

Grant Outcome Report

Expanding Services for Artists at a Free Health Care Clinic

The Problem

Operating since 2003, the Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic—part of The Actors Fund of America’s health services program—provides free health care to uninsured or underinsured entertainment and performing arts professionals in the New York City area. The clinic is served by a full-time medical director—a general practitioner associated with the Columbia University Department of Family Medicine—as well as volunteer specialists who see patients at no cost or at significantly reduced rates. In 2008, the clinic served 1,298 patients through nearly 2,270 unique visits. As the clinic continues to increase its services by 10–20% each year, the need for expanded services delivered by qualified health providers became evident. To address this service gap, the New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) awarded The Actors Fund a grant to continue the recruitment of health service providers at no or low cost.

Grant Activities and Outcomes

Under this grant, The Actors Fund hired a provider relations manager, who recruited and coordinated volunteer doctors, dentists, mental health providers, and ancillary service providers, as well as oversaw donated pharmaceuticals. In addition, The Actors Fund was able to hire a director and manager of health services. Over the course of the grant period, the clinic expanded its free services beyond primary care, meeting a broader range of client needs and decreasing client use of overcrowded public hospitals and sliding-scale clinics. During the grant period, the number of volunteer doctor referrals increased 171%, and the total dollar amount of donated provider services increased 117%. The number of patients seen by the clinic also increased by 21%, just short of the goal of 25%.

The Future

The volunteer physician project has continued beyond this grant period. The physician network continues to serve the clinic’s patients; it expects that, with the increase in primary care activity, the clinic

KEY INFORMATION:

GRANTEE

The Actors Fund of America

GRANT TITLE

Expanding Services for Artists at a Free Health Care Clinic

DATES

January 1, 2009 – March 22, 2011

GRANT AMOUNT

\$218,994

FUNDING

Special Projects Fund

will receive a greater number of referrals in the future. The recruitment activities initiated over the grant period are now incorporated into the clinic's regular operations through general fundraising appeals and playbill inserts at Broadway theater special performances and events. Maintenance of the network and relationships has shifted into the duties of the clinic's manager.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ABOUT THE GRANTEE

The Actors Fund is a nonprofit human services organization founded in 1882 that serves all professionals in film, theater, television, music, opera, and dance through programs that address their unique and essential needs. The Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic provides free health care to uninsured and underinsured documented entertainment industry professionals between the ages of 18 to 64 years.

GRANTEE CONTACT

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