



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC. USES NEW WEBSITE TO REACH THE 413,000 CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

Website determines potential eligibility for coverage and makes applying easy

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (September 23, 2010) – According to Census Bureau data released last week, nearly 14 percent, or 413,000, of Connecticut residents under age 65 had no health insurance for the entire year in 2009. Approximately 44,000 of those residents are children under 18 who are uninsured but may qualify for a public health insurance program. To address this problem, Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) has partnered with TransEngen, a Connecticut-based health care technology firm, to develop a new public benefits screening website, Qualify4Care.com, where people can learn whether they may be eligible for public health insurance coverage.

Since its start in 1972, CHC has been providing health care to Connecticut's uninsured population. CHC has a dedicated staff of Access to Care workers who are specialized in determining if individuals qualify for the many state and federal health coverage programs. Previously, the process required several phone calls and/or appointments. To make the process more efficient, CHC worked with TransEngen to develop the new website, which features a 10-question survey that helps Connecticut residents determine whether they may qualify for HUSKY, Charter Oak or the Connecticut Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and download program applications or request application assistance.

“Many individuals without insurance are not getting primary care anywhere, including at our health centers, so we need to reach them in their homes and communities,” said Khadija Gurnah, the program manager at Community Health Center, Inc. who is coordinating the outreach and enrollment effort. “In just one visit to this website, people can learn more about the public benefits options available and get the information and assistance they need to seamlessly and quickly apply for insurance.”

The website is funded under the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA), which issued competitive grants around the country to increase enrollment and prevent disenrollment of eligible children. Under the two-year grant, CHC has committed to reaching 16,000 – approximately 30 percent – of Connecticut's uninsured children by September 2011. Some of these children are eligible but not enrolled in HUSKY, and others have lost coverage because of failure to re-certify or re-enroll. Technology is central to the approach.

As part of its outreach efforts, CHC is also providing eligibility and application counsel in collaboration with schools, at health fairs and through its migrant worker programs, mobile dental clinics and many public outreach events. CHC has already begun outreach in public schools in Bristol, Middletown, Meriden and New Britain, committing staff to work with the schools to help families apply for coverage. Similar outreach will take place soon in schools in the more than 150 cities and towns that CHC serves.

Those without Internet access may access the website at one of the 12 CHC sites across the state or inquire about public health insurance eligibility by calling (860) 852-0820.

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 underinsured populations. CHC is focused on improving health outcomes for its more than 100,000 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.

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