



## Community Care Health Centers Receive Infrastructure Assistance

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TOPEKA – In an attempt to strengthen primary healthcare infrastructure and advance health equity and health outcomes for underserved communities across the country, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) announced this morning it had awarded almost \$1 billion in American Rescue Plan funding to nearly 1,300 health centers.

In Kansas, 18 community health centers received notice of awards approximately \$11.6 million. Amounts ranged from \$350,000 for Heart of Kansas Family Health Care in Great Bend to more than \$1 million each for the state's largest health centers, the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas and GraceMed Health Clinic in Wichita and Topeka. All 18 are members of the Community Care Network of Kansas.

According to an HHS news release, health centers will use the funding for COVID-19-related capital needs, constructing new facilities, renovating and expanding existing facilities to enhance response to pandemics, and purchasing state-of-the-art equipment such as telehealth technology, mobile clinics and freezers to store vaccines.

"Kansas health centers already have been committing resources to more effectively battle the pandemic," said Community Care CEO Denise Cyzman. "The new funding will greatly enhance those efforts. It also will support infrastructure improvements and growth moving forward."

HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said: "Thanks to American Rescue Plan funds, we're modernizing facilities across the country to better meet the most pressing public health challenges associated with COVID-19. This historic investment means we get to expand access to care for COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccination – all with an eye towards advancing equity."

Health equity remains at the forefront of the Biden administration’s approach to the pandemic, as the brunt of COVID-19 has been disproportionately borne by low-income individuals and families, members of racial and ethnic minority populations, and those in rural communities. In Kansas, as in the entire nation, these patients are predominantly served by community health centers.

“The community health center movement began with an equity focus 50 years ago,” Cyzman said, “and it continues to this day.”

For a list of the Kansas FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Capital Improvements Awards, click [here](#).

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*About Community Care Network of Kansas: Community Care exists to achieve equitable access to high-quality, whole-person care for all Kansans, regardless of ability to pay. As the Primary Care Association (PCA) for Kansas, Community Care supports and strengthens its members through advocacy, education and communication. Community Care’s diverse membership includes Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and Look-Alikes (LALs), as well as public and private nonprofit Community-Based Primary Care Clinics (CBPCCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs).*