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State to receive more than \$35 million in federal grants to increase health care access

MHA, Portico sought funding for Minnesota

Minnesota will be awarded nearly \$35.3 million in federal funds over five years to help uninsured Minnesotans receive health care, officials said Monday. The Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) worked with Portico Healthnet in support of funding for Minnesota under the measure.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) will grant the money to community agencies for programs providing affordable coverage for preventive health care services to people who are not eligible for public programs and who are also unable to afford private insurance.

Minnesota was one of 13 states to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The first-year grant is \$4.6 million. Minnesota will need to re-apply for funding each year to access the full \$35.3 million. An additional \$30 million from non-federal sources will be contributed, primarily from in-kind services from community agencies and DHS.

Initially, three community agencies will receive funding to expand local access-to-care programs, also known as multi-share models. They are:

- **Portico Healthnet**, which serves low-income uninsured individuals and families in Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties;
- **HealthShare** of Duluth, which will expand its multi-share program to include people in St. Louis, Carlton, Cook, Lake, Itasca, Koochiching and Aitkin counties; and
- **PrimeWest Health**, which will create a program to serve Beltrami, Big Stone, Clearwater, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, McLeod, Meeker, Pipestone, Pope, Renville, Stevens and Traverse counties.

Portico featured in AHA publication

A profile of St. Paul-based Portico Healthnet and its effect on providing health care access to children was featured in a recent American Hospital Association publication.

Portico is a nonprofit organization that helps uninsured Minnesotans access affordable health coverage and care. Minnesota hospitals are among its financial supporters.

The Aug. 31 annual "Covering Kids" document was mailed to more than 20,000 hospital and health system CEOs. The profile is available at <http://www.porticohealthnet.org/news/AHAhit.pdf>.