

2002-2003 City of Davis CDBG Applicant Questions & Responses

Name of Organization: CommuniCare Health Centers

Project Title: CommuniCare Health Centers (Davis Community Clinic)

1. You indicate CDBG funding is reserved for pediatric medical and dental services, which benefit low/moderate income children. However, low/moderate income families with children usually qualify for public assistance, such as AFDC funding; with those families also qualifying for Medi-Cal and Denti-Cal benefits. Medi-Cal also has the Healthy Kids program – basic health care for children before they get sick. How many of your CDBG clients convert to some form of medical insurance over the course of the funding year?

We work very hard to assist our uninsured clients with the enrollment process for health care coverage. We believe that this is a benefit that we can offer our clients. In fact, we have a staff person (our Client Benefits Advocate) devoted to this task. Our records show that over the course of last year, we had an overall success rate of 45% of successfully enrolling uninsured clients in a health care plan. This includes enrollment in YCHIP, Medi-Cal, and Healthy Families.

2. Since both the City and CommuniCare are interested in leveraging as many non-local resources as possible to provide health care for children, is there anything that can be done to improve participation/eligibility for the Healthy Families Program? Would it be more cost-effective to use CDBG resources to somehow pay the premium for local families instead of paying for the actual health care?

CommuniCare is participating in a countywide effort to enroll more eligible children in both Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. Supported by the Yolo County Prop. 10 Commission, the countywide effort, known as the Yolo County Health Insurance Collaborative, involves local health care providers, the Health Department, the Family Resource Center, and all of the schools in Yolo County. The Collaborative is doing community outreach and partnering with the schools to get the word out about the Healthy Families Program. CommuniCare has bilingual Certified Assistors at each site to assist families with enrollment in the Healthy Families program.

I do not think that it would be cost effective to pay the premiums for local families. The Yolo County Prop. 10 Commission looked into this and found that the cost could be prohibitive. Actually, the cost of the premium is not the barrier to enrollment. The actual enrollment process and just knowing about the availability of the program and how to apply are the biggest barriers. This also would not solve the problem of the large number of children that we see who still do not qualify for either Medi-Cal or Healthy Families because they are undocumented.