



Keystone Health gets \$11.5 million in stimulus funds to build new facility in Chambersburg

You may have seen the headline. The Public Opinion article went on to say that we also received two other stimulus grants. (See sidebar at right for grant descriptions.) While this recent publicity surrounding these grants awarded through the American Recover and Re-

investment Act (ARRA) has helped publicize the health services we provide, it also may have raised some questions.

In this issue we want to give you a full picture of the grants and their impact on the community and Keystone.

Why are Community Health Centers good recipients of ARRA funds?

The federal Health Center Program is an effective means to make health care affordable and accessible to those who are suffering financially due to the economic downturn. Health Centers, like Keystone, are where anyone can turn when they face barriers to health care such as having no insurance or limited income.

Health centers offer affordable health care by offering a sliding-fee and payment plans, and accepting and participating with most insurances. At Keystone Health qualified families could pay as little as \$10 per visit – and we can create a payment plan even for that amount.

ARRA funding included \$500 million in grants to help Community Health Centers across the country expand their capacity to provide health services to medically underserved populations as well as create employment opportunities in underserved communities through 2011.

How were ARRA grants awarded?

The Increased Demand for Services (IDS) and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) grants were awarded differently from the Facility Investment Program (FIP) grant. Funds for the IDS and CIP

ARRA Grants Awarded to Keystone Health

1. **“Increased Demand for Services”** (for services) – Keystone proposed adding providers and support staff at Franklin County Pediatrics
Amount awarded: \$439,000
Jobs created with grant funds: 7 FTEs (1 pediatrician, 1 nurse practitioner, 5 support staff)
Planned completion date: All positions have been filled

2. **“Capital Improvement Program”** (for capital improvements) – Keystone proposed expanding the Keystone Behavioral Health and Keystone Dental Care facilities
Amount awarded: \$1,649,965
Jobs created with grant funds:
Behavioral Health: 8.65 FTEs created (construction-related jobs)
Dental: 3.85 FTEs created (construction-related jobs)
Health center jobs that will be created, using non-grant funds, as a result of expanded space:
Behavioral Health: 2 psychiatrists, 1 therapist, 1 support staff
Dental: 1 dentist, 1 dental hygienist, 2 support staff
Planned completion date: 12/31/2010

3. **“Facility Investment Program”** (for major construction) – Keystone proposed constructing a two-story facility at 830 Fifth Avenue to create more space for three existing programs – Keystone Internal Medicine, Keystone Women’s Care, Franklin County Pediatrics – and develop 2 new programs – an urgent care center (also called a walk-in clinic) and a pharmacy.

Amount awarded: \$11,515,000
Jobs created with grant money: 93.1 FTEs (construction-related jobs)
Health center jobs that will be created, using non-grant funds, as a result of expanded space: 35.0 FTEs (health center staff, including providers)
Planned completion date: 12/31/2011

grants were distributed to all federally qualified Health Centers based on the total number of patients seen during 2008 with additional funds awarded for the number of uninsured patients seen during 2008. Before receiving the funds we had to send an application explaining how we would use the monies. The FIP grant was a competitive grant. Applications were submitted by about 500 of the 1,200 Health Centers in the nation; 85 were awarded grants.

How does the community benefit from Keystone Health’s ARRA grants?

The residents of Franklin County have not been immune to the economic down. At Keystone Health, we have seen an increase in the number of individuals and families who need the safety net Community Health Centers offer. Additionally, as our community grows so do the number of people needing services. Because Keystone Health practices always accept new patients, our services are in demand as many medical practices limit their acceptance of new patients.

These circumstances create a challenge for Keystone. Increasing the capacity to take on additional patients costs money. The ARRA grants will help Keystone keep up with our community’s growing need for available, accessible, and affordable health care. Let’s look at how each grant will help accomplish this.

Increased Demand for Services (IDS) grant— Keystone’s pediatrics practice, Franklin County Pediatrics, sees over 200 children a day. At the time of our application, appointments often were scheduled close together so that as many patients as possible could be treated. This meant patients may have had long waits in the waiting room. Also, it took two to four weeks to get

an appointment for a well-child visit. The IDS grant funds were used to increase staff by hiring a pediatrician, a nurse practitioner, nurses and support staff. With the additional professional staff, patients can be seen with less wait time and well-child appointments can be scheduled sooner. This practice, which is located in the Summit Health Center, is so busy that another suite down the hall is being used for well-child visits. (We will be able to address the space issue with the Facility Investment Program grant.)

*Capital Improvement Program (CIP) grant—*Recent community needs assessments, performed by Tripp Umbaugh Associates and the Harrisburg Foundation, showed that access to dental and behavioral health services were identified as paramount issues. This evidence supported what we were seeing in Keystone Dental Care and Keystone Behavioral Health: more patients were seeking services than these two practices could handle in a timely fashion.

Our dental practice has always been in high demand, being the only dental practice in a four-state area that routinely sees patients with Medical Assistance or no dental insurance. Since our dental practice was formed in 1995 it has been a constant struggle to provide enough treatment rooms to see all the patients wanting services. Since opening with one treatment room, the practice has expanded to 5, then 10, then 13 treatment rooms, but more are needed. With the CIP grant funds we will expand the practice to 18 treatment rooms enabling us to offer a projected additional 1,200 patients annually. The practice currently has five dentists and four hygienists. Using non-CIP grant funds, additional staff will be hired to meet this projection.



Our behavioral health practice has been in make-shift space since Keystone expanded its behavioral health services in 2004 to accommodate the 5000 patients left without services when Cumberland Valley Mental Health Services closed. With this inadequate and inefficient space, we have overcrowding and poor patient flow.

It takes four to six weeks to get an adult appointment and up to three months to get a child/adolescent appointment.

The expansion funded by the CIP grant will increase the space fourfold. A group therapy room and treatment rooms will be added as well as a real waiting room. (Currently we use a hallway.) With non-grant funds we will hire additional staff. The result will be more available patient appointments and more privacy for patients as they wait for their appointment

The CIP and FIP grants also allow for the purchase of the equipment required to make the expanded and new spaces functional.

Does receipt of these grants mean that Keystone Health no longer needs donations?

No. All three grants are one-time funding to be used within two years. They provide no on-going support. Keystone will need to continue to pay for the new pediatrics staff after the 2-year grant period and will have to hire additional staff for the expanded and new practices. We also will have the on-going administrative costs of doing business in these expanded and new spaces. Also, the expansion of the dental condominium and the construction of the new building required us to purchase additional land that was not funded by any grant.

We are happy to be able to expand our services to the community and we hope our supporters can see through the headlines and know that Keystone Health continues to need your help.

Electronic Health Records Soon to Be Implemented

Keystone Health's practices are in the process of implementing Electronic Health Records (EHR). An EHR is a computerized record of a patient's health information. This is a very costly project, both in money and staff time. The financial cost will be covered by a grant from Highmark as well as ARRA-funded bonuses from Medicare or Medicaid for implementing EHR. Our staff understands the value of the project and is working together to make the transition from paper to electronic records as smooth as possible. Implementation is expected to be completed this summer.

EHRs give providers quick access to patient records and diagnostic data, speeds tests, treatment orders, referrals, prescriptions and updates of patient records and increases the speed and quality of patient care. EHRs automate the workflow to minimize manual tasks and paperwork making the business end of healthcare more streamlined and cost effective.

Pharmacy Program Expands

Keystone Health has contracted with SUNRx, a pharmacy management company, to expand and manage our federal 340B drug discount program, which offers discounts on prescription drugs to patients who are eligible. For many years we worked with Norland Avenue Pharmacy to offer this program. Recently, the program regulations changed to allow us to contract with more than one pharmacy, making access to the program easier now that it is offered in pharmacies located across the county.

At this time, the following pharmacies are participating:

Norland Avenue Pharmacy, Chambersburg; Weis Markets Pharmacy, Chambersburg; Weis Markets Pharmacy, Shippensburg; Modnur Pharmacy, St. Thomas; Modnur Pharmacy, Mercersburg; McLaughlin Drug Store, McConnellsburg; Carl's Drug Store, Greencastle; and Savage Family Pharmacy, Waynesboro.



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY LAUNCHES EXPANSION OF HEALTH SERVICES

On February 17, Keystone Health, Chambersburg, PA, held a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of its behavioral health facility. Among the guests was Everette James, Secretary of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Health.

The expansion of Keystone Behavioral Health is being funded by a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Keystone Health has received three ARRA grants. The first enabled the non-profit community health center to increase staffing at its pediatrics practice. Through two additional ARRA grants, the organization will expand its behavioral health and dental facilities and construct a new building that will increase space for its internal medicine, women's care, and pediatrics practices and add an urgent care unit and a pharmacy.

Joanne Cochran, Keystone Health's founder and CEO, said the mission of community health centers is to ensure that health care is accessible to anyone. "The stimulus funding is enabling Keystone to meet the increased demand for care in these tough economic times. Many in our community have lost their jobs and their health insurance. While Keystone is here for anyone, as the only community health center in Franklin County we are here especially for those who are struggling financially," said Cochran. She added that with more space, Keystone will be able to hire more providers so patients can get appointments quicker.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony was Steve Flack, M.D., family physician and medical director of Keystone's family medicine practice. Dr. Flack, who grew up in Chambersburg and returned to his hometown after completing his medical education, sees the increased need for Keystone's services first hand. Flack said, "Over the last 1½ years, with the troubled economy, I have seen more and more people in need. Keystone is able to fill the gap and provide these people with care regardless of their financial means so that they don't slip through the cracks."