

St. Johns Community-Based Dental Clinic

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds Enhance the Oral Health of Hundreds of Clinton County Adults

- The Community-Based Dental Clinic, located in the Mid-Michigan District Health Department in St. Johns, opened in April 2007, and is dedicated to serving Medicaid-eligible adults 19 years of age and older living in Clinton and Gratiot Counties.
- The dental clinic has 3 dental chairs and employs a part-time dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, and office manager and operates 2 days per week.
- In July 2009, Medicaid dental benefits for adults were virtually eliminated, and only covered emergency services.
- Since the clinic's primary source of funding was Medicaid revenue, the clinic was in jeopardy of closing in October 2009.
- In October 2009, Capital Area Community Services designated \$234,600 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to keep the clinic open. This funding expanded capacity from 2 days per week to 3 days per week, beginning in February 2009.
- ARRA funding was able to serve adult residents at or below 200% of the Federal poverty level (\$21,660 annual income for a one-person family) where Medicaid eligibility was up to 185% of poverty.
- There were 256 unduplicated Clinton County adult patients served and 1,020 visits provided from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. The majority of these residents would not have received services if it were not for the Community-Based Dental Clinic.
- Fortunately, adult dental benefits for Medicaid recipients have been restored effective October 1, 2010. With the reinstatement of adult dental benefits for Medicaid recipients, the health department is hoping to secure funding to increase the number of dental chairs from 3 to 5 and provide services 5 days per week.

Client Success

David is a 40-year-old male whose future employer contacted the clinic to arrange for him to receive dental services before he was hired. Dr. Cook recommended full-mouth extractions with complete upper and lower dentures. During the denture process, David was hired. Prior to coming to the clinic, David's entire mouth hurt and he could not find employment. Now, he is pain-free, employed, and extremely appreciative of the clinic for giving him his smile back. David stated that without the clinic he would not have been able to afford to pay for dentures.

Before & After



- Although adult dental benefits were reinstated, the unmet need remains for low-income working adults. The partnership with Capital Area Community Services provided an opportunity for individuals who otherwise would not have qualified under Medicaid.
- It is anticipated this expansion project would enable the clinic to serve an additional 2,530 unduplicated clients, totaling 6,750 visits annually.

For more information, please contact:

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