



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATE BOND COMMISSION APPROVES \$3.5 MILLION FOR
EXPANSIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS IN
BRISTOL, DANBURY AND NEW LONDON
Funding will allow Community Health Center, Inc. to
expand and enhance health care services for more individuals**

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (April 29, 2011) – The State Bond Commission on Friday approved \$3.5 million in funding for Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC). The funding will go toward three projects that will allow CHC to serve more patients and expand its services: \$1 million for the construction and equipping of a larger Community Health Center of Bristol facility; \$1.5 million for the renovation and expansion of the Community Health Center of Danbury; and \$1 million for the renovation and equipping of the Community Health Center of New London.

“We appreciate Governor Malloy’s commitment to creating construction jobs and making an investment in primary health care systems for the working poor,” said Mark Masselli, president and CEO of Community Health Center, Inc.

The new Community Health Center of Bristol at 395 North Main St. will replace the current 1,000-square-foot center at 59 North Main St. The new 6,000-square-foot facility will allow CHC to expand its medical services, as well as offer behavioral health and dental care.

“Since our opening in Bristol last year, CHC has proven to be a much-needed resource for approximately 1,000 city residents in accessing quality health care in their own community,” said Yvette Highsmith-Francis, director of CHC’s Hartford County sites. “But a large number of residents still need access to primary care. With the expansion of our medical care and addition of dental and behavioral health services to our scope of practice, we will be able to significantly increase our capacity. We thank Representative Betty Boukus for her support in securing this funding.”

In Danbury, the Community Health Center at 8 Delay St. will be renovated to meet the community’s demand for primary care and allow for the addition of dental services. Since opening in 2008, the Community Health Center of Danbury has grown to serve more than 5,000 patients and outgrown the 6,000 square feet it occupies. The 7,000-square-foot expansion will double the center’s capacity.

“This expansion will allow CHC of Danbury to continue accepting new medical patients and begin offering dental care to the community,” said Adele Gordon, director of CHC’s Fairfield County sites. “The need for dental care in the Danbury area is extreme. A 2010 survey of our established medical patients revealed that 60 percent had not seen a dentist in the past year. We thank Representative Bob Godfrey for understanding the importance of offering comprehensive services to the community and for advocating for this project.”

The Community Health Center of New London at 1 Shaws Cove is the medical home for one in every five New London residents. In 2010, CHC constructed 3,000 additional square feet of clinical space to

accommodate more patients; however, the remaining 5,000 square feet requires renovation to upgrade exam rooms, improve patient flow and create patient service areas for laboratory, eligibility screening, patient registration and reception and patient education.

“We thank Senator Andrea Stillman for her support of this funding and our work,” said Alejandro Melendez-Cooper, director of CHC’s New London and Groton sites. “This renovation is essential to achieving the efficiency, comfort, patient satisfaction and comprehensiveness that are part of the patient-centered medical home model.”

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. Currently, CHC delivers service in 173 locations statewide, offering primary care in medical, dental and behavioral health services. In 2011, CHC received the highest level (Level 3) of recognition by the National Committee for Quality Assurance for Physician Practice Connections® Patient-Centered Medical Home Program™ for its coordinated, team-based care that focuses on long-term, collaborative provider-patient relationships and uses the latest technology to meet patients’ individual needs. For more information, visit chc1.com.

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