



Maryland Community Health Resources Commission

- The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 2005 to expand access to health care for low-income Marylanders and underserved communities in the state and to bolster Maryland’s health care safety net infrastructure. The CHRC is an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DHMH), and its 11 members are appointed by the Governor.
- The CHRC plays a unique role in terms of supporting statewide implementation of innovative programs to expand access, reduce health disparities, and improve community health outcomes. The Commission works to identify areas that are ripe for policy innovation and implementation and works with multiple layers of government and regulatory agencies to develop and initiate grants that will generate the potential for systematic reform.
- The CHRC has developed extensive relationships and specific expertise with Maryland’s safety net provider community. It has forged interdisciplinary relationships with DHMH, other independent health regulatory commissions, Maryland’s local health departments, local detention centers, the judicial community, and non-profit community-based providers to develop and fund innovative and successful programs.
- Over the last eight years, the Commission has awarded 143 grants totaling \$42 million, supporting programs in all 24 jurisdictions of the state. As shown in the table below, these programs have collectively served more than 142,000 patients, resulting in more than 435,000 patient visits.
- The initial grant funding provided by the CHRC has enabled its grantees to leverage more than \$14.7 million in **additional** federal, private/non-profit, and other resources.
- The CHRC and DHMH also jointly implement the Maryland Health Enterprise Zones (HEZ) Initiative, created by legislation in the 2012 session. The DHMH Secretary designated five HEZs in January 2013, with year one funding totaling \$3.85 million. The Zones address health disparities in targeted underserved communities and provide a menu of incentives, including loan repayment assistance, tax benefits, and grant funding to expand access in HEZs.

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Focus Area	# of Projects Funded	Total Award Provided	Cumulative Total	
			Patients Seen/Enrolled	Visits Provided
Expanding Access to Primary Care at Maryland's safety net providers	29	\$8,562,650	57,227	194,888
Increasing Access to Dental Care for Low-income Marylanders	23	\$5,275,606	43,725	94,187
Addressing Infant Mortality	15	\$3,205,697	10,436	29,469
Reducing Health Care Costs through ED Diversions	6	\$1,994,327	13,804	27,943
Promoting Health Information Technology at community health centers	9	\$3,268,661	Health Information Technology	
Providing Access to Behavioral Health and Drug Treatment Services	25	\$8,005,917	17,164	89,156
Supporting Local Health Improvement Coalitions (LHICs)	24	\$1,955,048		
Health Enterprise Zones	5	\$7,710,000		
Safety Net Capacity Building	4	\$475,570	0	0
Childhood Obesity	3	\$1,560,000	600	0
Total Grant Funding Provided	143	\$42,013,476	142,956	435,643
Total Funding Requested	432	\$147,297,981		
Number of Patients Served/Enrolled	142,956			
Number of Patients Visits/Services Provided	435,643			
Additional federal and private resources leveraged	51	\$14,708,459		