

Organization of the Year:

Family HealthCare

Family HealthCare is a family-oriented primary care clinic that provides a wide variety of medical services for patients in the Fargo-Moorhead area. The clinic does not refuse care for any patient, regardless of ability to pay, and they offer sliding fee scale which allows patients to pay for services based on their income and family size. Family HealthCare has become creative and resourceful in breaking down barriers to colorectal cancer screening for their patients. With support from the North Dakota Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative, the clinic has been able to reduce financial, transportation, and language barriers so that more patients can access screening. Since the beginning of the initiative in 2015, Family HealthCare has achieved an impressive 28% improvement in colorectal cancer screening rates among their patients, and their staff continue to promote the lifesaving screening.

Champion of the Year:

Representative Jon Nelson, North Dakota Legislative Branch

Representative Nelson of Rugby, ND, has been a champion for cancer prevention and screening throughout his career in the state legislature. In 2007, he championed a pilot project to support colorectal cancer screening among the uninsured and underinsured. In the decades since that program began, his work has made access to colorectal cancer screening possible for hundreds of North Dakotans when they otherwise couldn't afford it.

Innovators Award:

Valley Community Health Center

Valley Community Health Centers (VCHC) provides integrated medical, dental and behavioral health services that focuses on coordinating care to help achieve health and wellness. They aspire to make healthcare attainable through discount programs for qualifying individuals and families. Over the past year, VCHC has worked to reduce barriers to screening among their patients. This has included an innovative partnership with Altru Health System, where the two organizations collaborate to streamline care and improve patient access to screening. Valley Community Health Centers has also made colorectal cancer screening patient education materials available in Somali and Nepali languages, so that all members of their community have access to health information. The clinic continues to promote screening campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of colorectal cancer screening.

Innovators Award:

Standing Rock Indian Health Service

Standing Rock Indian Health Service has successfully increased the number of patients screened for colorectal cancer by using a team-based, collaborative approach. The service unit has collaborated with Custer Public Health, the UND Center for Family Medicine, tribal Community Health Representatives, and others to increase coordination and prioritize colorectal cancer screening. Staff at these facilities are committed to improving screening rates and ensuring that all people with positive results are able to access appropriate follow-up services. By working together in this team-based approach, more patients are learning about the importance of screening and are completing their colorectal cancer screening tests.