

Grant Outcomes Report

Preserving and Enhancing Primary Care Access in Central Queens

The Problem:

Reports by the City of New York's Primary Care Initiative Community Health Assessment and the Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC) identified Southeast Queens as one of the City's 11 communities most lacking in primary health care capacity and experiencing a serious shortage.

Residents of Southeast Queens, the broader area encompassing Jamaica, have low incomes, high poverty rates, and poor health statuses. Lack of primary care for these residents often leads to higher rates of nonurgent emergency room use and preventable hospitalizations.

By the end of 2008, the situation in Southeast Queens worsened. The St. Dominic's Family Health Center, a primary outpatient center of Mary Immaculate Hospital of Caritas Healthcare, was about to close as Caritas declared bankruptcy. The loss of this 17,000 square-foot outpatient center would further reduce access to primary care services for medically underserved and uninsured people living in this section of Queens.

Grant Activities and Outcomes:

In 2009, the New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) awarded \$250,000 to Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center to partially support its acquisition of St. Dominic's from Caritas and to incorporate St. Dominic's into its Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) network. The New York State Department of Health contributed \$650,000 to support the takeover.

PCDC brought Addabbo together with St. Dominic's to develop a business plan that would allow St. Dominic's to continue operations under new ownership, expand its services, and become self-

KEY INFORMATION:

GRANTEE

Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center

GRANT TITLE

Preserving and Enhancing Primary Care Access in Central Queens

DATES

May 1, 2009–April 30, 2010

GRANT AMOUNT

\$250,000

FUNDING

2009 Special Projects

sustaining. PCDC also provided a \$600,000 bridge loan to keep the health center in operation during the transition.

The staff at Addabbo secured an emergency Certificate of Need from the State and obtained Federal approval to add St. Dominic's to its FQHC network, thereby ensuring reimbursement from Medicaid and Medicare. Addabbo also made necessary repairs to the facility, purchased equipment, hired staff, developed patient tracking systems, and marketed the new operation to area residents.

The new facility opened in May 2009. As of May 2010, Addabbo reported that St. Dominic's was experiencing 3,256 patient visits per month, up from 600 visits per month when Addabbo had assumed ownership.

The Future:

In October 2010, NYHealth awarded a grant to Addabbo in the amount of \$275,000 to establish a new site for primary care in South Ozone Park, Queens. Under this grant, Addabbo is renovating the site, consolidating primary care services, and expanding the facility so it will operate at its full capacity of 15,000 patients per year. This new site will join Addabbo's network of FQHCs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ABOUT THE GRANTEE

The Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) with four clinical sites and one children's day treatment center in Queens County, forming the Addabbo Health Center network. Addabbo is licensed by New York State as a Diagnostic and Treatment Center, operates as an interdisciplinary group practice, and maintains active affiliations with local hospitals and community- and school-based outreach programs. In 2008, the Addabbo Health Center network provided 92,000 patient visits. Addabbo currently employs approximately 185 people.

GRANTEE CONTACT

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NYSHEALTH CONTACT

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GRANT ID

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