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**Post Register**

Idaho Falls, Idaho

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**by Kevin Trevellyan**

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## Community clinic may open in October

Construction is well underway on the Community Family Clinic's new building in Idaho Falls.

The clinic, operated by Caldwell-based nonprofit Community Council of Idaho, serves low-income residents regardless of insurance status.

The current five-exam room clinic at 2088 E. 25th St. is open 60 hours per week but it can't meet local demand, council spokeswoman Sonnay Alvarez said.

The new building, with 16 exam rooms, is tentatively scheduled to open by the end of October.

"We still don't meet the needs of the community. We either need more time or more space, so that's why we decided to build a new building," Alvarez said. "We estimate there's about 33,000 low-income people in that area unserved, so we want to reach out to them."

Construction of the new building began last year. It's located near the current clinic.

Alvarez said income-qualifying patients will receive affordable primary health care, including annual exams, preventative health services, chronic disease management, immunizations, lab services, access to discounted medication and birth control, among other things.

The SHC Telehealth Care Network also will be available. The program allows patients to video conference with physicians in Salt Lake City in order to avoid travel time and expenses.

The Community Council of Idaho has received a handful of grants for construction of the new clinic, including a \$300,000 donation from the Washington state-based Murdock Charitable Trust.

Half of the donation is contingent upon the collection of matching funds, so council officials created a GoFundMe page to raise an additional \$150,000 in private donations. But that effort has failed to gain steam, garnering just \$628 in three months, according to the website.

There won't be a delay in the clinic's opening if the fundraising goal isn't met, Alvarez said. Instead, the nonprofit would have to match with council funds that otherwise would be used for other initiatives.

"So, we hope we can raise the money," Alvarez said. "We're really excited to open this clinic and help as many people as we can."

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