



Recovery Funding to Enable CHC to Conduct Additional 20,000 Visits Annually

Washington, D.C. – Today Congressman John Olver announced that Community Health Connections, Inc. (CHC) in Fitchburg will receive \$10,732,754 in federal Recovery Act funds. President Obama awarded nearly \$600 million to support major construction and renovation projects at 85 community health centers nationwide and to help networks of health centers adopt Electronic Health Records (EHR) and other Health Information Technology (HIT) systems.

CHC, Inc. will use the funds to construct a 26,300 square foot addition to their 8,000 square foot 54-year old facility in Fitchburg. The addition will include many green elements, including geothermal.

“Over the last seven years, CHC has seen, on average, a thirty-seven percent increase in patients per year and is now in need of a larger space to accommodate increasing demand. This addition will allow the center to conduct an additional twenty thousand visits annually,” Congressman John Olver said. “I am very pleased that the Administration is making this funding available to community health centers around the country. Community health centers provide critical services, including preventive care, to the most vulnerable populations who are not receiving necessary medical services elsewhere. They are one of the most efficient ways to provide health care to the poor and underserved.”

“I am deeply grateful to the Obama Administration and our partners in the Congressional delegation for recognizing the integral role these centers play in our health care delivery system and the quality, affordable care they provide to some of the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable residents,” said Governor Patrick. “With more than \$80 million in federal funding designated for updating aging facilities, we are now ready to give local economies a boost, create jobs for today and tomorrow and support the vital mission of these centers as they continue to deliver

first rate health services to communities throughout Massachusetts.”

To qualify for funding, a health facility must be a Federally Qualified “Community” Health Center. Grants of \$508.5 million will be provided through the Facility Investment Program (FIP) program to address pressing health center facility needs. Also, as much as \$88 million will be available to help Health Center Controlled Networks improve operational effectiveness and clinical quality in health centers by providing management, financial, technology and clinical support services.

The new Recovery Act funds are the latest in a series of grants awarded to community health centers, which deliver preventive and primary care services at more than 7,500 service delivery sites around the country to patients regardless of their ability to pay. Health centers serve more than 17 million patients, about 40 percent of whom have no health insurance.

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