

**Heidi Hedberg**  
*Commissioner*

health.alaska.gov



**Department of Health**

Anchorage, Alaska

**STATE OF ALASKA**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Shirley Sakaye, DOH, 907-269-4996, [Shirley.Sakaye@alaska.gov](mailto:Shirley.Sakaye@alaska.gov)

**Sunshine Community Health Center Recognized as Alaska's  
"Community Star" on National Rural Health Day**

November 19, 2024 / ANCHORAGE – The Department of Health (DOH) is proud to join the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) in honoring the Sunshine Community Health Center (SCHC) in Talkeetna as Alaska's "Community Star".

SCHC is leading the transformation of community support by developing innovative pilot programs that aim to reduce burdens for patients who have challenges accessing the services their clinic provides. SCHC provides whole person care by building partnerships and developing collaborations with local resources, including Sunshine Station Child Care Center, the Upper Susitna Food Pantry, and Sunshine Transit. These partnerships build opportunities that deliver quality services to community members, without them having to travel long distances.

"Community health is about much more than just providing access to medical, dental, or behavioral health care. It's about providing people access to nutritious food, access to safe homes and transportation, and child care. Sunshine Community Health Center has done such a great job of making sure that Talkeetna has become a community of health," said Dr. Bob Lawrence, Chief Medical Officer, "These are Alaskans helping Alaskans."

This award recognizes SCHC's commitment to accessible, proactive, quality healthcare and promoting community wellness through outreach and education. SCHC will be featured prominently on the official NRHD website, [PowerOfRural.org](https://www.powerofrural.org), on November 21, 2024, alongside other Community Stars from across the nation. DOH will also be sharing SCHC's story on our social media channels.

# # #