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Contact: Adrienne Ammerman, 202-638-5872 Ext. 215

\$95 MILLION AWARDED TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS NATION-WIDE

Health Resource and Services Administration Announces Grant Winners for School-Based Health Centers Capital Program

(Washington, DC) Today the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded \$95 million in competitive federal grants to school-based health centers (SBHCs) to 278 programs across the country. These programs will improve access to basic primary health care for school-aged children, many of whom have no other sources of care. The School-Based Health Centers Capital (SBHCC) Program (HRSA-11-127) is the **first-ever source of federal funding to uniquely support school-based health centers.**

The SBHCC program awards funds made available under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (section 4101(a)) to support expanded capacity of SBHCs and increase the availability, efficiency, and quality of care for children and adolescents. The funds are available for construction, renovation, and equipment needs.

A press release from the Department of Health and Human Services stated:

“The awardees are currently serving approximately 790,000 patients. Today’s awards will enable them to increase their capacity by over 50-percent, serving an additional 440,000 patients. School-based health centers improve the overall health and wellness of all children through health screenings, health promotion and disease prevention activities and enable children with acute or chronic illnesses to attend school. A full list of grantees is available at www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/07/20110714grantee.html.”

School-based health centers are a cost-effective investment, proven to reduce inappropriate emergency room use, increase use of primary care, and reduce hospitalization rates, particularly for hard-to-reach populations. Despite this, the House voted to defund the next round of competitive grants for the SBHCC by passing H.R. 1214 on May 4. The legislation has not yet been taken up in the Senate.

“More than 350 applicants from around the nation applied for this much-needed federal funding, which will allow SBHCs to switch over to electronic medical records, purchase dental equipment to provide oral health services, help build new clinics or expand or improve existing space, and more,” stated Linda Juszczak, Executive Director of the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care (NASBHC). “These projects benefit whole communities by creating construction and renovation jobs. We hope members of Congress who question the value of the program will tour the SBHCs in their communities to see the importance of these grants for children and their families.”

278 projects across the country received funding. Some examples include:

- **HEALS in Alabama** will build two new SBHCs. The funding will also provide an Electronic Health Records system to link the network of clinics, and increase efficiency and quality of patient care. It will update medical and office equipment and bring the clinics up to current quality standards. The grant will also provide appropriate and current computer hardware and other electronics to allow efficient operation of the EHR system and the upgraded medical equipment.
- **Neighborcare Health in Washington State** will build a new SBHC, replace outdated equipment at current sites, as well as introduce new portable dental equipment for use at multiple SBHC sites.
- The **Dorchester County Health Department in Maryland** will construct a new modular building for the SBHC located at North Dorchester High School (NDHS), complete with video-conferencing equipment to obtain off-site psychiatry services for students needing medication management for mental health disorders.

More than 1,900 SBHCs across the country provide access for nearly 2 million students to a range of primary, mental, and oral health care services. These services are provided without concern for students' ability to pay and in a location that meets students where they spend a majority of their day: at school.

SBHCs are located in geographically diverse communities, with the majority (57%) in urban communities and more than one-quarter (27%) in rural areas. Students in schools with SBHCs are predominantly members of minority and ethnic populations who have historically experienced under-insurance, uninsurance, or other health care access inequities.

Further resources:

- Complete list of SBHCC grantees: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/07/20110714grantee.html>
- HHS press release: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/07/20110714a.html>
- National Census of SBHCs: www.nasbhc.org/nationaldata
- NASBHC Fact Sheets: www.nasbhc.org/factsheets

To learn more about NASBHC or to schedule an interview with Linda Juszczak, contact Adrienne Ammerman at 202-638-5872 x. 215 or email aammerman@nasbhc.org.

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The National Assembly on School-Based Health Care (NASBHC) is the national voice for school-based health centers (SBHCs). Founded in 1995 to promote and support the SBHC model, NASBHC's mission is to improve the health status of children and youth by advancing and advocating for school-based health care. Learn more at www.nasbhc.org