

2007 Healthy Communities/Healthy America recipients



Community HealthCare Center Inc.

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Savannah, Ga.

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Established in 2000, the Community HealthCare Center [link to: <http://www.chmsavannah.org/index.html>] serves adult uninsured patients, 18-64 years of age who work or live in the Savannah area, and who do not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid. One hundred percent of their patients are under 200% the federal poverty level and 100% are uninsured. All services are provided for free.

The clinic is currently staffed by 11 paid individuals, one non-paid retired physician who serves as Medical Director, one retired physician who serves as Chairman of their Medical Advisory Board, and 70 volunteers. They have 6,993 uninsured patients registered in their system. During 2006, Community HealthCare Center provided 9,311 free patient visits.

They were awarded a \$25,000 grant for their “No body is left behind, Reaching across the Community” program. This program is unique to Savannah because it will coordinate the activities of several organizations that are already providing services to the uninsured. They will first identify adult uninsured patients who have undetected high blood pressure, diabetes, or cancer, and refer them for long-term treatment at one of the participating centers. These patients will then be offered comprehensive primary health care services, and if appropriate, encouraged to participate in wellness programs such as smoking cessation counseling, self-management diabetes or a women’s health program.



The Free Clinic of Doylestown

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Doylestown, Pa.

Grant Amount: \$15,000

Founded in 1994, the Free Clinic of Doylestown [link to: <http://www.freeclinicdoylestown.org/>] serves persons under 200% of the federal poverty level who are uninsured and who live within central and eastern upper Bucks County. In the past year, they treated over 900 patients.

Currently, the Doylestown clinic is closest geographically to the upper Bucks County community. They receive calls daily from residents there who are unable to access health care, but unfortunately have had to turn away many of these callers due to limited time and resources.

The clinic received \$15,000 to expand services in upper Bucks County, with the goal of developing a clinic in that area by next summer. They will provide technical support to their peers, helping them develop an advisory committee of physicians, an appropriate clinic model and a fundraising plan. New services will include childhood immunizations, regular blood draws, and prevention education programs to address obesity, poor nutrition and communicable diseases such as HIV.



Greenville Free Medical Clinic

Greenville Free Medical Clinic

Greenville, S.C.

Grant Amount: \$15,000

Founded in 1987, the Greenville Free Medical Clinic [link to: http://www.scha.org/scfmca_location.asp?document_name=greenville] is the primary organization in Greenville County to provide basic health care without charge to low-income uninsured patients. They receive no direct payment for any patient visits, nor are they federally funded. In 2006, there were over 11,000 patient visits.

The clinic operates on a minimal budget due to the approximately 200 volunteer physicians, 75 dentists, 40 nurses, 20 pharmacists, and other health care professionals who donate their time. For every dollar it takes to operate their four locations, the Greenville Free Medical Clinic is able to multiply each donated dollar into nearly \$10 in care. Additionally, because of the tremendous volume of donated professional services and pharmaceutical supplies, the clinic is able to provide a year's worth of comprehensive care for approximately \$250 per patient per year.

The clinic was awarded a \$15,000 grant to expand their prevention-oriented health education activities, particularly around smoking cessation and weight reduction. Activities will include nutritional eating and cooking education, healthy weight loss, regular exercise workouts, and 'stop smoking' education, counseling, support, and treatment options. Funds will be used to support additional nurse hours to oversee the programming, pedometers, groceries for cooking classes and demonstrations, and patient education videos, booklets, and treatment models.



Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic

Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic

Lafayette, La.

Grant Amount: \$25,000

The Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic [link to: <http://www.lafcommunityclinic.org/>] was founded in 1992 in response to a growing population of working families with no health insurance. Census data indicate that one out of nearly five Louisianans is uninsured, ranking Louisiana in the bottom five states when it comes to health care coverage. Data also show that more than 80 percent have at least a high school diploma, and most work. However, only 40.2 percent of Louisiana's small businesses offer health insurance to their employees.

To qualify for health care at the clinic, patients must live in Lafayette Parish, have a job, have no health insurance, and have a family income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. To date, the clinic has provided health care services valued at over \$8 million to more than 8,000 unique individuals.

The clinic received a \$25,000 grant to continue the medical component of their uninsured workers program. Funds will be used for staff nursing positions that will provide follow-up patient care and coordination of specialized treatment and diagnostic testing, and medical supplies.

In 2006, 96 percent of surveyed patients indicated that receiving care at the clinic helped them keep their job and 67 percent said they had more energy to apply to their job.



Parker Family Health Center

Parker Family Health Center
Red Bank, N.J.
Grant Amount: \$25,000

Established in 2000, the Parker Family Health Center [link to: <http://www.parkerfamilyhealthcenter.org/>] is a nonprofit free clinic that provides health care to low-income, uninsured residents of Monmouth County. Ninety-seven percent of their patients fall into the lowest income category as defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. They are the only clinic in the county focused exclusively on the uninsured and are open on a regular daily schedule; they treat about 9,000 patients annually.

The clinic was awarded a \$25,000 grant to strengthen their current diabetes program. Funds will support the stipend for a nurse practitioner who works intensively with patients to achieve tight control of blood glucose through appropriate medication, combined with changes in diet and lifestyle.

Presently, the Parker Center cares for approximately 150 diabetic patients who are predominantly Latino and African-American. Seventy percent of their patients are Latino and African-American, populations that are twice as likely to suffer from diabetes than Caucasians.



Partners for Healing

Partners for Healing
Tullahoma, Tenn.
Grant Amount: \$25,000

Founded in 2001, Partners for Healing [link to: <http://www.partnersforhealing.org/>] provides health care to the working uninsured of Coffee and Moore Counties. Free services are available to those whose family income is below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. Clinic staff includes physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses and licensed practical nurses assisted by a small administrative staff and over 200 volunteers.

They received a \$25,000 grant to expand their clinic hours. Funds will be used to hire an additional nurse practitioner and registered nurse for five to six hours a week, enabling the clinic to see approximately 18-23 more patients per week. Current wait time for a patient who schedules an appointment is about two weeks. By expanding clinic hours, many of these patients who cannot or should not wait two weeks will no longer have to experience such delays.

Partners for Healing receives the majority of its operating funds from individuals, churches, civic clubs, businesses, and grants. Their program is unique for rural areas and small towns, and is being copied by three other counties in Middle Tennessee.



Traverse Health Clinic and Coalition

Traverse Health Clinic and Coalition

Traverse City, Mich.

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Founded in 1975, the clinic [link to: <http://www.traversehcc.com/>] primarily serves the five-county Grand Traverse region of northwest lower Michigan. Their patients are all below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. Ninety percent of these patients have chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and depression - thereby requiring regularly scheduled visits and usually several medications.

The clinic received \$25,000 to hire a registered nurse who will conduct follow-up care. Currently, three of their nurse practitioners are responsible for all patient follow-up care which takes away time that they could be seeing patients. By hiring a full-time staff nurse, the clinic will be able to increase their patient volume, increase their productivity by at least 25 percent, and decrease wait times for appointments (two weeks for established patients and six weeks for new patients).

Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of Bartholomew County

Columbus, Ind.

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Opening in 1996, the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of Bartholomew County serves residents who have no access to employer provided insurance and do not qualify for government provided insurance. With a small paid staff of 5.6 FTE and approximately 200 volunteer physicians and health care professionals, the clinic sees over 900 patient visits per month.

The clinic's Medication Assistance Program ensures that patients who are given prescriptions have access to getting them filled. In 2006, the Medication Assistance Program leveraged \$30,000 of expenses to reap benefits of over \$2,400,000 in pharmaceutical products. In addition, lab work, x-rays, and all diagnostic procedures provided by the Columbus Regional Hospital at no charge to clinic patients equals an average of \$100,584 per month.

The clinic was awarded a \$25,000 grant to upgrade their technology infrastructure and implement clinical information systems that will establish and utilize patient registries and enhance self-management support. Funds will be used to purchase and install clinical information software, establish chronic disease registries, and train volunteer providers on chronic care models and on how to maintain the registry process.



Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of the Cascades

Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of the Cascades

Bend, Ore.

Grant Amount: \$20,000

Established in 2004, Volunteers in Medicine [link to: <http://www.vim-cascades.org/>] serves uninsured working families in Deschutes County. They will complete 7,000 patient visits in 2007.

The clinic received \$20,000 for a project that will support the expansion of patient services through the active outreach and recruitment of “physician-partners” in the community. The physician-partner program will help engage family practice and internal medicine physicians in the community who will agree to see a limited number of more complicated patients in their own offices, so that volunteer providers can see a greater number of patients at the clinic. Funding will also be used to educate volunteers on evidence-based medicine and expanding the availability of chronic disease management classes for patients.



West Virginia Health Right Inc.

West Virginia Health Right Inc.

Charleston, W.Va.

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Created in 1982, West Virginia Health Right [link to: <http://www.wvhealthright.org/>] is the largest and oldest free clinic in the state. They serve more than 17,500 uninsured in south-central West Virginia who have household incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level. Eight out of ten of their patients have a job or live in a household where someone is employed. They are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare.

In 2006, the clinic provided medical care valued at \$30 million, on an annual budget of \$1.2 million. The average annual per patient cost of providing care is \$72. Cost per visit averages \$17. For every dollar the clinic receives, it leverages \$32 of in-kind care.

The clinic was awarded a \$25,000 grant to increase its current diabetic education and management program by 200 patients. They currently have more than 5,000 diabetics among their patient population. Funds will be used for personnel, diabetic test strips, and printing and mailing for each patient enrolled.