



**NEWS STATEMENT**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 28, 2009

Statement attributable to:  
Ross Brooks, Chief Operating Officer  
Colorado Community Health Network

## **CCHN Response to Secretary Sebelius' Announcement of \$81.7 Million to Expand Services at Health Centers**

Today's announcement about new funding for Health Centers is welcome news to Community Health Centers in Colorado. The funding announcement was made by Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius.

Colorado's 15 Health Centers are expected to receive \$1.2 million of the \$56.1 million allocated nationally for increases to Health Center base federal funding.

This increase in funding is badly needed, said Ross Brooks, Chief Operating Officer at the Colorado Community Health Network. Demand for Health Center services is growing at the same time that Health Centers are losing an estimated \$6.35 million in state funding.

Colorado Health Centers are facing financial challenges as demand for services is increasing as low and middle income Coloradans lose their jobs and health insurance. In 2008, CHCs cared for nearly 18,000 more patients than in 2007.

One of Colorado's Health Centers – the Metro Community Provider Network – will also receive a \$350,000 grant from the federal government to expand medical capacity.

The increase in base federal funding will help Colorado's Health Centers meet the challenges of increased demand.

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*The HRSA press release is on the next page. For a complete list of the "expanded medical capacity awards" by state, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/05/20090528a.html#statebystate>.*

*To interview Mr. Brooks, please contact Polly Anderson at 303.861.5165 x259, cell 303.913.9032 or [polly@cchn.org](mailto:polly@cchn.org). To speak with someone at the Metro Community Provider network, please contact Dave Myers, CEO, at 303.360.6276 x1100.*

*The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the collective voice for Colorado's 15 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to more than 500,000 of their community members - one in 10 people in Colorado - from 54 of the state's 64 counties. Without CHCs, hundreds of thousands of Colorado's low-income families and individuals would have no regular source of health care. CCHN's mission is to increase access to high quality health care for people in need in Colorado. For more information about CCHN, please visit [www.cchn.org](http://www.cchn.org).*

**News Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, May 28, 2009**

Contact: HHS Press Office(202) 690-6343

**Secretary Sebelius Marks 100 Day Anniversary of Recovery Act, Highlights Community Health Centers' Work to Aid Rising Number of Uninsured Americans**  
*Secretary Releases \$81.7 Million to Expand Health Center Services*

U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today marked the first 100 Days of the Recovery Act and discussed the Act's critical support for community health centers. Secretary Sebelius was joined by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Administrator Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N. and leaders from community health centers across the country.

Secretary Sebelius also announced the release of \$81.7 million to expand services offered at the nation's health centers. The grants are funded through the Health Center Program, which helped more than 17 million individuals last year by providing access to high quality, family-oriented, comprehensive primary and preventive health care. HRSA, an agency within HHS, oversees the Health Center Program, a major component of America's health care safety net. In a typical year, about 40 percent of health center patients have no insurance coverage.

"The economic downturn is hurting all of us and when workers lose their jobs, they often lose their health insurance, too," said Secretary Sebelius. "Community health centers provide essential care for families across the country that do not have insurance or cannot afford the high cost of care. The Recovery Act grants and the funding we have released are key investments that will help deliver care to millions of Americans."

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides \$2 billion for grants to health centers over a 2-year period. \$500 million will be used to support new health center sites and service areas, increase services at existing sites, and address spikes in uninsured populations. The additional \$1.5 billion will be used to support construction, renovation and equipment, including health information technology systems, in health centers and health center controlled networks.

HHS has already awarded approximately \$155 million in Recovery Act grant funds to support 126 community health center sites across the country. The 126 New Access Point (NAP) grants were awarded to applicants that were approved but unfunded in 2008. These grants will provide access to health center care for 750,000 people in 39 states and two territories.

HHS has also awarded \$338 Million in Increased Demand for Services grants for health centers. Health centers will use these funds provide care to more than 2 million additional patients over the next two years, including approximately 1 million uninsured people. In addition, over the next two years, health centers will use the funds to create and retain approximately 6,500 health center jobs.

The non-Recovery Act grants awarded today include \$25.6 million to expand medical capacity at 54 existing health centers, helping an additional 230,000 individuals in 25 states receive primary health care services. The remaining \$56.1 million will supplement all health centers' base grant awards to offset rising costs associated with maintaining current service levels.

*The Health Resources and Services Administration is part of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. HRSA is the primary federal agency responsible for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable. For more information about HRSA and its programs, visit [www.hrsa.gov](http://www.hrsa.gov)*