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Local health clinics see \$620K in grants

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Ten local community clinics recently received more than \$620,000 in grants from Health and



Human Services.

The grants, which were a part of the Affordable Care Act, award health center quality.

“This funding rewards health centers that have a proven track record in clinical quality improvement, which translates to better patient care, and it allows them to expand and improve their systems and infrastructure to bring the highest quality primary care services to the communities they

serve,” said HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell. “With these funds, health centers in all 50 states will continue to provide access to high quality, comprehensive primary and preventive health care to the patients that need it the most.”

Health centers receiving these funds are being recognized for high levels of quality performance in one or more of the following four categories.

The following clinics in San Diego County received funding:

- San Diego Family Health Center received a \$15,000 award as one of the top 30 percent of all health centers that achieved the best overall clinical outcomes, demonstrating their ability to focus on quality in all aspects of their clinical operations.
- Council of Community Clinics’ health center members recognized as National Quality Leaders for exceeding national clinical benchmarks (Healthy People 2020 objectives and health center national averages) for chronic disease management, preventive care, and perinatal/prenatal care, demonstrating the critical role that health centers play in promoting higher quality health care nationwide, included: Borrego Health (\$43,518); Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo (\$38,756); Imperial Beach Community Clinic (\$9,389); La Maestra (\$36,565); Mountain Health (\$6,182); Neighborhood Healthcare (\$38,611); **North County Health Services (\$32,153)**; San Diego Family Care (\$15,572); and Vista Community Clinic (\$37,895).
- Council of Community Clinics’ health center members who received awards as clinical quality improvers by demonstrating at least a 10 percent improvement in clinical quality measures between 2012 and 2013, included: San Ysidro Health Center (\$62,866); Neighborhood Healthcare (\$58,611); **North County Health Services (\$52,153)**; San Diego Family Care (\$38,072); and Vista Community Clinic (\$47,895).
- Council of Community Clinics’ health center members who received awards as Electronic Health Record Reporters by reporting clinical quality measure data on all of their patients, a key transformational step in driving quality improvement for all health center patients across the nation, included **North County Health Services (\$52,153)** and Vista Community Clinic (\$52,895).

Henry Tuttle, CEO of the Council of Community Clinics, said they're honored for the support.

"We're extremely honored that the Department of Health and Human Services Agency has recognized the outstanding work being done by our member health centers," Tuttle stated. "We are truly dedicated to providing the highest standards of medical care to all members of our community."

The Council of Community Clinics and its subsidiaries represent and support community clinics and health centers in their efforts to provide access to quality health care and related services for the diverse communities they serve with an emphasis on low income and uninsured populations.

For more information, please visit Ccc-sd.org.

This article originally appeared on Seaside Courier (a media partner of SDNR).

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