



STATE OF MARYLAND

Community Health Resources Commission

45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD 21401, Room 336

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

John A. Hurson, Chair - Mark Luckner, Executive Director

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MARYLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION AWARDS GRANTS TO EXPAND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IN UNDERSERVED AREAS

(Annapolis, MD) -- The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) announced today 17 grant awards totaling \$4.1 million to expand access in underserved areas, to reduce health disparities, and to help reduce avoidable hospital utilization. The grant awards will help promote the capacity of safety net providers in the state. These projects are estimated to serve 21,000 Marylanders. An overview of the 17 grant awards is attached.

“These projects will expand access for vulnerable populations in all corners of the state and promote innovative public-private partnerships,” commented John A. Hurson, Chairman of the Commission. “The Commission congratulates this year’s grantees and is looking forward to working with these programs in the coming weeks and months as they implement these important projects.” One important area the grants will serve will be substance use disorder treatment, coinciding with Maryland Governor Larry Hogan’s effort to have his executive agencies to be more responsive to the opioid epidemic.

In addition to the awards announced today, the CHRC has awarded 169 grants totaling \$55.8 million, supporting programs in all 24 jurisdictions of the state. These programs have collectively served more than 320,000 low-income and uninsured or underinsured Marylanders.

The CHRC’s Call for Proposals this year generated 77 proposals requesting \$48.9 million, looking to support projects in the following areas: (1) Expanding access to primary and preventative care services and chronic disease management; (2) Integrating behavioral health service delivery and addressing the heroin and opioid epidemic; (3) Addressing childhood and family obesity and promoting food security; (4) Expanding access to dental care; and (5) Promoting comprehensive women’s health services and reducing infant mortality rates.

“These projects awarded by the Community Health Resources Commission will support the state’s ongoing efforts to expand access and improve population health,” commented Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary Dennis R. Schrader. “We also appreciate the CHRC’s continued focus on supporting Maryland’s efforts to address the heroin and opioid epidemic.” In recent years, the CHRC has awarded 7 grants totaling \$2.9 million to increase access to substance use treatment and promote integration of behavioral health services in community-based settings. Most recently, Governor Hogan declared a state of emergency in relation to the opioid crisis and formed the Opioid Operations Command Center, to streamline statewide response and resource coordination between law enforcement, health, emergency and other agencies.

The CHRC looks to support projects that are innovative, replicable, and sustainable, serving as an incubator to launch creative public-private partnerships that will expand access and help yield cost-savings. The \$55.8 million awarded in initial “seed” funding has enabled its grantees to leverage an additional \$19.5 million in additional funding, the bulk of which (more than \$15 million) has been provided by local and private/non-profit resources.

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FY 2017 Community Health Resources Commission Grantees

Expanding access to primary and preventative care services

Family Services. (\$250,000) This project will support the Thriving Germantown initiative, which focuses on increasing access to health and social support services in an underserved, low-income, and diverse community around the James Daly elementary school, a Title I elementary school. The Thriving Germantown initiative utilizes a collective impact model and builds on the "Promise Neighborhood" concept, which tracks 15 indicators across the cradle-to-grave continuum for low-income families. The Thriving Germantown initiative provides a multisectoral approach to improving both health and educational outcomes and offers the potential to leverage significant additional funding from private philanthropic organizations that may be replicable in other underserved and diverse areas of the state. [Executive Summary](#)

Health Partners. (\$150,000) This program will support access to primary care services in two sites in Charles County, a rural and underserved area of the state. The project will support continuation of services in Waldorf and establishment of a new site in Nanjemoy. [Executive Summary](#)

University of Maryland-Baltimore. (\$1,200,000) This program will expand access to primary and preventative care services and promote care continuity in Prince George's County, an area of Maryland with some of the highest chronic disease burdens in the state that would benefit from increased access to primary care services in the community. The project provides a specific emphasis on low-income individuals who present at the emergency department of the Prince George's Hospital Center for ambulatory care sensitive conditions and seeks to link these residents with routine and ongoing primary care services at a new center in Cheverly. The project would also deploy the Governor's Wellmobile to reach patients where they live. [Executive Summary](#)

Integrating behavioral health services in the community and addressing the heroin and opioid epidemic

Calvert County Health Department. (\$550,000) This project will support an innovative re-entry program led by the Calvert County Health Department, the sole safety net provider of behavioral health services in Calvert County. The project addresses the social determinants of health impacting formerly incarcerated individuals and looks to develop concrete measurable outcomes to track/demonstrate the performance of re-entry programs at the local level. The program has the potential to serve as a model for other local re-entry efforts in other areas of the state. [Executive Summary](#)

Cornerstone Montgomery. (\$100,000) This project will support the creation of a data warehouse developed by the Community Behavioral Health Association and will assist community behavioral health providers across the state to collect patient clinical outcome data. The data warehouse would be utilized to assess provider capacity and to support practice

transformation through benchmarking, and is designed to be sustainable after the initial CHRC grant funds are utilized. [Executive Summary](#)

Muslim Medical Community Center. (\$150,000) This proposal will expand access to integrated behavioral health and substance use treatment services in the community and remove the stigma of seeking behavioral services among the minority population served at the Center. The organization currently offers part-time behavioral health services to Montgomery Cares patients, and this project will expand the capacity of the Center to serve additional patients who are not Montgomery Cares patients, i.e., Medicaid, private insurance, and Medicare. [Executive Summary](#)

Pascal Center. (\$225,000) This project will help establish a new stabilization center located on the grounds of the former state psychiatric hospital in Crownsville. The project will emphasize serving individuals who are identified by EMS or law enforcement; this program does not currently exist in Anne Arundel County. Stabilization services will be co-located with Gaudenzia Addiction and Recovery Services, one of the larger behavioral health service providers in the state, and the project will increase access to substance use treatment services. [Executive Summary](#)

Way Station. (\$75,000) This project will promote the use of the “Care-at-Hand” technology for individuals with Serious Mental Illness at community behavioral health providers to help improve client health outcomes. The project has a particular emphasis on clients who are high utilizers of hospital resources and is designed to be sustainable after the CHRC grant ends. [Executive Summary](#)

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services. (\$125,000) This program will increase access to behavioral health services in the community in a rural and underserved area of the state by expanding the capacity of the organization to hire additional clinical staff and address a current three-month waiting list for clients seeking services. [Executive Summary](#)

Addressing obesity and promoting food security

Baltimore City Health Department. (\$150,000) The program, expanding on an existing CHRC grant, will expand the “Baltimarket Healthy Stores” program, which works with retail stores to expand access to affordable, healthy food options that serve low-income children and families. Under the program, additional stores will be recruited to the Baltimarket program. The Baltimore City Health Department will provide technical assistance to these stores, focusing on the implementation of federal SNAP/food stamp changes, and employ young residents as community health educators. [Executive Summary](#)

Institute for Public Health Innovation. (\$80,000) The project will support the implementation of local school wellness councils in four Title I Elementary Schools in Montgomery County (in Long Branch/Takoma Park, Gaithersburg, and Germantown). The project will expand an existing project of Healthy Montgomery’s Transforming Community Initiatives, which is one of

six sites selected to participate in a national initiative funded by the Trinity Health System.

[Executive Summary](#)

Somerset County Health Department. (\$130,000) The program, expanding on an existing CHRC grant, will support the following activities to address obesity and promote food security: nutritional home visiting program; nutrition education in the schools; garden fresh produce distribution; and transformation of abandoned asphalt slabs into "Fitness Towns." [Executive Summary](#)

Increasing access to dental care services

Allegany County Health Department. (\$100,000) The program will expand the capacity of the Allegany County Health Department's adult dental program and improve the ability of the Health Department to respond to the dental emergency needs of adults going to the hospital ED. [Executive Summary](#)

Anne Arundel Health Department. (\$200,000) The program will expand access to emergency dental services for low-income adults in Anne Arundel County, with a particular emphasis on diverting preventable dental-related ED visits. The target population is low-income Medicare and Medicaid adults. The project will build on the existing REACH Program in Anne Arundel by linking patients with private dentists and building the capacity of the existing dental clinic(s) at the Health Department to serve more residents. [Executive Summary](#)

Health Partners. (\$100,000) The program will expand access to dental services in Charles County, a dentally underserved area of the state, by supporting Health Partners' expansion of dental services at a new site in Nanjemoy. [Executive Summary](#)

West Cecil Health Center. (\$325,000) The project will implement an expanded dental program in Cecil County, a dentally underserved area of the state, through an innovative partnership involving the University of Maryland Dental School. Under a cooperative agreement, West Cecil has agreed to take over operations of the Dental School's clinic, which will maintain its status as a clinical teaching site with five pre-doctoral students and four hygiene students. Based on West Cecil's status as a Federally Qualified Health Center, the program is designed to be sustainable after CHRC grant funds are expended. [Executive Summary](#)

Promoting women's health services and reducing infant mortality

Family Tree. (\$150,000) The project will implement an evidence-based, cost-effective, "Maryland Family Connects" program, which is a home visitation program for at-risk mothers designed to support new mothers in caring for their newborns by providing a brief intervention strategy (3-7 visits post-partum). [Executive Summary](#)

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