

June 28, 2021

For Immediate Release

Community Free Clinic receives grant from Community Health Resources Commission to serve vulnerable residents of Washington County

(Hagerstown, MD)-- The Community Free Clinic has received a two-year grant in the amount of \$210,000 from the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC). This funding will support an expanded transportation program and upgrades to 211 services to help connect vulnerable residents with critical health and social services in Washington County.

‘The Community Free Clinic is excited to receive the grant funding from CHRC,’ said CFC Executive Director Nicole Houser. “This gives the residents of Washington County that are without transportation a way to get to and from their appointments without having to worry about out of pocket costs.”

Under the grant, Community Free Clinic will partner with the Washington County Community Action Council to provide two buses for five hours a day and five days a week, with flexible service on weekends and holidays. The expanded transportation service will be provided free of charge to medical providers in Washington County. Residents wishing to schedule transportation services should contact Jackie Crabtree at 301.797.4161 ext. 107 at least three days prior to their appointment.

The Community Free Clinic also will partner with the United Way of Washington County to upgrade 211 services. The United Way will develop a current, comprehensive list of providers and develop standard operating procedures to maintain current information. Updating the 211 services will encourage increased utilization of the transportation services and greater integration of health and social services.

“The Community Health Resources Commission is thrilled to support the Community Free Clinic’s efforts to expand access to health care,” said CHRC Executive Director Mark Luckner. “This grant will help Washington County residents overcome barriers to accessing medical and social resources.”

ABOUT COMMUNITY FREE CLINIC (<https://mycommunityfreeclinic.org>)--

The Community Free Clinic has been in operation since February 1990 when Dr. Marty Gallagher began seeing patients at the Union Rescue Mission. Our Mission is to make health care accessible to all uninsured citizens of Washington County, MD. Washington County has roughly 150K residents according to the 2010 census. That same data shows 7.1% of those were uninsured. Which translates to roughly 10, 691 of Washington County residents without health insurance. Most of our patients work two or three part-time jobs which does not make them eligible for health insurance through an employer. Or they are in that 90 day transition period between jobs and the COBRA payment is just more than can be afforded.



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ABOUT THE CHRC (health.maryland.gov/mchrc)

The Maryland General Assembly created the Community Health Resources Commission in 2005 to expand access to affordable, high-quality health care services in the state's underserved communities; increase access to specialty health care services for the uninsured and low-income individuals; promote interconnected systems of care and partnerships among community health resources and hospitals; and help reduce avoidable hospital utilization. The CHRC is an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health, and its 11 members are appointed by the Governor. The CHRC has awarded 347 grants totaling \$85.9 million, supporting projects in every jurisdiction of the state. These projects have collectively served more than 504,000 Marylanders.

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