



Facts and Figures

Community Health Centers – Senior Access Program

Approximately one in seven or 13.7% of the U.S. population is an older American.¹ According to the December 2010 issue of Alaska Economic Trends, the number of seniors in Alaska (age 65-plus) is expected to grow the most of any age group, more than doubling in size as Alaska’s baby boomers age.² The significant growth of those over 65 is impacting seniors’ access to health care. During the current and growing primary care crisis for seniors with Medicare as primary insurer, some physicians are declining to accept seniors into their practices due to Medicare’s low reimbursement rate. In some parts of Alaska, Community Health Centers (CHCs) are often the only providers available and/or willing to see Medicare patients. CHCs served 5,468 Alaskans age 65 and over in 2005. In 2013, CHCs served 9,557 older adults aged 65 and over, comprising 9.5% of the total patients served at CHCs. From 2011- 2013, there was a 7.6% increase in the number of older adults seen at CHCs. In 2013, CHCs served 8,500 Medicare recipients, about 12% of all Medicare enrollees in Alaska.

CHC - Senior Access Program (SAP) purpose: Increase seniors’ access to health care services.

- The funding is intended to help CHCs meet the increased workload resulting from physicians in private practice declining to serve seniors due to low Medicare reimbursement rates.

Brief History

- The CHC-SAP was established in 2009 to increase access to primary healthcare services for older Alaskans by providing pass-through financial support to participating CHCs.
 - CHCs provide healthcare to all who seek care, regardless of ability to pay; moreover, they provide holistic care that includes primary care medical, dental and behavioral health services.
- The CHC-SAP has built-in flexibility and encourages each participating clinic to customize its service strategy based on the needs of its population, locality, agency size, budget and capacities.
 - This approach recognizes that challenges for clinics serving large urban areas are very different from those serving rural and remote communities.

Funding & Grantees Total Funding: \$401,000 annually

- Current CHC-SAP grantees serve large catchment areas and smaller communities
- FY2015 grantees include: Alaska Island Community Services; Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association; Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center; Bethel Family Clinic; Eastern Aleutian Tribes; Iliuliuk Family and Health Services; Interior Community Health Center; Peninsula Community Health Services of Alaska; Municipality of Skagway, (Dahl Memorial Clinic); SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium; and Sunshine Community Health Center.

Fiscal Year 2014 Service Categories/Activities

Grant Activities	Total # Clients Served via Grant – FY 2014	# New Clients Served via Grant – FY 2014
Community education re: Medicare or CHC services for Seniors	1,674	134
Provider education re: needs of Seniors	20	17
Media activities	25	25
Financing of direct services provided to Medicare recipients	11	0
Partial salaries for provider(s) who serve Medicare recipients	5,412	442
Outreach services	1,032	55
Group sessions for patients with chronic disease	8	8
Other - Delivery of Primary Care Service	510	73
Total	8,692	754

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living; http://www.aoa.acl.gov/Aging_Statistics/Profile/index.aspx

² December 2010 Alaska Economic Trends; <http://labor.state.ak.us/trends/trends2010.htm>