



**August 24, 2015**

**CHESTNUT FAMILY HEALTH CENTER AWARDED \$1 MILLION IN AFFORDABLE CARE ACT FUNDING TO GRANITE CITY**

**Granite City, IL,** - Chestnut Health Systems will be delivering primary medical services at a new health center in Granite City thanks to a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Chestnut, a noted provider of behavioral health services throughout the Metro East region, will use the funding to create a “medical home” for Madison County residents of all ages. The funding is specifically designed to ensure medical services for patients with lower incomes, Medicaid, and Medicare. Ten new staff are expected to be hired to staff the health center in the coming months.

“Many residents of the community who seek help at Chestnut for problems related to relationships, addiction or other life stressors haven’t been able to appropriately address their medical needs,” said Dietra Kulicke, director of the Chestnut Family Health Center. “Often, they get no care or utilize expensive and overburdened emergency departments at our local hospitals. The new health center will provide support and care for their medical needs, just as Chestnut has long helped people address their emotional and mental health issues,” said Kulicke.

“Across Illinois, many communities lack critical access to community health centers and important mental health services,” U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) said. “With this funding, made available through the Affordable Care Act, Chestnut Health Systems will be better equipped to expand, test and apply innovative ways of delivering primary and behavioral health services to Metro East residents.”

The health center is dedicated to preventative medicine and will provide full primary care services such as wellness, physical and gynecological exams, immunization updates, and cancer screenings. The center will also provide treatment and management of chronic diseases, common infections, allergies, and sprains and strains. Some laboratory services will also be offered.

The Granite City facility will be Chestnut’s second family medical center. The first site, in Bloomington, has served more than 4,000 unduplicated patients in the last three years.

“The growth in patients served, available services, funding, and staff has been both strategic and rapid, said Chestnut Health Systems CEO Russell Hagen. “It is anticipated that CFHC will continue to grow on this rapid growth schedule for several more years with the new Granite City facility following suit.”

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