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New Funding Will Help 12 Michigan School-Based Health Centers Increase Ability to Keep Students Healthy, Ready to Learn

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced today awards totaling \$95 million to 278 School-Based Health Center (SBHC) programs—including nearly \$4 million to 12 Michigan SBHCs—to help them increase capacity and care for more people at schools across the country.

Through partnerships between schools and community health organizations such as Community Health Centers, SBHCs are providing quality, comprehensive primary and preventive health care that is helping keep nearly 2 million students healthy and in the classroom.

“School-Based Health Centers increase access to health care, especially for students who are uninsured, underserved, and have nowhere else to get care,” said Rebecca Cienki, MPH, Director of Strategic Growth, Michigan Primary Care Association. “Without ever leaving their school or parents leaving work, students can be treated for acute illnesses like the flu or chronic conditions such as asthma; receive well child exams; be screened for dental, vision, and hearing problems; and receive counseling on life issues such as healthy eating and living safely.”

Among the awardees in Michigan are the following Michigan Primary Care Association members which also operate Community Health Centers in their communities:

- Family Health Center, Inc. (Kalamazoo)
- Baldwin Family Health Care (Baldwin)
- Cherry Street Health Services (Grand Rapids)
- Ingham County Health Department (Lansing)
- Detroit Community Health Connection (Detroit)
- MidMichigan Health Services (Houghton Lake)

This new funding is made available through the School-Based Health Center Capital Program under the Affordable Care Act. Awardees may use the funds for construction, renovation, and equipment needs which will enable them to serve an additional 440,000 patients nationwide.

For more information about Michigan’s School-Based Health Centers, visit www.scha-mi.org. For information about Community Health Centers in Michigan, many of which operate School-Based Health Centers, go to www.mpca.net. For a complete list of the School-Based Health Center Capital Program grantees, go to www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/07/20110714grantee.html.

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About Michigan Primary Care Association

Michigan Primary Care Association has been the voice for Community Health Centers and other community-based providers in Michigan since 1980. It is a leader in building a healthy society in which all residents have convenient and affordable access to quality health care. MPCA's mission is to promote, support, and develop comprehensive, accessible, and affordable quality community-based primary care services to everyone in Michigan. For more information, please visit www.mPCA.net or call 517.381.8000.

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