

Legacy Community Health Celebrates National Health Center Week with Focus on Equity, Access, and Community Innovation

HOUSTON (August 1, 2025) — From school campuses and underserved neighborhoods to virtual visits and front porches, community health centers are meeting people where they are—and changing the future of care. As part of National Health Center Week (August 3–9, 2025), Legacy Community Health is spotlighting how this work comes to life across Houston and Southeast Texas.

In the last year alone, Legacy served nearly 200,000 patients, including more than 77,000 pediatric patients and nearly 33,000 OB/GYN patients—while breaking ground on new clinics in Pasadena, Acres Homes, and a school-based site at YES Prep Hobby Secondary. With over 60 clinics—including 37 inside public schools—Legacy is celebrating this week by showcasing the programs, partnerships, and people that are helping build a more connected, equitable system of care for all.

Programs and Services Spotlighted This Week

Growth and Expansion

Legacy Community Health is expanding access with three major projects: a full-service clinic in Pasadena, a second full-service facility in Acres Homes, and a school-based clinic at YES Prep Hobby Secondary and YES Prep Hobby Elementary. The YES Prep Hobby clinic extends Legacy's school-based care model by offering primary and preventive services, as well as behavioral health therapy virtually or directly on campus. Together, these projects reinforce Legacy's long-term commitment to health equity and community-based care across Greater Houston and Galena Park communities.

Health Navigators & Eligibility Specialists

Legacy's bilingual Navigators and Eligibility Specialists help patients access affordable care, whether insured or not. They assist with enrollment in Medicaid, CHIP, ACA plans, and Legacy's Sliding Fee Scale, along with benefit renewals, lab results, referrals, and MyChart setup. Eligibility Specialists, available at all clinics, work one-on-one with uninsured patients to find the best mix of grants and financial support. Together, this team breaks down language, paperwork, and access barriers, ensuring every patient stays connected to care.

HIV/STI Testing & Prevention

Legacy offers accessible, judgment-free sexual health services—including free or low-cost HIV testing, full STI panels, and access to PrEP for HIV prevention. Education and resources empower patients to take control of their health. Services are available in clinics and through mobile outreach events in partnership with community organizations. Spanish-speaking staff

and Eligibility Specialists help reduce barriers by offering culturally competent care and financial assistance, making it easier for everyone to get tested, get answers, and stay healthy.

Little Readers

Legacy's Little Readers program promotes early literacy by giving children ages 6 months to 12 a free book and a "prescription to read" at every well-child visit. Since 2015, nearly 300,000 books have been distributed across clinics in Houston and beyond. Clinicians are trained through the Reach Out and Read program to offer families reading tips and child development guidance. With cozy book-filled corners in many waiting rooms, Little Readers makes reading a joyful and integral part of pediatric care—supporting health and educational equity.

Maternal and Postpartum Programs

Legacy supports patients through pregnancy and early parenting with free walk-in pregnancy testing, prenatal navigation, birth planning, and lactation support. Certified consultants and bilingual baby showers help families access Medicaid, parenting resources, and car seat safety education. Behavioral health referrals, postpartum screenings, and trauma-informed care ensure every family feels supported emotionally and medically. With pediatric, dental, and pharmacy services also available, Legacy provides a full circle of care for growing families.

This year, National Health Center Week coincides with **World Breastfeeding Week (August 1–7)**, highlighting the importance of breastfeeding as part of maternal and child health. Legacy's lactation services provide hands-on support and education to help families achieve their feeding goals and promote healthy outcomes for mothers and babies.

Nutrition Support

Legacy's Food Rx program helps patients managing chronic conditions or facing food insecurity access fresh produce through a partnership with the Houston Food Bank. Patients receive "prescriptions" for fruits and vegetables, redeemable twice monthly at Food for Change markets. The program includes on-site nutrition education and coaching to support healthy eating and better disease management. By addressing both medical and social needs, Food Rx reduces food-related stress and promotes lasting, whole-person health.

Pharmacy

Legacy's full-service pharmacies offer free prescription delivery, medication syncing, immunizations, and one-on-one counseling to support treatment adherence and wellness goals. Patients with chronic conditions benefit from medication therapy management, health coaching, and smoking cessation support.

With in-house compounding and a focus on personalized care, Legacy's pharmacy services help patients manage complex needs—especially those facing transportation or financial barriers. Filling prescriptions at Legacy also helps fund essential programs like HIV prevention, maternal care, and expanded clinic hours, advancing health equity across our communities.

School-Based Health Care

Legacy operates 37 clinics on public school campuses across Greater Houston, providing students with convenient access to medical and behavioral health services—right where they learn. Services include well-child checkups, vaccines, sports physicals, vision screenings, and counseling, all offered regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

In the past year, Legacy served 13,854 students through its school-based program, completing 72,911 appointments. This model helps reduce missed class time and health disparities while supporting student success. By working closely with school staff, Legacy ensures that care is coordinated, accessible, and focused on keeping students healthy and in the classroom.

As Legacy celebrates National Health Center Week, the organization reaffirms its commitment to meeting people where they are, with care that is high-quality, accessible, and rooted in community. Whether it's through a school clinic, mobile outreach, or a food prescription, Legacy continues to break down barriers and drive healthy change for all.

About Legacy Community Health

Legacy Community Health is a full-service, nonprofit healthcare system with more than 60 locations in the Texas Gulf Coast region. Legacy provides comprehensive care to over 200,000 patients annually, regardless of ability to pay. Services include OB/GYN, pediatric and adult medicine, behavioral health, pharmacy, vision, dental, and school-based care.

To learn more about our services or how we're celebrating National Health Center Week, visit www.legacycommunityhealth.org.