

Project Access San Diego: Expansion of Specialty Physician Recruitment

Provide a referral pathway and support services for uninsured patients in the San Diego area to high-demand specialty physicians who provide pro-bono care and procedures

Why it Matters

Eligible patients served by PASD are uninsured individuals aged 26-49, with income at or beyond 250% of the federal poverty level and not eligible for Medi-Cal or Medicare. PASD primarily serves a demographic that is 91% Hispanic/Latino patients, with over 71% being Latina women and more than 90% being monolingual Spanish speakers.

Clients often have multiple medical as well as social services needs and their connection to PASD opens doors for access to needed services and care.



Solution

PASD program arranges elective, medically necessary outpatient procedures by leveraging donated care provided by 500+ volunteer specialty physicians and ancillary partners, including 8 hospitals and 14 outpatient surgery centers. PASD works with the physician's office staff to remove barriers such as language, understanding the nuances of the healthcare system, transportation, and funds for medicine or diagnostic tests, for both the patient and their family as well as the referring clinics, specialists, and their office staff.




Program reach will be expanded by recruiting physicians in the specialty areas with the greatest identified need as measured via referrals and clients on the waiting list. Efforts will initially focus on gastroenterology and gynecology.

Impact

PASD shifts care before people need the emergency room, which reduces overall medical costs, improves health outcomes, and improves the quality of life.



Our care managers work closely with people referred to PASD by primary care providers from 35 free clinics and FQHCs. Since 2008 PASD staff has:

-  Facilitated care for **9,600+** uninsured patients
-  Provided **29,759** free consultations and **2,085** free surgeries - totaling **\$26 million** in pro-bono specialty care services
-  For every \$1 spent on program expenses, \$10 in contributed healthcare services is provided - a **return on investment of 1,000%**

In addition to these metrics, PASD will track outreach activities and efforts to increase volunteer physicians in the areas of gynecology, gastroenterology, endocrinology, and interventional radiology, and other specialties as the need arises.

