



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HEART OF OHIO FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS™ RECEIVES ECONOMIC STIMULUS FUNDING FOR NEW, “GREEN” HEALTH CENTER CONSTRUCTION WILL CREATE NEW JOBS FOR CENTRAL OHIOANS

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers™ has been awarded \$4.4 million in economic stimulus funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for the construction of a new health care facility on Innis Road in Columbus.

The new 12,500 sq. ft. facility will replace the existing Capital Park Family Health Center located at 2150 Agler Rd., less than a mile from the new facility.

“The current Agler Rd. health center is extremely overcrowded, operating at capacity, and offers no expansion opportunities for our growing patient population,” Joy Parker, CEO of Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers said.

Capital Park Family Health Center was first established in 2003. It operates in a high-needs area of African American, immigrant and refugee populations, and provides sliding fee scale services to more than 3,000 patients. Eighty-six percent of patients are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, and 56% of them are uninsured.

The new health care facility will increase primary care capacity, expand health services for the community, promote economic recovery, and serve as a regional example of environmentally friendly operations.

“It will enable us to serve an additional 3,175 patients, improve operational efficiency, and enhance quality of care by increasing from six to 15 medical exam rooms,” Parker said. “We will also be offering pharmacy services, on-site dental, behavioral health and OB/GYN services. Increased access will mean more of our residents are able to find a medical home instead of inappropriately using hospital emergency service for their routine medical needs.”

A total of 15.5 full-time medical and clinical positions will be created within the health center. In addition, 13.7 full-time construction-related positions will be created for the project period.

The Innis Road facility will integrate green/sustainable design features targeting energy efficiency, water efficiency and pollution mitigation. There will be an on-site recycling center, and the health center will be the first federally qualified health center (FQHC) in Ohio to incorporate a “living roof” into the building. The green roof will reduce energy, extend roof life, reduce storm-water runoff, and increase urban species habitat.

Approximately four acres outside the building and parking areas have been earmarked for grassroots organizations to create ethnic and community gardens. “Community gardening is a powerful tool for healthy eating and urban family food security, especially during economically stressful times,” Parker said.

Construction on the project will begin January 2010, and the new Capital Park Family health Center is scheduled to be completed by September 2011.

The total cost of the health center construction project is \$4.7 million. Additional funding to support OB/GYN and behavioral health services for Capital Park Family Health Center patients is being pursued through local organizations and private donations.

Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers™ serves more than 5,000 patients annually at two federally qualified health centers: Whitehall Family Health Center located at 882 S. Hamilton Rd., Whitehall, and Capital Park Family Health Center located at 2150 Agler Rd., Columbus. Both are currently taking new patients and all insurances are accepted.

“Everyone should have the choice of a Community Health Center as their health care home,” said Marty Miller, Heart of Ohio Family Health Center Board Chair. “We provide high-quality services that emphasize primary care and wellness so that families can stay healthy and out of hospitals.”

The mission of Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers™ is to provide high-quality, holistic and sensitive care to meet the healthcare needs of our community, where we honor every person with loving service.

To donate, volunteer, or for more information about Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers™, please contact Executive Director Joy Parker at 614.338.6821, 882 S. Hamilton Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43213.

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