



August 13, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

During National Health Center Week, HHS Awards Five Council of Community Clinics with Affordable Care Act Funding

La Maestra Community Health Centers (\$525,000), Operation Samahan (\$400,000), San Diego American Indian Health Center (\$541,667), San Ysidro Health Center (\$358,333) and Vista Community Clinics (\$717,977) received a total of \$2,542,977 of the additional \$169 million in Affordable Care Act funding to 266 community health centers.

Contacts:

Vince Heald (vheald@behmedia.com) – (858) 453-9600

Ivana Hawley (ivana@behmedia.com) – (858) 453-9600

San Diego, CA -- Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell announced \$169 million in Affordable Care Act funding to 266 new health center sites in 46 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico for the delivery of comprehensive primary health care services in communities that need them most. These new health center sites are projected to increase access to health care services for over 1.2 million patients. These awards build on the \$101 million awarded to 164 new health center sites in May 2015.

"On behalf of San Ysidro Health Center, Vista Community Clinics, Operation Samahan, San Diego American Indian Health Center and La Maestra Community Health Centers, the Council of Community Clinics is honored to receive this important funding," said Henry Tuttle, CEO of the Council of Community Clinics. "Health centers such those affiliated with the Council of Community Clinics form the core of the health care safety net in our region, providing an accessible, cost-effective and dependable source of culturally competent primary care for the newly insured, those who remain uninsured and those who are underinsured."

La Maestra Community Health centers will use its \$525,000 in ACA funding to open a full-time Public Housing Primary Care (PHPC) site in El Cajon. The clinic will serve the communities of El Cajon, Bostonia and Granite Hills, Lakeside and Santee. The target

population is low-income individuals living at or below 200% of poverty with a specific focus on public housing residents, underserved children and families.

Operation Samahan's award of \$400,000 will help meet the health care needs of the "working poor" of Mira Mesa in the North Central region of San Diego County. Highly populated by Asians and Pacific Islanders, the area will now be served by a new community health center that will provide culturally and linguistically competent health care services to an estimated 3,000 low-income patients.

San Diego American Indian Health Center will use its \$541,667 in funding to address a critical need for additional healthcare services for low-income and uninsured residents. The services will include general medical care and preventive services, women's health and family planning, pediatrics and geriatrics, immunizations, HIV care, and nutrition and health education. Dental services will include exams and cleanings, restorative and cosmetic dentistry, oral surgery, dentures, and education for patients of all ages. Behavioral health services will be provided, including substance abuse treatment and counseling.

With its \$358,333 in funding, San Ysidro Health Center will open a new access point site, Sweetwater Family Health Center, in National City to improve and increase access to primary care services and reduce health disparities for the underserved National City residents. Sweetwater Family Health Center is designed as a primary medical clinic with linkages to dental and behavioral health services.

Vista Community Clinics' (\$717,977) new access point services will provide primary care and behavioral health services onsite; dental care will be provided via VCC's mobile dental unit. Pharmacy, diagnostic and lab services will be provided by outside contractors.

"Across the country, health centers have provided a source of high-quality primary care for people in rural and urban communities for 50 years," said Acting Deputy Secretary Mary Wakefield. "These Affordable Care Act funds build on the strong legacy of the health center program and provide even more individuals and families with access to the care they need the most."

This investment will add to the more than 700 new health center sites that have opened as a result of the Affordable Care Act, including those awarded earlier this year. What started with one clinic in rural Mississippi and another in South Boston is today a national program that supports 1,300 community-based and patient-directed health centers with 9,000 sites serving nearly 23 million people.

"Health centers now provide primary care to one in fourteen people living in the United States," said HRSA Acting Administrator Jim Macrae. "These awards mean that more communities than ever can count on a health center to help meet the increasing demand for primary care."



From August 9th through the 15th, more than 1,000 events will be held around the country in observance of National Health Center Week, an annual celebration that highlights the many accomplishments of the Nation's health centers.

For more information on the Council of Community Clinics visit www.ccc-sd.org. Follow the Council on [Facebook](#) (at Council of Community Clinics) and on Twitter, @SDClinics. National Health Center Week is supported by the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) and the California Primary Care Association.

###

ABOUT THE COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CLINICS

Council of Community Clinics support community clinics and health centers in their efforts to provide access to quality health care with an emphasis on low income and uninsured populations. The 16-member community clinics and health centers operate more than 100 sites throughout San Diego, Imperial and Riverside Counties. For additional information, please visit the Council of Community Clinics at www.ccc-sd.org.