

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2004 NEWSLETTER

Access HealthColumbus is a public-private partnership with the mission to assure access to health care for vulnerable people in Franklin County.

PROGRAM UPDATE

- **Access Network Program** (Southside Pilot): a collaborative effort to match low-income/uninsured people with a medical home (primary care) and coordinate access to specialty, diagnostic, and hospital services. Access to low/no-cost medical interpreters, transportation, and prescription drugs services are also coordinated. Doctors and hospitals pledge voluntary care that is coordinated by Access HealthColumbus' care coordinators.

Results to Date: 12/15/03 – 8/31/04

Clients served:	1,451
Clients with new medical homes: (patients reporting no regular source of health care during enrollment)	1,108
Clients enrolled in insurance:	37
Doctors participating in the program:	480
Hospitals participating in the program:	11
Transportation services coordinated:	887
Medical interpreter services coordinated:	61
Prescription drugs coordinated:	2,520
Value of Services Coordinated*:	\$1,071,908

* financial value of voluntary medical care and subsidized services paid by Access HealthColumbus

Our incremental approach is improving access to health care one person at a time. As a reminder, eligibility criteria require a patient to be uninsured; with family incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level; and residing in zip codes 43205, 43206, and 43207.

- **Prescription for Good Health:** a prescription drug assistance program available for low-income uninsured residents of Franklin County. The Prescription for Good Health Program coordinates enrollment into drug company patient assistance programs. If eligible, patients can receive prescription drugs for a \$10 copayment per month per drug. The program also contains a drug copay pool to assist those patients with more than five prescription drugs per month.

If you know of someone who may be eligible for these programs, please call our care coordinators at 614-884-2441.

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PROJECT UPDATE

2003-04 Primary Care Expansion (results to date)

In 2003, Access HealthColumbus awarded grants to three organizations to expand access for primary care services on the Southside. Two new health centers have been opened and another has expanded hours.

Through July 2004, over 3,000 additional patient visits have been provided. Access HealthColumbus appreciates the efforts of the following organizations:

- South High Center for Primary Care (a collaboration between Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University College of Medicine)
- John R. Maloney South Side Health Center (Columbus Neighborhood Health Center, Inc.)
- OSU Family Practice on South High

2004-05 Primary Care Expansion – Request for Proposal Released

Access HealthColumbus is pleased to announce the availability of funding to expand access to primary health care services for vulnerable people on the Southside and Westside of Columbus.

For this initiative, Access HealthColumbus has secured financial support from the following public-private partners:

- Franklin County Board of Commissioners
- Columbus Medical Association Foundation
- Osteopathic Heritage Foundations
- Donald W. and Nancy E. Kelley Fund of The Columbus Foundation

For this Initiative, Access HealthColumbus will make available a total of up to \$900,000 over a one-year grant period. At least one project will be funded for both the Southside and Westside.

To receive a copy of the Request for Proposal, please contact Jeff Biehl at 614-884-2440 or jbiehl@accesshealthcolumbus.org.

East Central Health Center - Vision Services Expansion (results to date)

In May 2004, Access HealthColumbus awarded a one-time grant to the Columbus Neighborhood Health Center (CNHC) to support the expansion of vision services. Over 500 patients have received vision services during the first two months of expanded operations, an increase of more than 200% from previous levels.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Access HealthColumbus would like to thank the following partners for their support:

- **Permedion**, an independent health care quality review and improvement organization headquartered in Columbus, has pledged in-kind consulting to Access HealthColumbus. Permedion is assisting with the design and development of a patient satisfaction survey for patients enrolled in the Access Network Program.
- **The Ohio State University College of Optometry**, in collaboration with **Select Optical**, has pledged to provide vision exams and glasses for patients enrolled in the Access Network Program.
- We would like to thank **Rosati Windows** and its **President Mike Rosati** for an in-kind donation to provide for the development and airing of paid advertising and public service announcements to promote the Prescription for Good Health program.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Jeff Biehl, Executive Director, at 614-884-2440 or jbiehl@accesshealthcolumbus.org.

Major funding provided by:

