

The Community Health Network of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. has awarded grants in the amount of \$3,200 to the following Federally Qualified Health Centers:

December 2008

Charter Oak Health Center, Hartford

The Charter Oak Health Center will use a portion of the grant to add funds to its Families Against Cancer (FAC) program. The program was inspired by the work of a seven-year-old Simsbury boy who wanted to help those living with cancer. A portion of the grant will be used specifically to produce and distribute brochures explaining the FAC fund, its purpose and how to contribute. Those materials will be distributed to schools in the Greater Hartford area.

The remaining grant money will be used to subsidize its Health Care for the Homeless program. The program enables the Charter Oak Health Center to become acutely aware of the needs among this population for the assistance in the purchase of medication.

Fair Haven Community Health Center, New Haven

The Fair Haven Community Health Center will use a portion of its grant award to implement its Access and Redesign project. The project's goal is to improve the efficiency of each patient's visit, as the center transitions to same-day visits and open access scheduling.

To improve the patient's visit and reduce wait times, the Fair Haven Community Health Center will purchase pagers for all of its clinicians and clinical assistants. The pagers will be used to alert the staff members when the patient is ready to be seen. This purchase is expected to greatly improve communication between the front desk and staff members.

A portion of the grant will also be used to purchase a color printer.

Generations Family Health Center, Willimantic

The Generations Family Health Center will use its grant award to subsidize the cost of hiring a graphic design consultant. The consultant will help the center design new brochures and capital case statement materials. This is needed to help facilitate the center's upcoming move to a new facility.

Over the past 25 years, the center has transformed from a one-room, free clinic to a center that serves nearly 15,000 patients at six locations annually. Because of its transformation, the center's clientele has also changed. Therefore new marketing materials will have to be crafted to promote its services to its existing client base, as well as to prospective clients. In addition, it also needs to create materials specifically designed for its capital campaign.

Hill Health Corporation, New Haven

The Hill Health Corporation will use its grant award to sustain its use of the Language Line service. The Language Line service provides telephone interpretations for its patients who have limited English proficiency. The center is required to offer translation services.

Roughly 30 percent of the Hill Health Corporation's patients require the use of the Language Line services. Over the past two years, the Corporation has requested services in 16 languages. The service is used on average of 15 times each month.

The Language Line service is the most cost effective means for the Corporation to obtain reliable, confidential translations for patients and staff. Funding for the service is crucial, as its state funding was recently cut.

Southwest Community Health Center, Inc., Bridgeport

The Southwest Community Health Center, Inc. will use its grant award toward implementing a new marketing strategy for the purpose of reaching a broader audience in the Bridgeport area so the center could attract and retain patients.

The center recently opened its fifth location and continues to expand its capacity to provide services to people living in the Greater Bridgeport area. The center engages in cooperative alliances with other agencies dedicated to the total well being of the people living in the Greater Bridgeport area.

The funds will be used to further enhance the center's ability to educate the community regarding the availability of services to those underserved segments of its population, the expanded hours of operation and its participants in the state's new Charter Oak program.

Staywell Health Center, Waterbury

The Staywell Health Center will split its grant award between two programs. It will use a portion of its award to help subsidize a child development-based field trip offered to a select group of isolated families. This field trip, usually to an interactive children's museum or zoo, enables the families to experience a positive activities that would otherwise be out of reach. The Foundation has been the sole sponsor of these field trips.

The remaining portion of the grant award will be used toward its 11-week, curriculum-based prenatal group. The program's goal is to reduce preterm birth and low birth rates. The sessions include information on smoking cessation, nutrition, bonding with baby, breastfeeding, early infant care, and handling stress, labor and delivery.

Optimus Health Care Inc., Bridgeport

The Optimus Health Care Inc. will use its grant award to design and print a patient brochure for its new Open Access system, which is being implemented at its Stamford site.

The Stamford Community Health Center is participating in a one year Access and Redesign program. The goal of this program is to improve financial results; increase provider capacity; increase the demand for provider appointments and capacity of providers without increasing their workload; improve access to care and decrease the no show rate; maximize the clinical team members in supporting patient care and providers; and increase provider, staff and patient satisfaction.

The Stamford Community Health Center will be acting as a pilot site for this program.