

525 Clinton Street  
Bow, NH 03304  
Voice: 603-228-2830  
Fax: 603-228-2464



61 Elm Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
Voice: 802-229-0002  
Fax: 802-223-2336

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Susan Noon (603)228-2830 x 144

## NEW HAMPSHIRE NONPROFIT AWARDED FUNDING TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE



*Kirsten Platte, Director  
Community Health Access Network*

NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE – July 26, 2016 – As recently announced by Secretary Burwell, US Department of Health and Human Services, the [Community Health Access Network](#) (CHAN) of Newmarket will receive \$1 million in funding as part of a \$36 million nationwide investment in technology-enabled quality improvement measures for Community Health Centers. “[Health Center Controlled Networks](#) are a key tool in providing quality primary care to medically underserved communities,” said Secretary Burwell. “By using these networks, individual health centers can work together to share resources, leverage buying power, and improve access to health information technology, leading to a better care experience for vulnerable populations.”

In collaboration with two other networks, CHAN will facilitate the purchase and adoption of health information technology and health information exchange systems at 30 Community Health Centers that serve 330,000 patients at 126 health center locations in New Hampshire, Vermont, and in the Midwest. “Collaborative projects like this enable health centers to share best practices and learn from each other in real time. It increases efficiency, shortens the learning curve, and increases return on investment,” said [Tess Stack Kuenning](#), president and CEO of [Bi-State Primary Care Association](#). The [Vermont Rural Health Alliance](#), a service of Bi-State, is one of the three participating networks.

The HHS funding will also support a “[Social Determinants of Health](#) project” that includes the collection and analysis of data to identify the environmental and social needs of patients. With a more comprehensive understanding of patient needs including housing, employment and access to food and personal safety, health care teams can work with patients to address environmental and social circumstances that impact overall health.

“This critical investment by the HHS allows us to continue our collaborative work with two network partners to support thirty health center participants in various areas, to include the meaningful use of ONC-certified electronic health records, adoption of technology-enabled quality improvement strategies and engagement in secure health information exchange to strengthen the quality of care and improve health outcomes. We will continue to leverage the success of our previous work with our two partners to maximize efficiencies and minimize costs,” said Kirsten Platte, Director, Community Health Access Network.

*This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number H2QCS30248, Health Center Controlled Networks, \$1 million with 0 percentage financed with nongovernmental sources.*

###