



# Where *Care* Meets *Community*

The YMCA of Dane County & Access Community Health Centers



**Access**

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS<sup>SM</sup>

Improving health. Improving lives.

## Where Care Meets Community

The YMCA of Dane County and Access Community Health Centers are partnering to create an integrated health and wellness facility on Madison's west side. The new West YMCA will bring together the Y's community wellness, fitness, and education programs with Access's comprehensive primary care, behavioral health, and preventive services under one roof, serving children, families, and older adults across Dane County.

The facility, which replaces the current west side YMCA, is situated on a bus route, adjacent to a bike path, and easily reached by car, ensuring it is within reach for the communities both organizations serve. Approximately 10,000 square feet of the new building will be dedicated to an Access clinic, serving an estimated 5,000 patients annually alongside the Y's full range of programs.

## Why This Partnership Is Different

Integrated YMCA and health system partnerships have been implemented successfully elsewhere in Wisconsin, but those models have typically paired the Y with traditional, insurance-driven health systems. This partnership takes that concept further by pairing the Y with a Federally Qualified Health Center.

As an FQHC, Access provides comprehensive primary care to everyone regardless of their ability to pay, reaching patients who face financial barriers, language barriers, transportation challenges, and chronic conditions closely linked to poverty and systemic inequity. The YMCA, through its financial assistance programs, serves many of the same communities. Co-locating these services creates something new: a facility where the populations with the greatest health disparities can engage with both clinical care and wellness programming in a single, welcoming environment.

## A Continuum of Care Under One Roof

Imagine a parent who brings their child to the Y's Early Childhood Education Center each morning, and on the same visit sees their primary care provider at the Access clinic for management of a chronic condition. Their provider recommends a fitness program and a nutrition class, both available steps away within the same building. Their child receives a wellness check at the clinic during a routine visit. An older adult attending a FOREVERWELL® fitness class develops a health concern and is connected to an Access provider that same day. A teenager participating in Y sports programs receives a referral for behavioral health support through Access without having to navigate a complicated system.

This is what an integrated continuum of care looks like: clinical services and community wellness programs working side by side, reinforcing each other, and eliminating the barriers that too often prevent people from getting the care they need.

## How the Partnership Works

### SHARED SPACE, SHARED MISSION.

Access will operate a full-service clinic within the facility, providing comprehensive primary care, behavioral health services, physical therapy, and preventive care to patients regardless of their ability to pay. Access will also offer dental services for children periodically through its mobile dental clinic. The clinic space connects directly with Y wellness areas, so that community members can move between clinical care and fitness, nutrition, and prevention programming without barriers.

### COORDINATED REFERRAL PATHWAYS.

Access providers will be able to refer patients directly into YMCA wellness and prevention programs, and Y staff will be able to connect members to clinical services at Access. A patient managing a chronic condition can be guided into appropriate fitness programming, nutrition education, or disease prevention classes, while a Y member who identifies a health concern can be connected to affordable primary care on-site.

### COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMING.

Together, the YMCA and Access intend to develop jointly designed programs that bridge clinical care and community wellness. While specific programs are still being shaped, the partnership envisions collaborative offerings in areas such as chronic disease prevention and management, nutrition and healthy cooking education, behavioral and mental health support, pediatric health and youth development, and older adult health and fall prevention.

### REDUCING BARRIERS TO ENGAGEMENT.

The partnership will explore pathways that allow patients at the Access clinic to take advantage of Y programming and amenities as part of their care plans. Both organizations will work together to develop approaches that reduce financial barriers and build lasting connections between patients and community wellness resources, ensuring that a clinical referral translates into meaningful participation rather than an unreachable recommendation.

## What We Will Achieve Together

By bringing the YMCA's wellness and community programs together with Access's clinical services, this partnership will:

- Reduce barriers between fitness, prevention programs, and primary care by placing them in a shared, welcoming facility
- Serve low-income and uninsured residents with sliding-scale health services and financial assistance for wellness programs
- Coordinate care through two-way referrals between wellness programs and medical providers
- Address social determinants of health by connecting patients and members to wellness, nutrition, fitness, and family support services on-site
- Create a model for community health that serves the entire lifespan, from infant care to senior wellness, in a way that is both innovative and replicable

## Our Combined Impact

The YMCA and Access Community Health Centers each serve thousands of individuals on Madison’s west side today. Together in a shared facility, their combined reach will create a powerful platform for improving community health outcomes.



*The new West YMCA is more than a building—it is a commitment to the health, belonging, and future of every person in Dane County. Through the partnership with Access Community Health Centers and expanded programs across every stage of life, this facility will be a place where our whole community can move, learn, heal, and grow together.*

—Mark Westover  
President & CEO, YMCA of Dane County

*This partnership represents exactly what community health should look like. By bringing Access’s primary care services into the Y, we can meet people where they already are and connect clinical care to the wellness programs that help our patients thrive. It is an opportunity to close the gap between treatment and well-being for the communities that need it most.*

—Dr. Ken Loving  
CEO, Access Community Health Centers

## Connections to Care Across the Lifespan

The diagram below illustrates how the YMCA’s programs and Access’s clinical services together create a continuum of care that spans every stage of life. From early childhood through older adulthood, community members will be able to engage with wellness programming and clinical services side by side, each reinforcing the other.

	YMCA of Dane County					Access Community Health Centers			
	<i>Community &amp; Belonging</i>	<i>Water Safety &amp; Wellness</i>	<i>Learning &amp; Development</i>	<i>Active Play &amp; Teamwork</i>	<i>Strength &amp; Healthy Living</i>	<i>Affordable Medical Care</i>	<i>Mental Health Support</i>	<i>Movement &amp; Mobility</i>	<i>Children's Dental Care</i>
Infants & Toddlers	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Preschool	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
School Age	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Teens	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adults	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Older Adults	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

**ACCESS SERVICES** include Primary Care, Behavioral Health, Physical Therapy, and MobileDental offered periodically.

**YMCA PROGRAMS** include Early Childhood Education, Aquatics with a 6-lane lap pool and warm-water community pool, 2 full-court gymnasiums, indoor track, fitness center, teaching kitchen, community lounge, chronic disease programs such as LIVESTRONG® at the YMCA, and FOREVERWELL® senior programs.

Together, these programs and services form an integrated continuum that supports the health of individuals and families at every stage of life.