in-house retail pharmacy,” he adds.

“This year alone, we will spend nearly \$750,000 on migrant workers,” Coziahr says. “It’s critical that individuals understand we are a full-service organization. This includes, but is not limited to, calling patients to confirm appointments, even with outside appointments, and following up with them to check that they made it to those appointments. In some cases, we even provide transportation.”

“We’re helping the underserved population navigate health care, but we also provide those same services to the general population and don’t treat anyone differently,” he adds.

Using a holistic approach, Noble Community Clinics and its mobile unit can provide most point-of-care testing, allowing health care



**La Clinica, as Noble Community Clinics was known, started as a seasonal health center run by volunteers for thousands of migrant agricultural workers traveling to the heart of Wisconsin each year to work in the fields. Here, farmworkers’ children sit on a pickup truck used by their parents.**

professionals to identify those “silent killers” such as high blood pressure (hypertension) or cholesterol (hyperlipidemia).

A registered nutritional dietician travels with the mobile unit and can provide information for people with chronic health problems or diseases.

“I’d love to explore setting up exam rooms at canneries or farms,” Coziahr concludes. “The more touch points we have with patients allows us to serve employees and their families effectively.”

For more information or to find out how to set up appointments for your employees and seasonal workers, contact Noble Community Clinics, attention Ivan Coziahr, [ivan.coziahr@nobleclinics.org](mailto:ivan.coziahr@nobleclinics.org), 920-787-9442, <https://nobleclinics.org>. **BCT**

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**– Ivan Coziahr,**  
*chief operating officer  
for Noble Community Clinics*

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