SAN DIEGO (KUSI) — Five San Diego County health centers have been awarded more than 4.6 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to improve their facilities, it was announced Tuesday.

North County Health Services, Community Health Systems Inc., Neighborhood Healthcare and the San Ysidro Health Center were all awarded $1 million, while the Vista Community clinic received $686,521, according to the San Diego-based Health Center Partners of Southern California, a group of primary care organizations.

“One in six San Diegans relies on community health centers for primary health care,” Health Center
Partners CEO Henry Tuttle said. ``These centers have provided crucial care to those most vulnerable in our community for decades, and we congratulate our members for bringing millions of additional dollars in federal funding to the region in order to reach even more people and meet the growing demand for primary care."

Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo, Inc., which serves patients in Riverside and Imperial counties also received $1 million.

The funding will allow the centers to renovate or construct facilities, which in turn is expected to help them serve more patients. The grants stem from some $260 million the Department of Health and Human Services doled out to agencies that provide health care services to underserved communities around the country, according to Health Center Partners.

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