



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Tuscaloosa Veterans Affairs Medical Center
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

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TUSCALOOSA VA TO OPEN OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN SELMA, ALA.

TUSCALOOSA – In alignment with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs goal to improve access and quality of care for veterans in rural areas, the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center announced today plans to open an outpatient clinic for veterans in Selma, Ala., in mid August of this year.

Veterans are encouraged to attend an enrollment fair inside the main entrance to the Selma Mall on July 28, from 2 to 7 p.m., to enroll with the VA clinic.

The new outpatient clinic, which will be located at 206 Vaughn Memorial Drive, will significantly improve access to Primary Care and basic Mental Health services for veterans living in or near Selma, and surrounding counties. The clinic will operate Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The clinic will be staffed by VA employees, thereby ensuring the same continuum of care the medical center offers to veterans who use the main VA facility in Tuscaloosa.

Veterans who are eligible for VA services not offered at the clinic will be referred to the Tuscaloosa VA, another VA facility, or a community health care provider and paid for through the VA's Fee Basis program.

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Selma Clinic 2-2-2

Blood draws will be done in clinic and a contract established with a local provider for laboratory and radiology, thereby ensuring a timely return of test results.

Veterans from the Selma area who are already enrolled with Tuscaloosa VA will now have the option of using the Selma Clinic rather than traveling to the main facility. Veterans enrolled with Tuscaloosa VAMC that live closer to the Selma Clinic can still use the Tuscaloosa VA if they prefer.

“There is a large population of veterans living in the Selma area and we are excited about the opportunity to bring health care closer to where they live,” said Damon Stevenson, Public Affairs Officer for the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. “Opening this clinic will provide health care to some veterans who have not been able to get the care they needed and that they have earned through their service to our nation.”

Tuscaloosa VA was also awarded approximately \$1.1 million to establish a Home-Based Primary Care team and also approximately \$334,000 to establish a Mental Health outreach team, with both teams to operate from the Selma Clinic. These two teams will go out to the veterans’ homes in order to get healthcare to those eligible veterans who are unable to get to a VA Medical Center or clinic.

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