

## **News Release:**

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### **Hamilton Center Receives FQHC Look-alike Designation**

#### ***Establishes one-stop-shop for all health care needs***

Hamilton Center, Inc. has been designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike through the Health Center Program of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The FQHC Look-Alike status allows organizations opportunities to develop and implement services required to meet the full qualifications for designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center. Together FQHCs and FQHC Look-alikes work to ensure health care for the Nation's underserved communities and vulnerable populations through service provision to all, regardless of ability to pay.

"It is critical that we work to maximize access to care for medically underserved populations," said Melvin L Burks, CEO of Hamilton Center, Inc. "This designation will provide us access to tools to do that with less barriers."

Seeking this designation is a part of Hamilton Center's strategic plan to address barriers to health care and to provide primary and behavioral health care integration. In an effort to provide primary care services the organization opened Grace Clinic Health Professional in 2019 in two locations in west central Indiana. One serves Vigo County at 622 Eighth Avenue in Terre Haute, IN, and the other serves Putnam County at 239 Hillsdale Ave, Suite A in Greencastle, IN. The program is now serving adults, children, and families with primary health and behavioral healthcare in a single location.

Health Center's across the country – totaling 12,000 unique service locations - deliver care to the Nation's most vulnerable populations. According to HRSA, 1 in 12 individuals nation-wide - more than 28 million people - rely on HRSA-funded health centers for affordable, accessible primary health care. That's one in nine children, one in five rural residents, and more than 385,000 veterans from across the country.

"Hamilton Center's mission always included serving populations of our community that lack access to health care of any kind, whether that be due to financial barriers, transportation barriers, or social barriers," said Dr. DJ Rhodes, Hamilton Center's Chief of Health Clinic Services. "This designation is a turning point in our ability to provide safety net services." FQHC Look-alikes are eligible for Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), discounted drugs through the 340B Federal Drug Pricing Program, receive automatic Health Professional Shortage Area designation, and may access National Health Service Corps providers.

Hamilton Center, Inc. is a regional behavioral health system in Central and West Central Indiana with corporate offices located in Terre Haute, IN. Services are provided to children, youth and adults, with specialized programs for expectant mothers, infants, and people who may be struggling with stress, life changes, or relationship issues as well as more serious problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, and serious mental illnesses.

For questions or inquiries about services call (812)-231-8323 or visit [www.hamiltoncenter.org](http://www.hamiltoncenter.org).