**For Immediate Release**

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**Minnesota Community Care Receives Emergency Grant from Direct Relief to Bolster the Healthcare Safety Net in St. Paul / Ramsey County**

ST. PAUL, Minn. – Minnesota Community Care today announced an infusion of $500,000 in emergency grant funding from the medical aid organization Direct Relief, in partnership with the National Association of Community Health Centers.

Minnesota Community Care was among 518 federally qualified health centers to receive funding through Direct Relief’s $25 million Covid-19 Fund for Community Health, which recognizes the profound effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the finances, services, staff, and patients of community health centers. Minnesota Community Care was one of only six FQHCs nationally to receive a larger grant of up to $500,000.

Minnesota Community Care will use the funds to implement protections for staff and patients, increase the delivery of outreach services, support the expansion and refinement of telehealth services, and sustain the delivery of uncompensated care.

“Access to primary care is what keeps people healthy and out of the hospital, and the frontline work of [your organization name] and other nonprofit community health centers across the U.S. is more critical than ever with the onset of Covid-19,” said Direct Relief President and CEO Thomas Tighe. “Direct Relief is doing everything possible to bolster the work and support the staffs at the safety-net health facilities on which so many patients and their families rely for excellent care and trust for advice in this public health emergency.”

Nearly 30 million (1 in 12) of the country’s most vulnerable residents -- including 1 in 3 individuals living in poverty, 1 in 5 Medicaid beneficiaries, and 1 in 9 children -- rely on federally qualified health centers like Minnesota Community Care for their health care. That number is expected to rise as more people lose employer-sponsored insurance.

“We are grateful for this critical and immediate support as Community Health Centers work hard to keep communities safe during an unprecedented pandemic,” said Tom Van Coverden, President & CEO of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). “We are also deeply appreciative of our longstanding partnership with Direct Relief in these uncertain times and their efforts to ensure that health centers confronting multiple challenges in underserved communities have the resources when and where they need them. We know that many donors and contributors have helped to make this fund possible, and we further extend our appreciation to all of them.”

**About Minnesota Community Care**

*Minnesota Community Care was founded in 1969 with a simple purpose – to meet the health needs of the underserved. As the largest federally qualified health center in the state, Minnesota Community Care provides affordable, high-quality, accessible clinical care and public health services to patients regardless of income, insurance, or immigration status. Minnesota Community Care provides primary care services to over 38,000 patients each year across 17 clinical locations, and reaches an additional 30,000 beneficiaries annually with public health and outreach services.*

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