NEW HAMPSHIRE – September 20, 2018 – Nine Community Health Centers in New Hampshire were recently awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) to further expand access to Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Services in response to the national opioid crisis. The $2.8 million in new funding will expand access to integrated services by increasing personnel and enhancing infrastructure.

HRSA recognizes that primary care settings, like the community health centers supported by HRSA’s Health Center Program, have increasingly become a gateway to integrated care for individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) and primary care needs. "HRSA is committed to fighting this crisis by supporting our grantees with resources, technical assistance, and training to integrate behavioral health care services into practice settings and communities," said HRSA Administrator George Sigounas MS, Ph.D. “These funds enable HRSA grantees to continue to implement or expand substance use disorder and mental health services across the Nation.”

“We appreciate HRSA’s recognition of the critical role Community Health Centers play in addressing the opioid crisis in New Hampshire and nationwide. The grant awards will support the expansion of substance use disorder treatment programs, including medication-assisted treatment, a combination of medication and behavioral therapies effective in the treatment of substance use disorders,” said Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN, President and CEO of Bi-State Primary Care Association. “The health centers are committed to hiring at least one new full-time equivalent substance use disorder or mental health services professional.” In 2017, over 1,000 Granite Staters received medication-assisted treatment at a NH Community Health Center.

The NH FQHCs receiving HRSA’s 2018 Expanding Access to Quality Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Services awards include: Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Littleton; Coos County Family Health Services, Berlin; Goodwin Community Health, Somersworth; Harbor Care Health & Wellness Center, Nashua; Health Care for the Homeless Program, Manchester; HealthFirst Family Care Center, Franklin; Lamprey Health Care, Newmarket; Manchester Community Health Center, Manchester; and Mid-State Health Center, Plymouth.

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About Bi-State Primary Care Association
Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that represents New Hampshire and Vermont’s 29 Community Health Centers that serve more than 300,000 patients annually through their 128 health center sites. Bi-State promotes access to quality, affordable primary health care with an emphasis on reaching underserved populations. Bi-State Primary Care Association was founded as a 501(c)3 charitable organization in 1986 with offices in Bow, NH and Montpelier, VT.