



## News Release

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## HSSA Awards \$180,000 to Three Local Organizations

SPOKANE, Wash. – The Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County has awarded \$180,000 to three local organizations whose proposals met or exceeded the criteria for the HSSA’s third request for proposals, the **Woodworth Collaborative Health Service Delivery Challenge Grant**.

“Our job to select one or more recipients was made difficult by the number of quality proposals HSSA received in response to the Woodworth Health Service Delivery Challenge Grant,” said Nancy Isserlis, HSSA Board Chair. “It is clear that there are many worthwhile efforts in our region where organizations are collaborating to provide more efficient and innovative health services delivery. It is also very clear that there remains much need for these services,” she said.

The three organizations who will receive funding are as follows:

- **Greater Spokane Incorporated/Washington State University** will receive \$75,000 toward its efforts to expand to a four-year medical education program in Spokane. The program will inform, identify and prepare communities, physician practices, clinics, hospitals and other sites, patients and medical students to participate in required clinical rotations for third- and fourth-year medical undergraduate students and residencies for graduate medical education (the three years of specialized practice following completion of MD degrees).
- **Northeast Community Center Association Center Expansion for Underserved Populations** will receive \$75,000 toward construction of an expanded health care center to be operated by the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic dba Spokane Falls Clinic in Spokane, and for dental care provided by the Spokane District Dental Society and its

IDEA clinic. The increased space will increase the number of patient visits from about 1,100 monthly to 3,300-3,500 per month.

- **Providence Sacred Heart & Children’s Hospital “Strengthening Response to Aids”** program will receive \$30,000 and will increase the number of patients served by the Spokane HIV Clinic and expand the HIV experience of resident physicians at the Internal Medical Residency Spokane (IRMS), a department of Providence. The Spokane HIV Clinic is a leader in patient care, health system response and strategy, and best practices in AIDS/HIV care in the region.

The HSSA is a Washington grant-making authority established by the Washington Legislature to promote bioscience-based economic development that advances new therapies and procedures to combat disease, and to promote public health. The HSSA invests funds to create and support a nationally competitive health care cluster in Spokane County by catalyzing connections between higher education and health care. HSSA funds only the very best projects through a competitive well-monitored and accountable process.

The Woodworth Challenge Grant competition will help meet one of the HSSA’s strategic goals to increase access to health services in Spokane County, along with a \$225,000 grant made to Project Access in 2009. The HSSA also has awarded \$675,000 to the Institute for Systems Medicine (ISM) to increase infrastructure capacity for bioscience research. ISM is using the grant to partially fund the creation of integrated human tissue and clinical data repositories, necessary infrastructure that supports biosciences research, the second strategic initiative of the HSSA.

Isserlis also noted said that at its May meeting, the HSSA Board moved to issue bonds for approximately \$10 million to allow it to more effectively and efficiently meet its dual mission of improving bioscience research and access to health care by making a more significant impact on the local economy.

In addition to Nancy Isserlis, HSSA Board members are Dr. Patricia Butterfield, Dean, WSU School of Nursing; Dr. Jeff Collins, Medical Director, Providence Sacred Heart & Holy Family Hospitals; Dr. Kelsey Gray, Spectrum Group; Dr. Earl F. “Marty” Martin, Executive Vice President, Gonzaga University; Alethea McCann, Spherion Staffing & Recruiting; Dr. Kevin Oldenburg, MatriCal, Inc., and Jason Thackston, CFO Avista Corp.

More information about the Woodworth Collaborative Health Services Delivery Grant or the HSSA and its mission may be found at [www.hssaspokane.org](http://www.hssaspokane.org) or by contacting Susan Ashe at (509) 358-2113.

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