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Virginia Health Care Foundation Commits Over \$1 Million to Improve and Expand Health Care for the Uninsured

RICHMOND, Virginia – The Virginia Health Care Foundation (*VHCF*) announces awards of over \$1 million in grants to free clinics, community health centers, and other health safety net organizations in Richmond and throughout the Commonwealth to help address the overwhelming numbers of new patients who have lost their jobs and health insurance as a result of the recession.

“More and more Virginians are turning to the state’s health safety net organizations as their benefits expire and they are still unable to find employment.” said Debbie Oswalt, Executive Director. “Many health safety net organizations simply cannot handle the overwhelming numbers of those seeking care. As a result, thousands of sick, uninsured Virginians have to wait weeks or months to receive the care they need, and many are simply turned away. While many will be eligible for health insurance under federal health reform in 2014, they can’t wait that long – the need for care is vital and immediate.”

The grant recipients are:

Richmond and Central Virginia

- ***CrossOver Health Clinic (Richmond)*** – \$45,563 to hire a dental hygienist and dental assistant to enable its dental clinic to serve more patients.
- ***Richmond City Health District (Richmond)*** – \$95,000 to support the salary and benefits of a part-time nurse practitioner and a part-time public health nurse at two new health resource centers in Mosby and Creighton Court housing developments.
- ***Southern Dominion Health System, Inc. (Victoria)*** – \$92,813 to support the salary and benefits of a dentist at its dental clinic in Lunenburg County.

Hampton Roads

- ***Project Care (Newport News)*** – \$63,000 to underwrite the salary and benefits of a full-time Executive Director to oversee this new regional initiative, which provides uninsured patients of the Peninsula area with pro-bono primary and specialty health care.
- ***Gloucester-Mathews Free Clinic (Hayes)*** – \$21,900 to substantially increase its pharmacist's hours.
- ***Lackey Free Clinic (Yorktown)*** – \$13,728 to hire a part-time pharmacy assistant, which will allow the clinic to increase the number of prescriptions filled by 4,000 in the first year. The clinic currently fills more than 50,000 prescriptions each year, the second highest volume for all free clinics in the state.

Southwestern Virginia

- ***Free Clinic of Franklin County (Roanoke)*** – \$87,425 to hire a full-time nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant to allow the clinic to increase the number of patients it treats, and to provide greater continuity of care to chronically ill patients.
- ***Tri-Area Community Health (Floyd)*** – \$75,000 to support the salary and benefits of an additional part-time physician to expand patient capacity in its Floyd County practice, which is currently experiencing tremendous demand for services after the closure of the area’s free clinic.
- ***Southwest Virginia Community Health Systems, Inc. (Saltville)*** – \$38,063 to support the salary and benefits of a part-time dentist for its new regional dental clinic.
- ***Pittsylvania County Community Action, Inc. (Chatham)*** - \$127,144 to support its efforts to increase enrollment and retention of children and pregnant women from Danville and Pittsylvania County in Virginia’s FAMIS programs.

Shenandoah Valley/Piedmont Area

- ***Shenandoah County Free Clinic (Woodstock)*** – \$81,563 to support the salary and benefits of a full-time dentist to provide dental care to area children and uninsured adults.
- ***Harrisonburg Community Health Center (Harrisonburg)*** – \$200,000 to help create a new 21,000 square foot medical facility, which will expand the

center's patient capacity and broaden its scope of services, allowing it to provide an additional 10,000 patient visits each year.

- ***Harrisonburg-Rockingham Dental Clinic (Harrisonburg)*** – \$28,125 to hire a part-time dentist to provide care to area children and uninsured adults.
- ***Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic (Orange)*** – \$140,400 to support the salary and benefits of a full-time dentist at this new clinic, which serve an estimated 1,500 adults and children from Culpeper, Orange, Greene and Madison counties.

The Virginia Health Care Foundation is a non-profit public/private partnership whose mission is to increase access to primary health care for uninsured and medically underserved Virginians. The Foundation was initiated by the General Assembly and its Joint Commission on Health Care in 1992. Since its inception, it has funded 329 community-based projects across the Commonwealth, and its programs and partnerships have touched the lives of more than 600,000 uninsured Virginians.

For more information about VHCF and its programs, visit www.vhcf.org or call (804) 828-5804.

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