

**Courant.com**

## **Community Health Center In Middletown Gets \$7 Million Federal Grant**

By SHAWN R. BEALS, [sbeals@courant.com](mailto:sbeals@courant.com) 6:12 PM EDT, October 11, 2010

MIDDLETOWN —

The Community Health Center has received a \$7 million federal grant to help fund its planned \$17 million new facility, and could start construction by the end of the month.

Mark Masselli, CEO of Community Health Center Inc., said all of the center's clinical care operations will be consolidated into a three-story, 48,000-square-foot building to be built at Main and Grand streets.

"This allows us to both consolidate our services and also to grow them," Masselli said Monday. He said expanded use of technology would be a priority with the new facility.

The Community Health Center provides medical, dental, behavioral health and obstetric care to area residents. It was founded in 1972, and its statewide network provides health care for more than 100,000 people.

Masselli said the building will have a "green" roof, and "everything is designed around being environmentally friendly."

The project also received \$2.5 million from the State Bond Commission in July, and the rest of the project's cost will be funded through financing, Masselli said.

The center is expected to create 21 health care jobs and require up to 150 people for construction.

The site is currently a city-owned parking lot, and Mayor Sebastian Giuliano said that city approvals to use the site for the lot have been granted.

"It will be the second signature building in the North End in about three years," he said. The other is the Liberty Square project at Main and Liberty streets that houses the new It's Only Natural market.

"This is a significant investment in the North End. It just sends the whole neighborhood in the right direction," Giuliano said.

Masselli said that consolidating clinical space would make health care for clients more convenient. The Community Health Center of Middletown operates from about six different buildings right now, Masselli said, and the new building could replace three of them.

The federal grant comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Affordable Care Act.

"This funding, made available under the new health care reform law, will help ensure that Connecticut residents receive the quality health care and vital preventive services that their families need," said U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd in a news release.

Giuliano said the city would also benefit from the project when the center's vacated buildings are available for economic development opportunities.