

Safety Net Legislation Talking Points
August 29, 2005
Bureau of Health Care Access

- The \$1.1 million in safety net and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) funds provided by the SF825 Appropriations bill represents the first time Iowa has invested monetary resources to communities who were seeking federal Community Health Center funding.
- It is also the first time Iowa's safety net providers have had the resources to collaborate to increase access and quality for Iowa's underserved population.
- \$650,000 appropriated to Dubuque will enable them to take advantage of the FQHC look-a-like program and therefore leverage state dollars to secure future federal funding in the next federal funding cycle.

- Community Health Centers (CHC) provide comprehensive primary care services (medical, dental, and mental health) in a medical home setting for anyone regardless of their ability to pay.
- (FQHC) or Federally Qualified Health Centers is the term that CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) uses to identify centers that are eligible for cost based reimbursement.
- With this funding, Dubuque will become a (FQHC look-a-like) and receive cost-based reimbursement.
- Agencies that are FQHC look-a-likes have a greater chance to receive federal funds in the future as their governance, administration and clinical services mirror traditional community health centers.
- Federal Health Center grants are highly competitive on a national level.

- Dubuque's applications since 2003 received scores that made them eligible for federal funds, but funds were limited.
- These incubator funds will enable the Dubuque Health Center to address the needs of the uninsured yet assure financial stability during the developmental stage.
- This is the first time that Community Health Center services will be available to residents in North East Iowa and will have a positive impact on the area's ability to provide increased access to underserved and vulnerable populations.
- It should be noted that health center services can be used by patients with traditional health insurance as well as the uninsured, Medicaid and Medicare patients.
- Second, \$425,000 was awarded to the Iowa Nebraska Primary Care Association, for the development and administration of an Iowa Collaborative Safety Net Provider Network.

- The network money will enable the CHCs, RHCs and free clinics to develop data sharing methods of sharing best practices, policies and procedures, billing and coding solutions and provide a framework of collaboration to minimize the gaps in the safety net that the underserved face in the state of Iowa.

- The remaining \$25,000 will be used to evaluate how effective the Iowa Collaborative Safety Net Provider Network is improving access for Iowa's underserved population.

- This money demonstrates the commitment Iowa has to better leveraging federal resources and building healthy communities throughout Iowa.