

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Columbia Basin Health Association is Awarded HHS Affordable Care Act funds to expand access to health care**

*Grants will support new health centers in 67 communities, serve additional 286,000 patients*

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced awards of \$28.8 million to 67 community health center programs across the country. These funds, made available by the Affordable Care Act, will help to establish new health service delivery sites to care for an additional 286,000 patients. Community health centers work to improve the health of the nation's underserved communities and vulnerable populations by ensuring access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services.

“I am pleased to announce that CBHA was awarded a New Access Point Grant for our Connell Family Medical Clinic application,” said Greg Brandenburg, CEO of CBHA. “This notice of grant award provides \$866,667 in funding for the period August 1, 2011 through our FY 2012 budget period, for a total of 16 months ending on December 1, 2012. We are required to have a clinic operational in Connell by December 1, 2011. The total amount is provided to support operational new access point activities.”

Connell Family Dental Clinic has been operational since February of 2009. The seven chair dental clinic offers state-of-the-art equipment combined with affordable dental care. The clinic offers programs, such as a sliding fee scale, that help patients who would otherwise be unable to afford dental care, get access to the services they need. The new medical clinic will do the same to provide access to much needed medical services.

As community-based and patient-directed organizations, health centers are well positioned to be responsive to the specific health care needs of their community. These grants will support new access points which are new full-time service delivery sites that provide comprehensive primary and preventive health care services. By maximizing the availability, access, and continuity of primary care services to the nation's neediest populations, these sites will play a critical role in improving the health care status of medically underserved and vulnerable populations and decreasing health disparities throughout the United States.

“We are making an investment in the health of people and the health of our communities,” said Secretary Sebelius. “These awards demonstrate a commitment to improving and expanding access to quality health care for local communities. We are removing barriers that stand in the way of affordable and accessible primary health services.”

Columbia Basin Health Association	Othello	Wash.	\$866,667.00
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*The Health Resources and Services Administration is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. HRSA is the primary Federal agency responsible for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable. For more information about HRSA and its programs, visit [www.hrsa.gov](http://www.hrsa.gov).*