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Community Health Center to use \$412,382 grant to hire doctors

By Special to the Press

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MIDDLETOWN >> Community Health Center has been awarded a \$412,382 grant under the Affordable Care Act, as part of a larger effort to expand primary care services at health centers across the nation to meet the demands of the ACA.

Awards were announced Sept. 12 by Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell.

With the grant dollars, CHC will hire new primary care providers focused on caring for additional new patients, and expand clinical hours across the state to accommodate both new and existing patients.

CHC enrolls thousands of new patients each year, and so far in 2014 the organization has seen an increase in new patients as compared to previous years.

The number of newly enrolled patients with Medicaid doubled, while the number of newly enrolled uninsured patients has decreased by nearly half.

“We believe this is a direct consequence of the successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act and its associated outreach efforts by CHC and others,” explained Mark Masselli, president and CEO of Community Health Center.

“Connecticut has been extremely successful in outreach, application assistance, and successful enrollment both within CHC and through the efforts of the state health exchange, Access Health CT. Now is the time to ensure we are fully equipped to assist the soaring number of the newly insured.”

CHC must hire new primary care providers exclusively focused on accepting new patients, and expand clinical hours across the state to accommodate both new and existing patients. .

“Health centers are a key part of how the Affordable Care Act is working to improve access to care for millions of Americans,” Burwell said. “These funds will enable health centers to provide high-quality primary health care to more people including the newly insured, many of whom may be accessing primary care for the first time.”

Recent statistics show that health centers provided enrollment assistance to more than 6 million people over the last year. Community Health Center assisted more than 3,000 individuals over the last year.

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