



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION Contact:**

Mary Zelazny, CEO

[maryz@flchealth.org](mailto:maryz@flchealth.org)

14 Maiden Lane,

Penn Yan, NY 14527

(315) 531-9102

## **FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARDED \$2.2M**

**PENN YAN, N.Y. – December 16, 2013** -- Finger Lakes Community Health (FLCH) has been awarded \$2,240,982 by the NYS Vital Access Provider program from the NYS Department of Health. This award was announced by Governor Cuomo on December 3, 2013. The funding will support the work of a network of providers that are focused on the goals of providing care coordination for patients, and to explore the integration of health services that will benefit the region. The current network partners for this program are: Finger Lakes Community Health, S2AY Rural Health Network, Regional Primary Care Network, Trillium Health, FLACRA, Tri-County Family Medicine and Oak Orchard Community Health.

“The Vital Access/Safety Net Provider Program is another key component in the work of the Medicaid Redesign Team and our ongoing efforts to transform the State’s healthcare system to better care for New Yorkers and deliver for taxpayers” said Governor Cuomo. These funds will be used primarily to improve community care and to achieve defined financial, operational, and quality improvement goals related to integration or reconfiguration of services offered by the facility. Specific examples include:

- Expand access to ambulatory services through additional needed services or added hours of operations
- open urgent care centers to help reduce use of emergency rooms
- improve quality through reduced adverse events thus also reducing overall costs
- expand services in rural areas through additional primary and specialty care service
- establish care coordination between providers and levels of health care service delivery
- provide more effective services that meet the needs of the community

Mary Zelazny, CEO, Finger Lakes Community Health, responded by saying, “the members of this network have already begun working collaboratively to address coordination of care between healthcare facilities in the region as well as transportation concerns, access to specialty providers and the sharing of resources. This funding will allow us the opportunity to build a great system of care for the patients we all serve collectively in our communities.”

### **About Finger Lakes Community Health**

Finger Lakes Community Health is an independent healthcare organization, founded in 1989 as a provider of healthcare for agricultural workers. Services are now expanded to provide comprehensive healthcare for everyone, with numerous health centers in the region, including Sodus, Port Byron, Geneva, Penn Yan, Bath, Ovid, Dundee and King Ferry.

FLCH also administers a federal migrant voucher program, one of 22 in the U.S., to provide health services to farm workers in 42 upstate NY counties. Finger Lakes Community Health is a part of the Federally Qualified Health Center system through the federal government, receiving funds to assist uninsured patients. For more information, please visit [www.localcommunityhealth.com](http://www.localcommunityhealth.com).