

**Washington, DC** – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced the release of \$338 million to expand services offered at the nation's community health centers. The money was made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The grants will be distributed to 1,128 federally qualified health center grantees. Health centers will use the funds over the next two years to create or retain approximately 6,400 health center jobs.

**Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20)** issued the following statement announcing San Antonio area community health centers stimulus funding:

“I am proud to announce San Antonio area community health centers will be receiving over 1.8 million dollars in federal stimulus funding with \$745,863 set aside for Barrio Comprehensive Family Health Care Center, Inc. and El Centro Del Barrio, Inc. awarded \$1,111,743. Community health centers, like the two receiving funds, fill the void by providing care to those who might otherwise not be able to access it. These facilities are jewels of the communities in which they provide care. In the midst of these tough economic times, the investment we've made today in our health centers could not be more important. I am very proud to represent these facilities and applaud their continued commitment to providing high quality, affordable care to San Antonians.

“Community health centers operate in medically underserved communities and serve as “healthcare homes” to millions of people each year, many of whom are uninsured. The grant will assist in expanding services, adding new providers, expanding hours of operations and expanding services.

“Throughout the nation the funds will provide care to an additional 2.1 million patients over the next two years, including approximately 1 million uninsured people. The awards are the second set of health center grants provided through the Recovery Act. On March 2, President Obama announced grants worth \$155 million to establish 126 new health centers. These grants will aid centers in their efforts to provide care to an increasing number of patients during difficult economic times.

“We must now build on this accomplishment and work together to increase access to quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans and their families. The community health center stimulus funding goes to show what a positive difference the federal government can play in our community and demonstrates our continued commitment to offering affordable health care that will lower costs on families and improve quality.”

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