



CONTACT: Diane Hauser
OFFICE: 212- 633- 0800 ext. 1290
CELL: 646-238-4914
EMAIL: dhauser@institute2000.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Institute for Family Health Receives \$825,709 in Stimulus Funding to Launch the New York Community Health Information Network (NYCHIN)

New York, NY (June 21, 2010) - The Institute for Family Health announced today it received a \$825,709 grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration to launch a new community health center-led collaboration that will work to address health disparities in New York State through innovations in health information technology. The Institute for Family Health, a federally qualified community health center, will partner with Care for the Homeless and the New York Academy of Medicine on the initiative as the New York Community Health Information Network (NYCHIN).

Dr. Neil Calman, the Institute's president and CEO, said, "Our goal is to demonstrate how community health centers can use electronic health records to identify and address health disparities evident among their patients. With this funding from HRSA, we will strengthen our ability to accurately document race, ethnicity and language data on our patients. We will also be developing a Spanish-language patient health record that will allow patients to easily and securely view their health information online in their preferred language."

The new program builds on the previous collaborations between the Institute and Care for the Homeless, a community health center which serves over 5,000 homeless patients each year; and the New York Academy of Medicine, an independent research, education and policy organization. The three organizations designed the project following the 2009 publication of an Institute of Medicine report that called for race, ethnicity, and language data to be standardized and more detailed across health care provider organizations, and recommends collecting "granular" ethnicity data in electronic health records (EHRs) whenever possible. Following the implementation of the project, NYCHIN will work to disseminate best practices to EHR-equipped health centers across the country.

In a press release announcing the funding, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said, "We need health information technology to bring our health care system into the 21st century. This essential technology improves the quality of care we all receive and helps make care more efficient."

Of the 45 grants totaling \$83.9 million awarded by HRSA through this program, three were to organizations in New York State. The other two award recipients in the state are the Community Healthcare Association of New York State and Finger Lakes Migrant Health Care Project.

###

The Institute for Family Health is a federally qualified health center network with 24 practice sites in New York State. The Institute also operates two family medicine residency programs and several community health promotion programs. In 2007 the Institute was named a National Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Disparities by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2009 all Institute centers received the highest recognition from the National Committee for Quality Assurance as Patient Centered Medical Homes. For more information, visit [.institute2000.org](http://institute2000.org).