



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY WINS NEARLY \$40 MILLION TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE *Low-Income, Uninsured Residents to Benefit from Allocation; Award Given to 10 Counties*

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) has been awarded nearly \$40 million in federal funds over a three year period to be used to expand healthcare coverage for low-income, uninsured, legal state residents.

“This is a real boon to San Diego County’s healthcare safety net,” said Jean Shepard, Director, HHS. “Thanks to the collaboration of our hospitals, community clinics, physicians and other healthcare providers, and consumer advocates, we are in a better position to serve the needs of low-income and uninsured residents.”

San Diego County was one of only 10 counties to receive funding in annual installments of approximately \$13 million. The funds will be utilized to design a disease management program targeting the high cost medical conditions of diabetes and high blood pressure. Patients will be linked to community clinics for their care.

“This major initiative builds on the recommendations of the Healthcare Safety Net study, and is one of the top priorities of the action plan approved in December 2006 by the Board of Supervisors,” said Rene Santiago, Deputy Director, HHS Central and South Regions. “Months of town hall meetings and discussions with local stakeholders helped us determine the most critical needs.”

The proposal is intended to increase access to healthcare for eligible individuals, and reduce the pressure on area emergency rooms, affecting hospitals and clinics.

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