



health sciences & services authority of spokane county

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HSSA Awards Nearly \$325,000 in Health Care Access Grants

SPOKANE, WA – The **Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA)** of Spokane County announced that it has awarded a total of nearly \$325,000 in one-year grants to increase access to health care for the under- and uninsured in Spokane County. These grants were in response to *HSSA RFP #8-2012: Increase Access to Health Care in Spokane County through Innovative and Collaborative Health Service Delivery*.

“HSSA’s goal is to improve the capacity of the Spokane region to contribute to advances in health sciences research and health care delivery services,” said Nancy L. Isserlis, HSSA Board Chair and Spokane City Attorney. “These organizations were thoroughly vetted and provide innovative health care delivery for people in the county who otherwise would not receive such care,” she said.

The grant awardees are as follows:

- **Community Health Association of Spokane (CHAS)** will receive \$100,000 by creating an Urgent Care Facility near the Spokane Valley Hospital to provide urgent care services for underserved county residents and to provide a cost-efficient alternative for those who otherwise use local emergency departments for their primary care for non-emergent conditions. The new site will accept all types of insurance and offer a sliding fee program for patients. CHAS suggests that HSSA’s investment will return over 30 times the amount of healthcare spending reduction over one year, and will hire staff with \$1 million in income supported by sustainable revenue sources.
- **Partners with Families & Children** will receive \$38,877 for its innovative Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Pediatric Services and Consultancy for Child Victims of Physical and Sexual Abuse to increase the number of child victim evaluations and hospital consults. Partner’s believes that child abuse and/or neglect is among core health concerns experienced by underserved populations in this region.

- **Project Access** will receive \$100,000 to expand its roster of providers and partners, increase services to clients, increase the “return on community investment,” and to continue to manage its “no-show” rate and improve its application processing. Project Access was also offered an additional \$55,000 when it secures “new” matching funds of the same amount. In 2011, Project Access served 651 clients compared to 571 in 2010. The value of the donated medical services totaled \$7.2 million in 2011, up from \$6.3 million in 2010.
- **Spokane Prescription Assistance** will receive \$30,000 to expand the SPA network, which helps patients with pharmacy needs who are uninsured, insured with large co-pays, or Medicare patients in the “donut hole.” SPA provided \$1 million (average wholesale price) in pharmaceuticals in 2009, \$2 million in 2010, and \$2.5 million in 2011. The ROI for 2011 was \$29 in national pharmaceuticals for every \$1 of local funding.

HSSA’s eighth grant competition helps to meet one of its strategic goals to increase access to health services in Spokane County, and represents a fund of about 15 percent of annual revenues designated for this purpose. HSSA’s other strategic initiative is to increase local health sciences research and the infrastructure that supports it, and designates 75 percent of its revenues for that purpose.

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About HSSA:

The **Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County** was established in 2007 by the Washington legislature, authorized county-wide by Spokane County in 2008 and began operating in 2009. Its mission is to invest in health sciences research to promote economic development, advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and to promote public health. HSSA invests funds to create and support a nationally competitive health sciences research cluster in Spokane County, and works to catalyze higher education research and the health sciences industry that will lead to higher wage jobs, long-term sustainability and economic diversification. For more information, visit our website at www.hssaspokane.org or call 509.385.2113.

About Our Board:

Nancy Isserlis, City Attorney, City of Spokane, and HSSA Board Chair; Earl F. “Marty” Martin, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Gonzaga University and HSSA Board Vice Chair; Michael Wilson, Chief Executive, Providence Health Care and Grants Committee Chair; Jason Thackston, Vice President of Energy Delivery, Avista Corp. and Finance Committee Chair; Dr. Jeff Collins, Medical Director, Providence Health Care; Kevin Oldenburg, Ph.D., President, Matrical Bioscience; David J. Vachon, Ph.D., CEO/Founder, Iasis Molecular Sciences, and Dr. Francisco Velázquez, President & CEO, PAML and PAML Ventures.

