

NEWS RELEASE

May 6, 2015

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North County Health Services awarded nearly \$1M to expand healthcare access

NCHS Receives New Access Point Grant to expand services

San Marcos, Ca. May 6, 2015 -- North County Health Services (NCHS) announces today they have been awarded the New Access Point Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Bureau of Primary Health Care. The purpose of the grant is to support new service delivery sites under the Health Center Program to provide comprehensive primary care services to underserved and vulnerable populations.

This highly-competitive award was granted to only 164 community health centers across the country with NCHS receiving the 10th largest award totaling \$983,333. With a proven track record of coordinated delivery systems and providing health services to underserved populations, NCHS plans to utilize the grant award to expand services into the Riverside County area, specifically in the City of Perris.

Perris, located in North County's neighboring Riverside County, was specifically chosen as a region to expand healthcare access primarily due to the great need for affordable, primary care services. The percentage of the Perris population that is living at 200% below the Federal Poverty Line is a staggering 56.6%¹ and the total of uninsured residents reaches 28%². Additionally, the Perris area is experiencing a provider shortage, with an overwhelming 6,840 patients to every provider, compared to the national average of 1,641 patients to every provider³. Identifying this need, NCHS was compelled to apply for the NAP Grant to further carry out their mission by working to improve the healthcare status of underserved populations, despite being outside of the North County area.

"Seeing the need in this neighboring area, our leadership team made the strategic decision to pursue this grant with the goal of expanding the impact of our quality outcomes we have in North County, into the Perris community" acclaims Irma Cota, President & CEO.

The quality outcomes are clear - NCHS is ranked the #1 community health center in North County⁴ and boasts impressive quality measures including, 81.6% of high-risk diabetes patients having good control over their condition, a 23% increase in patients receiving colorectal cancer screenings from 2013-2014, and a glowing 95% patient satisfaction rate, just to name a few. NCHS also serves nearly 60,000 North County residents every year providing

¹ 2012 American Community Survey

² 2012 American Community Survey

³ Health Profiles Shortage Area (HPSA)

⁴ 2012 UDS report on Quality of Healthcare Indicators/Health Outcomes.

over 240,000 visits. “This grant will allow us to expand our quality care and health services to a population clearly in need” remarks Cota.

Equipped with the necessary funds and a heart to expand their impact, NCHS is planning for the expansion into the Perris area by the end of 2015 – and they are eager to begin the process. “We are so excited for this opportunity to grow the footprint of our organization and serve more people in need” remarks Briana Cardoza, Senior Director of Program, Planning and Grants and author of the NAP Grant. “It’s thrilling to see the great work we’ve done in North County, and will now have the opportunity to continue that into the Riverside area” says Cardoza.

“The community has known for years they can come to us for medical, dental, women’s health, insurance enrollment and more” adds Cota “and now we are ready to tell the Riverside community, *we’re here for you.*”

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About North County Health Services

North County Health Services is a private not-for-profit organization that serves over 55,000 patients annually at 10 community health centers in Carlsbad, Encinitas, Oceanside, San Marcos and Ramona, and through two mobile clinics. NCHS has been providing affordable, quality & comprehensive care to members of our north San Diego County communities who are uninsured or underinsured for over 40 years. Services at NCHS include pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, dental care, radiology, pharmacy and transportation services as well as community health outreach, prevention and disease management programs. We accept private insurances, Medi-Cal and Medicare. If you are uninsured, you may be eligible for low or no-cost programs based on your income, qualify for a discount or use our monthly payment plan. For more information, visit www.nchs-health.org or call 760-736-6767.