
Here's when Five Rivers will cut the ribbon on its \$31M health campus in Edgemont

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After sitting vacant for nearly two decades, the site of the former Whittier Elementary School in west Dayton will soon become the new main campus of Five Rivers Health Centers.



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This month, general contractor Skanska is installing the steel frame for the three-story building at 721 Miami Chapel Road in Carillon-Edgemont. Upon completion, the 85,000-square-foot structure will have more than 80 exam rooms, making it the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) facility in Ohio.

Gina McFarlane-El, CEO of Five Rivers Health Centers, said construction should be complete by mid-January 2022.

For Five Rivers, the progress is a testament to years of planning. After purchasing the property in early 2019, the Dayton-based nonprofit spent nearly two years working with CityWide Development Corp. to secure the financing it needed for the \$31 million project.

The bulk of that effort wrapped up in early 2021, though McFarlane-El said Five Rivers is in the midst of a final push to fundraise about \$1 million.

"There are some additional grant dollars we're anticipating that may help us along the way, and we are going to continue to fundraise for naming opportunities within the building," McFarlane-El told me. "But at this point, we're almost there."

The decision to invest in Carillon-Edgemont was twofold, she said. For starters, Five Rivers wanted to be in close proximity to its existing locations, four of which will be consolidated into the new building.

And to facilitate growth, Five Rivers wanted to plant its roots in a neighborhood that has a vision for the future. After Five Rivers' board reviewed the Carillon-Edgemont Neighborhood Plan — the dual-district's strategic guide for community and economic development — they knew they had found the right spot.

"We felt that Carillon-Edgemont would be a perfect fit for us," McFarlane-El said.

Designed by Elevar Design Group, the new health center will provide medical offices for women's and family health, dental services and administrative space. A 10,000-square-foot portion of the second floor will be shelled for future expansion.

It will also accommodate about 250 jobs — including 150 Five Rivers employees and 100 residents — and is expected to serve approximately 40,000 people annually.

As a nonprofit FQHC, Five Rivers accepts all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Since 2012, the organization has grown by more than 80% in clients and visits, reporting more than 93,000 patient visits in 2019 alone.

"We are beyond excited by the growth that we've seen," McFarlane-El said. "This particular building will allow us to grow even more."

With eight locations in Montgomery and Greene counties, Five Rivers Health Centers provides access to care for patients throughout the Miami Valley community. The organization employs

about 245 local workers and is one of Ohio's largest FQHCs by patient volume.

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