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**Virginia Health Care Foundation Commits \$1.5 Million to Improve and Expand Health Care for the Uninsured**

RICHMOND, Virginia – In an effort to meet the ever-increasing need for health care within the Commonwealth, the Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF) announces awards of almost \$1.5 million in grants to free clinics, community health centers, and other health safety net organizations throughout Virginia. Due to the lack of substantial economic improvement and growth in the job market, many of those who lost their health insurance at the onset of the recession remain without coverage.

“Although the recession is officially over, you wouldn’t know it by looking at Virginia’s health care safety net organizations. The demand for their services is higher now than it’s ever been,” said Debbie Oswalt, Executive Director of the Virginia Health Care Foundation. “In the last two years, free clinics and community health centers throughout the state have absorbed an additional 31,000 patients. Most are bursting, and overwhelmed. These grants will help them serve more patients.”

The grant recipients (*listed by project focus*) are:

**Medical Care**

- **Blue Ridge Medical Center (Nelson County)** – \$164,700 to support the salary and benefits of a full-time pediatrician to oversee its Pediatric Program and expand its pediatric services.

- ***Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. (Alexandria)*** – \$119,070 to fund the salary and benefits of a full-time nurse practitioner and a medical assistant to address the influx of walk-in patients, and patients seeking women’s health services.
- ***Orange County Free Clinic (Orange)*** – \$50,000 to support the salary and benefits of a part-time nurse practitioner to handle expanded patient rolls.
- ***Love of Jesus Health Clinic (Chesterfield County)*** – \$67,467 to support the salary and benefits of its nurse practitioner, the clinic’s first paid health care provider.
- ***CrossOver Health Clinic (Richmond)*** – \$66,100 to expand its pharmacy operations through the addition of a pharmacy technician and aide, as well as technology needed to support the expansion.
- ***Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc. (Onley)*** – \$63,281 to underwrite the salary of a full-time physician at the overcrowded Onley Community Health Center.
- ***Free Clinic of the New River Valley (Blacksburg)*** – \$28,409 to expand the hours of the part-time nurse practitioner and nursing assistant at its Giles Free Clinic site in Pearisburg.
- ***Center for High Blood Pressure (Richmond)*** – \$20,000 to help expand and renovate its facility. The renovation is projected to increase the clinic’s capacity by 25%.
- ***Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic (Herndon)*** – \$13,500 to support the salary of a part-time nurse practitioner, allowing the clinic to treat more patients.

### Dental Care

- **Central Virginia Health Services (Charlotte County)** – \$70,313 to support the salary and benefits of a full-time dentist at its Charlotte Primary Care Center in Charlotte County.
- **Greater Prince William Area Community Health Center** – \$56,250 to support the salary and benefits of a full-time dentist.
- **Free Clinic of Central Virginia (Lynchburg)** – \$16,875 to help expand dental clinic services by using VCU dental students to provide endodontic services.

### Mental Health

- **Virginia Treatment Center for Children (Richmond)** – \$119,100 to support the new Children’s Mental Health Resource Center. Funding will help to underwrite the salary and benefits of a psychiatrist and other related program expenses.
- **Fan Free Clinic (Richmond)** – \$98,944 to support the salary and benefits of a part-time psychiatric nurse practitioner and a part-time Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) to increase mental health services at the clinic.
- **Lloyd F. Moss Free Clinic (Fredericksburg)** – \$56,250 to support the salary and benefits of a full-time psychiatric nurse practitioner to provide behavioral health services to uninsured, primary-care patients.
- **Virginia Commonwealth University Health System (Richmond)** – \$40,390 to help underwrite an innovative pilot program which utilizes psychology doctoral student clinicians in VCU’s Ambulatory Care Clinic, to provide basic mental health services to uninsured primary-care patients.

## Child Health Insurance Outreach & Enrollment

Over 80,000 Virginia children are currently eligible for Virginia's state-sponsored health insurance programs (*FAMIS programs*), but are not enrolled—often because their parents do not think their children are eligible. Four VHCF grants underwrite the salaries and benefits of eight outreach workers in parts of the state with some of the highest numbers of eligible uninsured children.

- ***INOVA Partnership for Healthier Kids*** – \$121,234 to support its efforts in Fairfax and Loudon counties and the City of Alexandria.
- ***Cumberland Plateau Health District (Lebanon)*** – \$97,500 to focus on an eight-county area in Southwest Virginia.
- ***Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. (Alexandria)*** – \$94,300 to focus its efforts to enroll in Alexandria and Arlington.
- ***The Southeastern Tidewater Opportunity Project, Inc. (STOP)*** – \$78,500 to focus on Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach and Chesapeake.

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 335 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](http://www.vhcf.org) or call (804) 828-5804.

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