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Center for Family Health awarded more than \$3 million in federal funding for new downtown health center

Published: Friday, October 08, 2010, 9:30 PM Updated: Friday, October 08, 2010, 11:00 PM



Tarryl Jackson | Jackson Citizen Patriot

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More than \$3 million in federal money was awarded Friday to the Center for Family Health for the construction of its downtown health center.

The \$3.4 million federal grant was made possible by American Recovery and Reinvestment Capital Development funding with the support of U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer, D-Battle Creek.

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The 54,000-square-foot health center is scheduled to open next summer and will cost about \$10.7 million to build, Executive Director Molly Kaser said.

"This grant puts things so much closer to our goal," she said. "We're so appreciative of Congressman Schauer's help through this whole process."

The new health center is being built on 5 acres of land at 505 N. Jackson St., the former Art Moehn car dealership site and will consolidate three of the Center for Family Health's sites to bring medical, dental and administrative services under one roof in downtown Jackson.

About 160 employees work at those locations, and all of them will be moved to the new center, Kaser said.

Its current administrative building is at 2298 Springport Road. It also operates a handful of clinics, including a dental clinic at 817 W. High St.

The Center for Family Health will continue to operate its two school-based health centers at Northeast Elementary School and the Middle School at Parkside in addition to the downtown Jackson site.

About \$1 million in federal stimulus funds will be used to cover the administrative portion of the new facility.

The remainder will be paid for by grants, donations and financing opportunities, Kaser said.

The center received about \$363,000 in federal stimulus money last year to increase staff and expand health-care services.

The new facility also will allow the center to create 75 full-time, competitive-wage positions and provide services to 13,000 more patients in the next five years, Kaser said.

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The Center for Family Health offers medical care to anyone, but it and other community health centers traditionally serve people with limited access to other health care.

The center, which serves more than 24,000 Jackson County residents, has a sliding fee scale for patients and does not refuse anyone who cannot pay for services.

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jax55girl

October 09, 2010 at 12:09PM

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But then who would pay all the bills that you and Obama keep running up? Not those who think "federal money" is free. Really that was a pretty disgusting but typical comment.

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geek49203

October 08, 2010 at 10:12PM

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American Recovery and Reinvestment

From the fund that gave you a national (mandatory) health record database, African genital washing and turtle crossing towers, comes this little bit of money. Just in time for election day too!

And when your grandkids pay this off after years of indebted servitude to foreign powers, they'll be sure to remember us.

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jax55girl

October 08, 2010 at 11:08PM

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It's not "federal money" ... it is taxpayer money ... our children and grandchildren's. (if this keeps up ... great-grandchildren's)

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retired teacher October 09, 2010 at 4:20PM

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You don't even live in Michigan??????

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jax55girl October 09, 2010 at 10:02PM

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FEDERAL MONEY ... it effects us all ... and I stay in Michigan part of the year ... your point is?

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retired teacher October 10, 2010 at 5:50AM

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No point. My brother keeps using that phrase when he is drunk, or semi-drunk, or has been drinking.

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bpiguy October 08, 2010 at 11:32PM

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I'm glad they got the money. The Center for Family Health is good for Jackson residents, and the Center can use the money. Only tea party ideologues would recommend refusing it. And thank you Mark Schauer for your help on this one.

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centerlaker October 09, 2010 at 1:39AM

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There is no money, it's debt that will have to be repaid by future generations. Yes, the Center For Family Health is good for the community, but do you think is was necessary to spend \$10.7 million to put it all under one roof? So Schauer brings home the pork, it's like someone stealing your credit card to buy you a gift you really don't want or need. Some deal that is.

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sueinmi October 09, 2010 at 8:47AM

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We'll all be there shortly...Mark's healthcare vote ensured premium hikes/taxes and more job losses for the rest of us in the private sector.

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jeremyhoover October 09, 2010 at 10:15AM

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We use the Center for our family's health care. We've had great experiences and I'm glad to see them receive this money. On the other hand, it's sad this good news was hijacked by what sounds like talking points memo'd to the anti-taxers.

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geek49203

October 09, 2010 at 7:37PM

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Don't have a problem with you getting good health care.

I have a huge problem with a government that borrows money from a country that can't even buy our top technology, then picks a "winner" as it funds a competitor to any number of private local businesses.

And since I gather you don't pay much in taxes, you don't care how this money is spent. Right?

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