

Idaho



Desert Sage Health Center

Mountain Home, ID (2023)

Desert Sage Health Centers ("DSHC"), is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive primary health care to individuals and families who live in the south-central Idaho communities of Glenns Ferry, Mountain Home and Grand View. From 2017 until 2021, the number of patients served and visits grew steadily across DSHC's three clinics. The center served approximately 3% of the Elmore County population by 2021.

To meet the growing needs in its service area, DSHC is developed a new facility in Mountain Home, consolidating the three facilities into one location. The project improves patient health outcomes and attracts additional providers to a medically underserved community. The project's total cost was \$21.96 million, including NMTC financing from CNMC's and Montana Community Development Corporation, which closed the project's financing gap in order to expand and improve healthcare services in this rural area. Without NMTC financing, the project would not have been completed.

New healthcare center improving medical and dental care for a medically underserved, rural community through an expanded hub with a pharmacy and drive-through clinic.

FINANCING

NMTC Financing: Chase New Markets Corporation (CNMC), Montana Community Development Corporation: \$22 million

Equity Investor: Chase Community Equity, LLC

Total Project Cost: \$22 million

IMPACT

- 76 permanent FTE jobs (10 created, 66 retained)
- 11,703 unique patients across 40,540 visits served per year
- Federally qualified health center (FQHC)

COMMUNITY

- Median Income: 87.4% of the AMI
- Poverty Rate: 23.3%
- Unemployment Rate: 13.6%
- Medically Underserved Community

"As a primary care health clinic we are able to provide preventive care, reducing the number of community members who end up in the Emergency Department, receiving care where it's mostly costly. NMTC allows us to build a facility that can deliver care at a much lower cost and keep people health and productive."

- Mary Ferguson, Desert Sage Health Centers

As a FQHC, DSHC must provide diverse and high-quality primary care services to the low-income and uninsured residents of its service area without considering their ability to pay. The center must conserve as much as possible to meet significant ongoing cost associated with providing services.

The new 31,675 sq. ft. clinic includes space for family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, dietitian services, dental care, psychology and mental health counseling. It includes 18 exam rooms; 2 procedure rooms; 3 drive through exam stalls; 8 behavioral specialty offices; 8 dental operatories; and a pharmacy.

With these added resources, DSHC was able to hire four more providers and increase patient capacity to 40,540 visits and 11,703 patients a year (from 8,000 patients previously). In addition to the four providers, six new full time jobs are available that require minimal training. All ten of the positions receive a competitive, above-market compensation package including health insurance, retirement savings opportunities and subsidies for continuing education and training.