



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oregon health care clinics awarded grants from American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

Portland, Ore., April 1, 2009 — The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced the release of a one-time grant of nearly \$6 million to expand services at 25 of Oregon's community health centers. The money was made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, the federal economic stimulus package) and comes as more Oregonians join the ranks of the uninsured.

"These grants will help our health centers continue to serve our most vulnerable residents," said Craig Hostetler, executive director of the Oregon Primary Care Association. "But they should not be viewed as a solution to our centers' ongoing financial challenges. The rate at which people throughout the state are losing their jobs and health insurance will make the strain on our community health centers greater than ever."

The grants -- titled Increased Demand for Services grants -- will be used over the next two years to hire additional health care professionals, increase hours of operation or expand health center services. HHS reports that the funds will allow centers to create or retain an estimated 120 jobs throughout Oregon and to serve an estimated additional 32,500 patients.

More one-time federal grants are expected from ARRA to help health centers fund capital projects, including facility construction and remodeling and the purchase of electronic medical records.

"We applaud these investments in health centers by the federal government," Hostetler noted. "Now it's Oregon's turn. Our state has an opportunity to build on this federal commitment by providing ongoing funding for health center operations." Oregon is one of only 15 states that provide no direct state funding for community health centers.

Health centers serve one in every 15 Oregonians - more than 264,000 in 2007, about 48 percent of whom had no health insurance. Centers provide physical, oral and mental health care, plus such support services as case management, translation and transportation.

Health centers deliver primary care to patients regardless of their ability to pay; charges for services are set according to income. Centers also help the state cut overall health care costs, because their patients are less likely to require expensive hospitalizations and emergency room care.

Community health centers are powerful economic engines in their communities, providing jobs and buying goods from local businesses. A recent study found that in 2007, Oregon's health centers stimulated a total of \$431 million in direct, indirect and induced economic activity throughout the state.

About OPCA:

The Oregon Primary Care Association is a nonprofit membership organization of 28 Federally Qualified Health Centers across the state. OPCA provides advocacy on public policy and technical assistance and training to members to enhance health equities and increase access to comprehensive health care for low-income and vulnerable Oregonians. For more information, see <http://www.orpca.org>.

Background Information – from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

**Recovery Act (ARRA): Increased Demand for Services Community Health Center Grants
in Oregon – March 2009**

Organization Name	City	State	Award Amount
COASTAL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER	ASTORIA	OR	\$138,926
COLUMBIA RIVER COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES	BOARDMAN	OR	\$130,146
VIRGINIA GARCIA MEMORIAL HEALTH CENTER	CORNELIUS	OR	\$484,719
BENTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER	CORVALLIS	OR	\$225,588
LANE COUNTY	EUGENE	OR	\$293,588
WHITE BIRD CLINIC	EUGENE	OR	\$148,601
ASHER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER	FOSSIL	OR	\$114,780
SISKIYOU COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC.	GRANTS PASS	OR	\$280,380
LA CLINICA DEL CARINO	HOOD RIVER	OR	\$258,861
KLAMATH HEALTH PARTNERSHIP, INC.	KLAMATH FALLS	OR	\$226,406
LAPINE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER	LAPINE	OR	\$100,000
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC.	MEDFORD	OR	\$262,363
LA CLINICA DEL VALLE FAMILY HEALTH	MEDFORD	OR	\$278,509
LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	NEWPORT	OR	\$168,982
WATERFALL CLINIC, INC	NORTH BEND	OR	\$156,337
CLACKAMAS COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION	OREGON CITY	OR	\$286,199

CENTRAL CITY CONCERN	PORTLAND	OR	\$186,917
MULTNOMAH COUNTY	PORTLAND	OR	\$854,098
NATIVE AMERICAN REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHWEST	PORTLAND	OR	\$166,658
OUTSIDE IN	PORTLAND	OR	\$253,198
MOSAIC MEDICAL	PRINEVILLE	OR	\$204,422
UMPQUA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER	ROSEBURG	OR	\$208,996
NORTHWEST HUMAN SERVICES, INC	SALEM	OR	\$246,229
TILLAMOOK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	TILLAMOOK	OR	\$177,524
RINEHART CLINIC	WHEELER	OR	\$125,544
TOTAL			\$5,977,971