

Four Community Health Centers Receive Funding to Expand Services from Rhode Island Foundation's Fund for Healthy Rhode Island

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**Contact: Jane Hayward
401-274-1771, ext. 202**

[Providence, Rhode Island] – The Rhode Island Foundation today announced the first round of grants from the Fund for a Healthy Rhode Island. Among the grantees were four community health centers: Providence Community Health Centers, Inc., Blackstone Valley Community Health Care, Inc., Northwest Community Health Care and Tri-Town Community Action Program. The funding will be used at all sites to increase access to primary care services by expanding hours. In addition, Providence Community Health Centers, Inc., Blackstone Valley Community Health Care, Inc., and the Providence Center have joined together in an innovative partnership to increase hours of operation, co-locate behavioral health and primary care services, and expand services to patients.

Funding awarded to community health centers:

- Providence Community Health Centers, Inc. in partnership with Blackstone Valley Community Health Care, Inc., and the Providence Center: \$750,000 over 3 years. The project will serve 10,300 new patients annually.
- Northwest Community Health Center: \$70,000. This funding will serve 1,500 patients.
- Tri-Town Community Action Program: \$80,000. This funding will serve 750 patients.

“The Rhode Island Health Center Association is thrilled that the Rhode Island Foundation is recognizing the community health centers for their capacity to innovate,” said Jane A. Hayward, President and CEO of the Rhode Island Health Center Association (RIHCA). “The funding will help these four community health centers increase their capacity to see more patients and to expand hours to the evenings, which will help divert patients from the emergency room and make appointments more convenient for people with jobs to be seen by our doctors and other health care professionals.”

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Rhode Island's ten community health centers are a critical element in the state's health care landscape. Serving 112,000 Rhode Islanders annually, the community health centers provide comprehensive, high quality primary and preventive care to Rhode Islanders whether they have insurance or not. About 28% of community health center patients are uninsured, about 22% are privately insured, and the rest are publicly insured (RItte Care, Medicaid and Medicare).

Founded in 1972, the Rhode Island Health Center Association supports, sustains, and strengthens Rhode Island's community health centers so they can provide high quality, comprehensive health care.

For more information about RIHCA, please go to www.rihca.org.

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