



STATE OF MARYLAND  
Community Health Resources Commission  
45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD 21401, Room 336

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Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor  
John A. Hurson, Chairman – Mark Luckner, Executive Director

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION AWARDS GRANTS TO EXPAND HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND REDUCE HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS/READMISSIONS**

**(Annapolis, MD)** -- The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) announced today 20 grant awards totaling \$2.85 million to expand access in underserved areas of Maryland, reduce health disparities, and help support innovative community-hospital partnerships that will help reduce hospital ED visits, admissions and readmissions. These programs are projected to provide services for an estimated 50,000 Marylanders. An overview of the 20 grant awards is attached.

The Call for Proposals issued by the CHRC this year targeted the following six policy objectives: (1) Reducing infant mortality; (2) Increasing access to dental services; (3) Expanding primary care access; (4) Integrating behavioral health services in the community; (5) Building capacity of safety net providers; and (6) Addressing childhood obesity.

“These grants are going to make a meaningful impact by improving health outcomes and expanding primary care options in our most underserved communities,” commented Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown. “The CHRC is an important partner in Maryland’s ongoing effort to address health disparities in order to reduce costs and improve the health of all Marylanders.” In addition to today’s grants that were announced, the CHRC is working with the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to implement the state’s Health Enterprise Zones Initiative, championed by Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown, which provides a range of incentives to expand access, reduce health disparities, and reduce hospital admissions and re-admissions. The Lt. Governor leads the O’Malley-Brown Administration’s work to improve health care in the state, having helped expand health care coverage to over 450,000 Marylanders, many of whom are children, and leading efforts to implement the Affordable Care Act in Maryland.

“DHMH appreciates the Commission’s continued commitment to expanding health care access,” commented Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D, Secretary, DHMH. “These programs will support the state’s ongoing efforts to improve population health and reduce hospital admissions and readmissions.”

“Since its inception in 2005, the CHRC has awarded 142 grants totaling \$41.3 million, supporting programs in all 24 jurisdictions of the state,” commented John A. Hurson, Chairman, Community Health Resources Commission. “These programs have collectively served approximately 139,000 low-income and uninsured Marylanders.”

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