

Health Center receives \$775K grant

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BANDON — Bandon Community Health Center has received a \$775,000 federal grant to provide access to quality health care services to low-income and rural residents.

Oregon's Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden announced the grants last week, which included \$2.4 million in new, competitive federal grant funding for four community health centers in Oregon.

The health centers that received the grants include:

- Bandon Community Health Center, Bandon — \$775,000
- La Clinica del Valle, Medford — \$405,922
- Umpqua Community Health Center, Roseburg — \$316,667
- Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, Cornelius — \$858,333

Wyden and Merkley have long advocated for funding of community health centers, according to a press release.

“When families are healthier, we all do better,” said Merkley. “Oregon’s community health centers provide critical health care services to those who might not otherwise be able to access that care. I’m pleased these grants will go to boost the good work they do.”

“Access to primary care and prevention is essential to getting America healthy,” Wyden said. “Community health centers in Oregon are an important part of that effort. This funding is well deserved and is yet another example of the quality services delivered by — and to — Oregonians.”

The Affordable Care Act created an \$11 billion fund to support the operation, expansion and construction of community health centers over a five-year period.

The grants awarded last week by the Department of Health and Human Services will allow community health centers to serve more patients through the creation of new service delivery sites providing comprehensive primary and preventive care services. These grants will help provide care to an estimated 13,000 Oregonians.

Nationwide, \$150 million was awarded under the Affordable Care Act to support 236 new health center sites across the country, according to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. The investments will help care for approximately 1.25 million additional patients nationwide.

“Health centers are key partners in the improving access to quality, affordable health care services for those who need it most,” Sebelius said in a press release. “With new, affordable health insurance options available under the Affordable Care Act, community health centers are also key partners in helping uninsured residents sign up for health coverage — many of whom have been locked out of the health insurance market for years.”

Next week: What does this mean for Bandon and South Coast residents? An interview with Bandon Community Health Center Executive Director Linda Maxon.

http://theworldlink.com/bandon/news/health-center-receives-k-grant/article_5b1dfd50-4cbc-11e3-bba1-001a4bcf887a.html