

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Community Health Center, Inc. Receives \$412,382 in HHS Funding to Increase Access to Primary Care at its Clinics Across Connecticut

**MIDDLETOWN, CT, September 16, 2014:** Community Health Center, Inc. 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. These awards were announced in a press release issued on September 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. Additionally, 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."

In order to deliver on this challenge of the ACA, 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. This funding will allow CHC the ability to do so.

"Health centers are a key part of how the Affordable Care Act is working to improve access to care for millions of Americans," said Secretary Burwell. "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."

Health centers are helping to implement the Affordable Care Act, not only as providers of care but also by linking individuals to coverage through outreach and enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace. Recent statistics show that health centers provided enrollment assistance to more than 6 million people over the last year. Community Health Center, Inc. assisted more than 3,000 individuals over the last year.

### **About Community Health Center, Inc.**

Since 1972, Community Health Center, Inc. has been one of the leading healthcare providers in the state of Connecticut, building a world-class primary health care system committed to caring for uninsured and underserved populations. CHC is focused on improving health outcomes for its more than 130,000 patients as well as building healthy communities. Recognized as both a Level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance and a Primary Care Medical Home by The Joint Commission, CHC delivers service in more than 200 locations statewide, offering primary care in medical, dental and behavioral health services. For more information, visit [www.chc1.com](http://www.chc1.com).

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