

**Commitment to Patient Care Access: Making Colon Cancer Screening Accessible  
to All in Iowa  
Transcript**

**Holly Ziegenmeyer:** This has a little tube for you to collect your stool sample with.

**SUPER:** Eastern Iowa Health Center provides colorectal screening services to diverse populations in the region

**Holly Ziegenmeyer. Operations Manager, Eastern Iowa Health Center:** As a patient navigator within Eastern Iowa Health Center, I work to help bring awareness about colorectal cancer, and the importance of screening throughout our community. We're asking patients to bring something into the office that just kind of seems "I don't know if I really want to do that" or take the time off of work. Sometimes our patients can't actually get to the bus stop due to mobility reasons. They don't always understand the routes due to literacy reasons. Sometimes the cost is something that not every patient can always afford.

**Sofia DeMartino, MBA. Community Relations and Grants Director, Horizons, A Family Service Alliance:** So NTS stands for Neighborhood Transportation Service. NTS began as a program that was designed to help people access transportation. That program has expanded from what was in one small community with one van to a fleet of vehicles servicing the entire metro area, here in Cedar Rapids.

**SUPER:** The Eastern Iowa Health Center partners with Neighborhood Transportation Services at Horizons to reduce transportation barriers to accessing health care

**Jennifer Borcharding. Director of Development, Eastern Iowa Health Center:** Horizons and NTS has provided Eastern Iowa Health Center with free transportation services to our current immigrant and refugee populations. We're making every effort to provide assistance to remove barriers assistance to remove barriers, if that's a cultural barrier, a sensitivity barrier that we may not be familiar with.

**Sofia DeMartino, MBA:** So in terms of the Afghani refugees, we've been working to accommodate the need for a chaperon for women who are riding, or the need for female drivers.

**Holly Ziegenmeyer:** One of the areas that we're still hoping to get improved services for is our unhoused population. Currently, that population doesn't always have that great family support to follow up with the procedures. So we have been trying to discuss and come up with various different ways to help overcome that barrier. Our partnership with the CDC has been phenomenal.

**Jennifer Borcharding:** The CDC has been really helpful in providing pre-cancer screenings for colorectal cancer. The way that is working is really kind of amazing. The CDC has provided money to Iowa Department of Public Health, and from there, it's come to Eastern Iowa Health Center. Removing barriers to improve health equity is incredibly important because it's important for a community.

**SUPER:** Helping people live their healthiest lives  
[cdc.gov/chronicdisease/healthequity](https://cdc.gov/chronicdisease/healthequity)