

**For Immediate Release:**

June 29, 2009

**Contact:**

Dell Johnson  
(615) 324-9688

**Health Center Receives Stimulus Funding for Capital Improvement Program**

*Nashville, TN* Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center (MWCHC) has been awarded \$1,241,235 by the U.S. Department of Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in this recent round of funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AARA).

HRSA will award approximately \$850 million for one-time Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding in fiscal year (FY) 2009. These funds are available to support existing health centers to address pressing capital improvement needs, such as construction, repair, renovation and equipment purchases, including health information technology systems.

MWCHC, a federally qualified health center, will use its AARA-CIP funds for construction and alteration projects to improve current facilities, upgrade equipment and to further develop its information technology. The funds will allow MWCHC to expand access to primary medical and dental care, as well as radiology and pharmacy services. The renovation project will also create additional office space for health education, outreach and behavioral health staff. Finally, AARA-CIP funds will be used to significantly improve the core of its information technology infrastructure. The major improvement includes advancing the integration of the electronic health record to include radiology and ophthalmology services.

During FY 2008, MWCHC served over 28,000 patients, of which nearly 85 percent were uninsured. So far, MWCHC has already seen a 29 percent increase in patient visits compared to this time last year. A large part of this growth in patient visits is marked by the considerable economic shift that has occurred across the nation and in Middle Tennessee. "We are seeing many patients who are newly unemployed or who have had shifts in their health care benefits become new users of our facility", states Dr. Michele Williams, Medical Director. MWCHC expects, through the expansion, approximately 8,000 new patients will be served.

The funding provided through AARA-HRSA will support health centers to expand their capacity to provide primary and preventive health care services to medically underserved populations as well as create employment opportunities in underserved communities over the next two years. "We are excited about the opportunity to improve our facilities and infrastructure so that we are better equipped to meet the healthcare needs of the community." states Jeff McKissack Chief Executive Officer. The CIP funds are an investment that will have very positive and long-term impact on the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve."

**About Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center**

Since 1968, Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, Inc. has served the uninsured families of Middle Tennessee. MWCHC provides a comprehensive primary care model of services including pediatrics, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, dental care, behavioral health, WIC and nutrition, ancillary services such as radiology, laboratory and pharmacy and specialty care including, ophthalmology and podiatry. For more information about Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, Inc. call Cathy Hunt at 615-340-1292 or visit the website at [www.mwchc.org](http://www.mwchc.org).