



Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CLINICAS DE SALUD DEL PUEBLO RECEIVES CTN AWARD

Brawley, CA (May 13, 2016) – Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo, Inc. is pleased to announce it is a 2016 Excellence in Telehealth award winner and has received the 2016 Sustainability Award for Excellence in Telehealth from the California Telehealth Network (CTN), the State's partnership for telehealth and telemedicine.

Clinicas received the Sustainability Award for increasing retinal screening rates for patients with diabetes. Annual retinal screening can determine if a patient is at risk for diabetic retinopathy or blindness associated with diabetes. "Early detection and treatment can limit significant vision loss from diabetic retinopathy," said Dr. Baig, Chief Medical Officer at Clinicas.

Retinal screening is part of Clinicas' Telehealth Program. A Clinicas doctor refers patients for screening, which is often done during the same visit. The digital retinography system allows certified Clinicas technicians to administer the retinal screening and send the images to specialists at the University of California, Berkeley. Clinicas receive results within 24 hours and refers patients with abnormal results to a specialist.

"We congratulate CEO Yvonne Bell, Dr. Baig and the Clinicas team for their innovative use of telehealth to bring services like retinal screening to the Imperial and Riverside County communities they serve. Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo continues to show leadership in demonstrating how sustainable telehealth programs work," said Eric Brown, California Telehealth Network President and CEO.

An estimated eight to ten percent of the population in Imperial and Riverside Counties has been diagnosed with diabetes, which makes these retinal screenings so important. Since September 2015, Clinicas has referred 130 patients with abnormal results to specialists.

Retinal exams are available by appointment at the Brawley, Calexico, El Centro, Mecca, Blythe and Winterhaven clinics. "We currently have two machines, one located in Brawley and the other rotating between our other clinics so we can better serve patients in need," said Albert Quihuis, Telehealth Manager at Clinicas.

Clinicas accepts most insurances, including Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Anthem, Aetna, Cigna and Tricare. For patients without medical insurance, a sliding fee scale schedule and Medi-cal/Medicare programs are available.

CTN Award – Add One

Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo, Inc. is a 501c3 Federally Qualified Health Center whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve through providing access to excellent care, available to all.

Established in Brawley, CA in 1970, Clinicas currently operates 13 Medical Clinics, 3 Dental Clinics and 3 WIC sites in Imperial and Riverside Counties. For decades, Clinicas has worked to improve the access to affordable, high-quality health care services and programs for our communities.

To view California Telehealth Network 2016 Excellence in Telehealth Award winners, please visit: www.caltelehealth.org/pod/2016-excellence-telehealth-award-winners.

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