

# NORTHWEST HEALTH FOUNDATION

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## For Immediate Release

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## **Seven Oregon Health Care Projects Awarded Over \$450,000** **Grant program provides resources to improve health care delivery**

Portland, Ore. – November 19, 2009 – The Northwest Health Foundation announced today that it has awarded nearly a half million dollars to seven local programs seeking to improve health care delivery for Oregonians and residents of southwest Washington. The awards are part of the Foundation’s grantmaking initiative focusing on health care reform.

Each of the programs selected by the Foundation is helping improve health care delivery – from mental health access for pregnant and postpartum women to culturally competent resources for immigrant and low-income populations. The grants encourage Oregon’s development of new, innovative models for how health care is delivered and provide needed services to the underserved.

“While we also support advocacy to improve health care access for all Oregonians, each of these organizations has been achieving real health care reform on the ground, within the existing system,” says Chris DeMars, Program Officer for the Foundation.

The following organizations received grants:

**Health Policy Research Northwest**, a Eugene-based research firm that assesses community health needs and measures the outcomes of health policy and program interventions, will receive \$50,000 to increase access to mental health care for low-income, Oregon Health Plan-covered pregnant and postpartum women. Recent research indicates that women are 40% less likely to seek treatment for depression during pregnancy and the postpartum period. To address this problem, Health Policy Research Northwest is partnering with the University of Oregon on a pilot program that provides financial incentives to entice these women to access their Oregon Health Plan mental health benefits.

**Klamath Health Partnership Inc./Klamath Open Door Family Practice**, a private, nonprofit community health center operating three clinics in Klamath county, will receive \$75,000 to further integrate mental health care with primary care services at its “safety net clinic.” Grant funds will be used to contract with two additional mental health care staff to service the growing number of patients seeking mental health care at Klamath Health Partnership.

**Outside In**, a social service agency dedicated to serving low-income adults and homeless youth, will receive \$66,585 for its medical case management project. Northwest Health Foundation funds will support bilingual case management for homeless youth and low-income Latino clients and will increase Outside In's capacity to analyze data entered into electronic health records to determine effectiveness of patient care.

**Asian Health and Service Center**, a private nonprofit organization that works to reduce health disparities and increase access to quality health care for Asians in the Portland area, will receive \$75,000 to fund its Chronic Disease Link project. The goal of this project is to create collaborative partnerships between the region's primary care clinics and the culturally competent chronic disease programs provided by the Center.

**The Artz Center for Developmental Health**, a Portland-based organization that works to raise the standard for children's developmental health care, was awarded \$50,000 for their behavioral and developmental screening program. Funds will be used to systematically integrate children's behavioral and developmental screening within the primary care setting through physician training and relationship building among primary care providers and early childhood community resources.

**Central City Concern**, an organization that offers housing, health care, social services and employment services to Portlanders who experience homelessness, chemical dependency and mental illness, will receive \$74,568 to add a Behavioral Health Assistant to their multi-disciplinary primary care home team.

**La Clinica del Carino**, a migrant and community health center that serves migrant farm workers and other underserved residents in Oregon and southwest Washington, will receive \$60,950 to further implementation of its primary care home model. Funds will be used to increase the capacity of La Clinica del Carino's electronic medical records system to accommodate a growing number of patients.

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.

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The Northwest Health Foundation was established in 1997, through the sale of the nonprofit PACC Health Plans. The mission of the Foundation is to advance, support and promote the health of the people of Oregon and southwest Washington. Foundation achieves its mission through grantmaking, technical assistance and training, convening, commissioning research, and supporting policy advocacy. The organization invests in programs and projects that address the root causes of health through community-driven, upstream solutions.

More information can be found at [www.nwhf.org](http://www.nwhf.org).