

Primary Health Care is a community health center, serving the communities of Des Moines, Ames, and Marshalltown. We provide primary medical care at seven clinic sites. Embedded with our primary health care team are behavioral health consultants, psychiatric nurse practitioners and medication assisted treatment (MAT) clinicians. By providing this care within primary care, we eliminate stigma associated with substance use disorders and behavioral health issues. It's also much easier to access, allowing people with barriers the opportunity to receive this care.

With this grant funding, PHC will be able to hire an additional MAT clinician as well as increase outreach to sober living resources, jail re-entry programs and other community partners. PHC works directly with clients who are using substances, by providing direct care, counseling and wrap-around services. The behavioral health and MAT staff work together to build rapport with patients as they serve them and meet them wherever they may be in their lives, without judgement or stigma.

This program will be a benefit to the community as MAT care reduces opioid related overdose deaths, increases social functioning and retention in treatment, decreases illicit opioid use and decreases the transmission of HCV and HIV. A healthier community overall will be the result.