

Media Release

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## **Harbor Health Services, Inc. Receives Federal Grant Monies to Open New Community Health Center Satellite in Plymouth**

Hyannis, MA - Dan Driscoll, Chief Executive Officer of Harbor Health Services, Inc. (Harbor Health) is pleased to announce the organization has received a federal grant to establish a community health center serving the Greater Plymouth Area. "Since its early days, Harbor Health has honored a deep commitment to provide health care services to those who lack access for any reason, and who do not have the means to pay," says Driscoll. "In establishing a community health center in Plymouth, we hope to build on the experience and history Harbor Health has in effectively serving low-income, uninsured and immigrant communities for the past 45 years."

The grant in the amount of \$650,000 was awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the federal agency responsible for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable. Because there is currently no community health center in or near the Plymouth area, Harbor Health's proposal is designed to address the critical need for access to comprehensive primary care, dental care, behavioral health services and social services.

The target population of the service area includes residents of the 16 surrounding towns in Plymouth County who are either uninsured or have some forms of public insurance such as Medicaid, Medicare, or CommonwealthCare. Currently, a significant number of patients drive approximately 60 miles round-trip to either Harbor Health's Boston or Cape Cod locations. The organization anticipates providing health care for 5,400 new patients at the Plymouth site, with a projected 19,000 visits within the first two years of operation.

The freestanding clinic is scheduled to open in March of 2014, and will be operated as a satellite of Harbor Community Health Center, Hyannis, under the direction of Executive Director Nancy Bucken. Bucken says the health center is prepared to serve all ages of the life cycle, regardless of ability to pay, with comprehensive primary care and supporting services, including nutrition and wellness programs and behavioral health services offered on site. In order to address the limited number of dental offices which accept public insurance, the Harbor Health clinic will also provide access to affordable oral health care, with dental services provided by two full-time dentists, a full-time oral hygienist and support assistants.

*About Harbor Health Services, Inc.*

*Harbor Health Service, Inc. (HHSI) is the parent organization for Harbor Community Health Center, Hyannis, and Ellen Jones Community Dental Center (EJCDC), Harwich. Its Boston programs include Neponset Health Center, Geiger Gibson Community Health Center, Elder Service Plan, and WIC. These clinics and centers provide high-*

*quality medical, dental and social services to patients in Boston, Barnstable County and throughout Cape Cod. In addition to serving low-income communities, new immigrants and marginally-insured patients, the centers assist members of the business community, including those who are self-employed or under-insured, and their employees to find health care options and answers.*

*To meet the tremendous demand for affordable health care throughout Cape Cod, HCHC-Hyannis recently began construction on a larger facility in Hyannis, doubling its ability to serve those who are uninsured or underinsured. The move to the new building on Attucks Lane is expected to take place in late spring 2014.*

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