



State of Arizona

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Governor Brewer Provides Stimulus Funds for Medically Uninsured and Underserved

\$11.6 Million awarded to the Department of Health Services for Community Health Centers

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today announced the distribution of the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) Government Services Fund (GSF) monies to the Arizona Department of Health Services through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Arizona Department of Health Services will contract with health centers in the State of Arizona to expand primary care services to Arizona's indigent and uninsured population. DHS will be responsible for awarding and authorizing contracts associated with these funds to both federally qualified health centers and non-federally qualified health centers.

"Protecting the health and safety of the citizens of Arizona should be a priority of all elected officials, and it is my first priority as Governor," said Governor Brewer. "I am pleased to announce the release of a portion of my stimulus discretionary funds to Arizona's community health centers, which will help provide important medical service for many citizens across our state."

"We are grateful to the Governor for allocating much needed funding for comprehensive primary healthcare. Community Health Centers provide vital primary and preventative healthcare to Arizonans living in medically underserved areas of the state," said Tara McCollum Plese, Director of Government and Media Relations for the Arizona Association of Community Health Centers. "Unfortunately, the state's fiscal crisis resulted in the virtual elimination of the funding that enables health centers to provide medical services. The state Legislature and the Governor acknowledged the tremendous need for the services. The Governor agreed to dedicate some of the federal stimulus money to the Community Health Centers. The funding will help cover over 100,000 primary care and dental visits through 2010."

"Community health centers have a great track record because they are staffed by a variety of health professionals who work together to integrate all aspects of a person's care," said Will Humble, Interim Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services. "Governor Brewer's decision to provide \$11.6 million in ARRA funding to community health centers will ensure comprehensive healthcare for all Arizonans during these difficult economic times."

For more information, please visit the State of Arizona's stimulus funds website at www.azrecovery.gov.

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