



## Walker Methodist Dental Clinic Minneapolis, Minnesota

### Program Overview

Walker Methodist Dental Clinic provides high-quality dental care to older adults in the Minneapolis, Minnesota community. The clinic addresses barriers to care for older adults, such as complex chronic diseases, disabilities, and limited financial resources. Its mission is to increase community access to high-quality comprehensive oral health care for older adults. It also aims to expand community-based interprofessional education in geriatric care for dental professionals to better prepare them to serve a rapidly aging population. The dental clinic is part of the larger Walker Methodist Health Center network that specializes in providing lifestyle, housing, and health care services to older adults.

### Program History and Development



Photo courtesy of Walker  
Methodist Dental Clinic

Walker Methodist Health Center opened in 1965 as a care facility for older adults. It has since grown to become one of the largest health care facilities in Minnesota. The program has expanded to include 10 different senior living communities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area of Minnesota, each offering different levels of care and services. Currently, services include assisted living, memory care, physical therapy and rehabilitation, and adult day care. The dental clinic is an expansion of the original health center, and has continued to grow since its opening in 2006. In 2015, a major grant-funded expansion doubled the clinic's capacity for clinical care and education. The dental clinic is open four days a week for eight hours per day.

### Program Sustainability

- Walker Methodist Dental Clinic partners with and is financially supported by Walker Methodist Health Center and the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. It has received additional grant support from the Minnesota Department of Health, Delta Dental Foundation of Minnesota, the Otto Bremer Foundation, and the Stevens Square Foundation.
- The majority of the program's funding comes from clinical income and is split between Medicaid reimbursement (55%), fee-for-service payments (30%), and private insurance (15%). All major dental insurance companies and Minnesota Medicaid plans are accepted.
- The current annual budget of Walker Methodist Dental Clinic is about \$200,000. This is projected to increase to about \$400,000 by 2017 due to the expansion that began in 2015.
- This program is staffed by University of Minnesota School of Dentistry faculty and students under faculty supervision, along with Walker Methodist support staff.

### Program Impact

- In 2015, Walker Methodist Dental Clinic provided 1,776 dental visits to 605 individuals, 94% of whom were age 60 or older. In total, the dental care provided in 2015 was worth \$336,000, with \$123,000 non-reimbursed.
- To date, Walker Methodist Dental Clinic has provided 14,587 dental visits to 2,246 individuals since its opening in 2006. The monetary value of the services provided was \$2,441,818, with \$825,000 non-reimbursed.
- This program was awarded the 2007 Innovation of the Year Award from the Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance (now the Leading Age of Minnesota), was designated as a Critical Access Dental Program provider by the Minnesota Department of Human Services for Medicaid enrollees, and was recognized by the Minnesota Department of Health in 2010 for its contributions to the educational DVD, "Growing Old with a Smile: Oral Care for Older Adults in Long-term Care."
- The program teaches continuing education courses to disseminate its system and model of care delivery and has taught over 200 dental professionals from across the United States and Canada.

### Program Contact Information

Program Website: <https://www.walkermethodist.org/living-options-programs/dental-care>



## Walker Methodist Dental Clinic Minneapolis, Minnesota

### Program Features

Note: A checked box below indicates an existing program feature.

#### Age

- 0-17 (Children and Youth)
- 18-60 (Adult)
- 60+ (Older Adult)

#### Specific Populations

- Homeless individuals
- Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities
- Individuals with physical disabilities
- Individuals with specific or complex medical conditions
- Individuals with low income
- Individuals with no dental insurance
- Individuals with Medicaid
- Veterans
- Refugees/immigrants

#### Geography

- Rural
- Urban

#### Service Delivery Setting

- Hospital
- Dental school
- Community/safety net clinic
- Private dental office
- Long-term care facility
- Senior center/community center
- Private residence
- Fairgrounds/stadium/parking lot
- Church
- School
- Homeless shelter
- Public housing

#### Service Delivery Model

- Dental clinic model (e.g. permanent setting)
- Mobile-portable model
- Eligibility and enrollment model (e.g. referrals, care coordination)
- Virtual model (e.g. telehealth)
- Event-based model
- Outreach and education model

#### Staffing

- Dentist
- Dental hygienist
- Dental therapist
- Dental assistant
- Dental/dental hygiene students
- Nursing staff
- Community health workers
- Non-dental clinical staff
- Non-clinical staff

#### Payment for Care

- Medicaid
- No charge to client
- Sliding fee scale
- Out of pocket
- Commercial dental insurance

#### Program Funding

- Foundation/organization grant
- Public funding (e.g. local, state, federal)
- Private donations (e.g. individuals, businesses)

#### Dental and Oral Health Services

- Emergency services
- Basic services
  - Screenings
  - Cleanings
  - Fluoride varnish
  - Sealants
  - X-rays
- Comprehensive services
  - Fillings
  - Scaling/root planing
  - Extractions
  - Oral surgery
  - Root canals
  - Dentures, partials, relines, repairs
  - Crowns
  - Bridges
  - Orthodontics

#### Other Program Services

- Referrals to dental and oral health services
- Care coordination/care management
- Patient education
- Caregiver education
- Provider education
- Advocacy/coalition

#### Integration with Services

- Medical services
- Behavioral health services
- Vision services
- Pharmacy services
- Transportation services
- Translation services
- Nutrition services

This profile was prepared using publicly available information. Date of last update: March 2016