



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

February 28, 2006

Agi Erickson
Program Coordinator
Community Health Centers, Inc.
One Washington Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Community Health Centers, Inc.
Determination Report Number: 06-30690-EXM
CON Exemption Request Pursuant to Section 19a-639(d) of the C.G.S.
Request to Establish the Wherever You Are – Healthcare Program for the Homeless in
Meriden, Middletown and New Britain

Dear Ms Erickson:

On February 8, 2006, the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) received the Certificate of Need (“CON”) Determination request of Community Health Centers, Inc. (“Applicant”) for an exemption from the CON process. The Applicant is seeking to establish a primary care service program for homeless individuals, at a total capital expenditure of \$6,600.

Please be advised that OHCA has reviewed your request and makes the following findings:

1. Community Health Centers, Inc. (“Applicant”) is a recognized federally qualified health center (“FQHC”), whose headquarters are located at 635 Main Street in Middletown, Connecticut.
2. The Applicant offers primary care services at a number of practice sites located throughout the state. Its compliment of services and programs include primary medical, dental care, obstetrical and gynecological care, behavioral health services as well as a number of other professional services.

3. As a FQHC, the Applicant serves the health care needs of those individuals who reside in federally recognized medically underserved and/or health professional shortage areas.
4. The Applicant is proposing to establish the Wherever You Are – Healthcare Program for the Homeless (“program”) at practice sites located in Meriden, Middletown and New Britain.
5. The program has been designed to accomplish the following:
 - Eliminate existing barriers to health services for homeless individuals;
 - Reduce health disparities for those who are uninsured or under insured; and
 - Reverse the shortened lifespan that has been documented for homeless individuals.
6. The program will be headquartered at the Salvation Army Shelter, located at 78 Franklin Square in New Britain.
7. The Applicant will assemble a program team that will be composed of the following individuals: a family physician, a registered nurse, a licensed certified social worker, an eligibility/outreach staff member and a substance abuse case manager.
8. Program clinicians will be scheduled to travel to practice sites located within each of the three designated cities. The practice sites will include homeless shelters and informal access points such as soup kitchens and outdoor encampments.
9. The program has been designed to establish strong linkages with the Applicant’s respective primary care practice sites, as well as other community non-profit mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities and other specialty and ancillary care service providers.
10. The Applicant will initiate the proposed service upon receiving OHCA recognition that the program meets the requirements for exemption to the CON process.
11. The capital expenditure associated with program start-up is \$6,600.

Based on these findings, OHCA has determined that the proposed program meets the requirements of Section 19a-639(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes and, therefore, is exempt from OHCA’s Certificate of Need process.

Thank you for providing information to OHCA regarding this proposal. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Jack A. Huber, OHCA Health Care Analyst, of the Certification, Financial Analysis and Forecasting unit. He may be reached at (860) 418-7034.

Sincerely,

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

Cc: Sandra Bauer, Health Processing Technician, DPH, DCBR

CAV:jah