



Hood River News

Official Newspaper, City of Hood River and Hood River County



Gorge Weather

November 30, 2009

Funds will help clinic update electronic system

The Northwest Health Foundation has awarded \$60,950 to La Clinica del Cariño, a migrant and community health center that is seeking to enhance health care delivery at its clinics in Hood River and The Dalles.

This grant is one of seven that the Northwest Health Foundation recently awarded in the field of health care reform.

The funds will allow La Clinica to increase the capacity of its electronic medical records (EMRs), which will help the organization ensure that its patients are receiving appropriate care in an efficient manner.

"This grant is helping La Clinica build the tools we need to completely change the way we deliver care," said Mark England, R.N., clinical services director for La Clinica. "Now, we can make patients the center of care."

Specifically, enhanced EMRs will allow primary care doctors and specialists to share patient information to reduce redundant and sometimes costly tests and treatments.

"While we also support advocacy to improve health care access for all Oregonians, La Clinica has been achieving real health care reform on the ground, within the existing system," said Chris DeMars, program officer for the Northwest Health Foundation.

This project is part of a larger effort to further the implementation of a primary care home model at La Clinica. This particular primary care home model will allow patients to receive all of their health care services — from dental to mental health — in one facility.

La Clinica is a migrant and community health center that serves migrant farm workers and other underserved residents in Oregon and southwest Washington. The organization's mission is to make affordable, high-quality medical and dental care available to everyone in its community.

La Clinica del Cariño provided medical care to more than 10,000 people in 2008, half of whom were uninsured.

Northwest Health Foundation concentrates its work on three focus areas: public health, health care reform and health workforce. By the end of 2009 Northwest Health Foundation will have awarded more than \$8.5 million in grants, approximately \$1 million of which are in the area of health care reform.