



TENNESSEE PRIMARY CARE  
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NEWS RELEASE  
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## **More Than \$16 million in Recovery Act Funds for Health Center Capital Improvements Comes to Tennessee's Health Centers**

**NASHVILLE, TN** – Tennessee Community Health Centers will receive \$16.7 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for health center facility and equipment needs, which will increase access to health care for thousands of Tennesseans.

“The Recovery Act grants for capital projects and equipment will enhance efficiency and services offered at these health centers in Tennessee,” said Governor Phil Bredesen. “This funding will increase access to care for many more families, allowing them to seek preventive and primary health care.”

The announcement, made this week by First Lady Michelle Obama, detailed the release of a total of \$851 million in grants nationwide. The money was made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and comes as more Americans join the ranks of the uninsured due to the economic downturn and skyrocketing health costs.

“Capital improvement funding is just as critical for our Health Centers as funding for service delivery and expansion,” said Kathy Wood-Dobbins, CEO of the Tennessee Primary Care Association. “They strive to provide quality care in up-to-date and modern facilities across the state.”

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the CIP grants will support the construction, repair and renovation of over 1,500 health center sites nationwide. Approximately 24 Community Health Centers in Tennessee will use the funds to purchase new equipment and health information technology (HIT) systems, and adopt and expand the use of electronic health records.

Health centers deliver preventive and primary care services at more than 140 service delivery sites around the state to patients regardless of their ability to pay; charges for services are set according to income. Health centers serve more than 285,000 Tennesseans, about 40 percent of whom have no health insurance.

To date, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has provided \$2,273,593 towards new access points and \$6,520,736 for increased demand for health care services to Health Centers in Tennessee, in addition to the recent capital improvement funding. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will speed economic recovery, create and save jobs and provide needed services to Tennesseans. For more information, visit [www.tnrecovery.gov](http://www.tnrecovery.gov), [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) or the Department of Health's Recovery Web page at <http://health.state.tn.us/recovery/index.htm>.

Tennessee Primary Care Association (TPCA) is a nonprofit corporation connecting Tennesseans with a health care home, especially the medically underserved. Since its inception in 1976, TPCA committed to 1) identifying unmet needs and gaps in service access, 2) developing systems of care, 3) advocating for resources, and 4) promoting awareness of Community Health Centers. Membership includes nonprofit primary care clinics across the state operating over 140 sites providing comprehensive medical care.

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