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**Nearly \$4 Million Awarded to 12 School-Based Health Centers in Michigan
*Health Resource and Services Administration Announces 278 Grant Awards for
SBHC Capital Program Nationwide for a Total of \$95 million in Funding***

Lansing, Michigan – Today, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced awards of nearly \$4 million in competitive federal grants to school-based health centers (SBHCs) in Michigan demonstrating the important connection between health and education. These Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grants will improve access to basic primary health care for school-aged children, many of whom have no other sources of care. The School-Based Health Centers Capital (SBHCC) Program (HRSA-11-127) is the **first-ever source of federal funding to uniquely support school-based health centers.**

The SBHCC program awards funds made available under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (section 4101(a)) to support expanded capacity of SBHCs and increase the availability, efficiency, and quality of care for children and adolescents. The funds are available for construction, renovation, and equipment needs.

“We are thrilled that HRSA awarded grants to 12 school-based and school-linked health centers. These centers are to be congratulated for their hard work and outstanding grant proposals,” said Michele Strasz, Executive Director for the School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan. “These new projects will not only improve and increase quality health care services for children and adolescents in our state, but will bring jobs and economic activity to these local communities.”

School-based health centers are a cost-effective investment, proven to reduce inappropriate emergency room use, increase use of primary care, and reduce hospitalization rates, particularly for hard-to-reach populations. Despite this, the House voted to defund the next round of competitive grants for the SBHCC by passing H.R. 1214 on May 4. The legislation has not yet been taken up in the Senate.

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“SBHCs are a critical component of our health care safety net” said Linda Juszcak, Executive Director of the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care (NASBHC). “They help prevent chronic disease in adolescents, reduce Medicare costs and emergency room visits, and improve educational outcomes. Yet they are in need of increased state and federal support, which is demonstrated by the more than 350 applicants from around the nation that applied for this much-needed federal funding.”

There were 278 projects awarded across the country receiving a total of \$95 million in grants. In Michigan, the funded projects include:

- Family Health Center Inc. in Kalamazoo for \$312,188;
- Kalkaska County Hospital Authority in Kalkaska for \$500,000;
- Baldwin Family Health Care Inc. in Baldwin for \$477,500;
- Cherry Street Services in Grand Rapids for \$374,038;
- Chippewa County Health Department in Sault Sainte Marie for \$500,000;
- Ingham County Health Department in Lansing for \$499,599;
- Detroit Community Health Connection in Detroit for \$62,000;
- Henry Ford Health System in Detroit for \$469,627;
- Mid-Michigan Health Services in Houghton Lake for \$337,224;
- Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency in Charlevoix for \$141,853;
- Oakwood Healthcare System Foundation in Dearborn for \$260,623; and,
- Young Adults Health Center Inc. in Ypsilanti for \$62,784.

“Kids in Detroit are going to benefit significantly from this investment from HRSA to improve the centers and the coordination of care,” said Kathleen Conway, SCHA-MI Board Member and grant recipient at the Henry Ford Health System. “This funding will not only allow us to update our equipment, but ultimately it will provide for improved communication between our sites and other providers treating the same children and adolescents.”

More than 1,900 SBHCs across the country provide access for nearly 2 million students for a range of primary, mental, and oral health care services. These services are provided without concern for students’ ability to pay and in a location that meets students where they spend a majority of their day: at school. This model helps supports a students learning—healthy kids are better learners!

SBHCs are located in geographically diverse communities, with the majority (57%) in urban communities and more than one-quarter (27%) in rural areas. Students in schools with SBHCs are predominantly members of minority and ethnic populations who have been historically under-insured, uninsured, or experienced other health care access inequities.

Further resources:

- Complete list of SBHCC grantees: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/07/20110714grantee.html>
- HHS press release: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/07/20110714a.html>
- Michigan Evaluation of School Based Health: http://www.scha-mi.org/pages/centers_prog/MESHprojectBrief_2010.pdf
- National Census of SBHCs: www.nasbhc.org/nationaldata

- National Assembly on School-Based Health Care (NASBHC) Fact Sheets:
www.nasbhc.org/factsheets

The School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHA-MI) supports a network of over 100 school-based and school-linked health centers and health education programs across Michigan. The centers annually provide over 300,000 health encounters/services. The centers are located in communities where the majority of children lack access to consistent, primary health care and as a result are at-risk of chronic health conditions and school failure. Visit our website, www.scha-mi.org.

For more information about Michigan's school-based and school-linked health programs, please contact Michele Strasz at 517.908.0847, ext. 229 or mstrasz@scha-mi.org or Alicia Guevara at 517.908.0847, ext. 232 or aguevara@scha-mi.org.

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