

## Harbor Health Services, Inc.

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## **Press Release**

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Massachusetts Receives \$1.8 Million in Affordable Care Act Funding to Increase Cervical Cancer Screenings and Wellness at 32 Community Health Centers including <u>Harbor Health's Geiger Gibson Community Health Center</u> <u>and Neponset Health Center both located in Dorchester, and Harbor</u> <u>Community Health Center located in Hyannis.</u>

**BOSTON** — The Patrick-Murray Administration today announced that Massachusetts has received nearly \$1.8 million in funding for 32 community health centers through the Affordable Care Act to provide cervical cancer screenings for women and improve the ability of community health centers to become Patient Centered Medical Homes.

"We know that education and prevention, particularly early cancer screenings, can save lives and lower health care costs in the long run," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. JudyAnn Bigby. "This is just another way the Affordable Care Act is helping real people across Massachusetts."

The \$1.8 million that Massachusetts will receive will help community health centers increase the percentage of women screened for cervical cancer and help health centers make care delivery and practice changes needed to become patient-centered medical homes. The Affordable Care Act funding will assist 810 health centers nationwide as they work towards these goals.

Patient-centered medical homes are a care delivery model designed to improve quality of care through better coordination, treating the many needs of the patient at once, increasing access, and empowering the patient to be a partner in their own care.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 12,000 new cases of cervical cancer and more than 4,000 deaths will occur across the United States in 2012 as a result of this preventable disease. Patients who receive their health care in a patient-centered practice have been shown to receive a higher rate of preventive services, including cervical cancer screening.

## "Your Guiding Light to Health Care"