

New Clinic for UCR Street Medicine Program

The west end of the Coachella Valley will soon have a new walk-in health clinic with dedicated staff to serve the homeless population and underserved in the north-end of Palm Springs. The free walk-in clinic, which will be established within the First Baptist Church, 588 W. Rosa Parks Rd., Palm Springs, will be open to anyone regardless of ability to pay.

The new clinic will provide high quality primary and follow-up care to the vulnerable populations of the local community. The ultimate goal is to improve health outcomes in these groups throughout the Coachella Valley. The District-funded clinic is an expansion of the UCR Street Medicine Program which has provided free, biweekly medical services to the homeless and underserved populations in Palm Springs, also supported by the Healthcare District.

All medical care will be provided by volunteer healthcare providers, including UC Riverside School of Medicine faculty and residents, community physicians, nurses, and medical assistants. Serving as medical director will be Dr. Tae Kim, the medical director of the UCR Health Medical Group and clinical professor of family medicine in the UCR School of Medicine.

As a partner in the program, The Well in the Desert will offer transportation to and from a local park, providing patients without a home a means to reach the clinic. The Desert Highland Gateway community is an underserved neighborhood that will also greatly benefit from services provided by the free clinic.

Initially, the clinic will be open twice a month, with the hours of operation coinciding with the free meals and transportation provided by The Well in the Desert. As demand for services increase, hours of operation will be expanded to include evenings and weekends.

Current Grant Project

In September 2016, Desert Healthcare District approved a one-year grant to the UCR Care Street Medicine Clinic, awarding \$70,899 for the initial set up costs, including equipment, for the free clinic located within district boundaries that will serve as the medical home of the UCR Street Medicine Program.



The Street Medicine program's first pediatric patient!



Dr. Sterling Williams provides care to a patient with her pup at a Street Medicine event.