

## [In Preparation for the Deluge—A Note from OKPCA’s Executive Director](#)



Getting what you’ve always longed for often comes at a high price, especially when it figuratively comes all at once; that is, over the next five years. It is no secret that long-range funding for the Section 330 Community Health Centers (CHC) Program -beginning federal fiscal year 2011 - places health centers in the enviable position of becoming more recognizable providers of choice rather than those of last resort. [Read more!](#)

**Greta Stewart, MPH, CAE**  
**Executive Director, Oklahoma Primary Care Association**

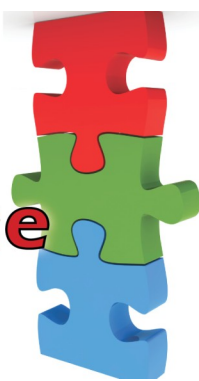
## [New Funding Opportunities: What You Should Know Before Diving In](#)

After much anticipation, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released its New Access Point (NAP) application for 330 community health center (CHC) development. With HRSA -11-017, up to \$250 million may be available to support approximately 350 NAP awards in FFY 2011. The two-step process has due dates of November 17 and December 15, 2010. This growth opportunity is the first in a series of many projected over the next five years. When exploring new opportunities, it is important to fully understand associated risks. Principles from other life experiences that broaden horizons can provide insight. [Read More!](#)

# Register Now!

## Connecting the Pieces: OKPCA’s Annual Conference

October 21-22, 2010  
Embassy Suites • Norman



## [Smoking Cessation Coverage](#)

The U.S. Public Health Service has recommended seven medications and three types of counseling as effective in helping smokers quit. The seven FDA approved smoking cessation products include three OTC nicotine replacement products (skin patches, chewing gum, & lozenges), two prescription-only nicotine replacement products (Nicotrol nasal spray & Nicotrol oral inhaler), and two prescription medicines (Chantix & Zyban). The three approved types of counseling include group, individual, and phone counseling. [Read More!](#)

## [AmeriCorps\\*VISTA: Building Capacity for Oklahoma CHCs](#)

VISTA members have been and can continue to be a valuable resource for community health centers. Members bring a desire to generate change and a dedication of service to the community in addition to valuable skills. Through AmeriCorps\*VISTA, health centers can build their capacity to quality health care to their communities and can, in turn, create life-long advocates of the community health center program.

With the passage of national health care reform and the anticipated increase in demand on health care services that it will likely bring, the ability of Oklahoma’s community health center program to build its capacity to meet this demand has become increasingly important. AmeriCorps\*VISTA members have been a vital part of doing just that – building capacity. [Read More!](#)

See photos from Oklahoma’s National Health Center Week celebrations!



## [Taking Health Care to the Next Level](#)

Community health centers have garnered bipartisan support as is evidenced by the doubling of health centers under President Bush’s *Presidential Initiative to Expand Health Centers* and health centers having historic support via health reform and President Obama. The health center program has moved from one of the best kept secrets in health care to a point of much wider recognition. With that growing prominence comes high expectations, greater scrutiny, misperceptions in need of clarifying, outreach and education and a bigger responsibility to a growing patient base. There also is a tremendous opportunity to expand upon collaborative partnerships. [Read More!](#)

## [Meaningful Use: Mission Possible](#)

One of the next steps in the evolution of healthcare delivery in America was taken on July 13 when the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released their final rule for the Electronic Health Records Incentive Program. These rules were published in the Federal Registry on July 28 and will become effective 60 days later, on or about September 25, 2010. Designed to encourage the adoption of electronic health records systems (EHR) by providers, this rule establishes the requirements and parameters for demonstrating achievement of Stage 1 meaningful use and thereby qualification to receive the incentive. [Read more!](#)

## [Good News and Bad about Diabetes...Is Better News Coming?](#)

Diabetes is known as the largest and most aggressively growing chronic disease in America. Here is the **good news**: diabetes does not *necessarily* lead to serious and life-threatening complications such as heart disease and stroke, kidney disease, nervous system damage, amputations, dental disease, pregnancy complications and other health adversities. The **bad news** for Oklahomans is we experience the adverse human and financial tolls of diabetes at higher rates than most other Americans. [Read more!](#)

## [Building Public Relationships: Developing A Communication Plan](#)

Developing a communication plan is now more important than ever with the growth plans, ARRA reporting and transparencies associated with health centers. Whether it’s social networking or community outreach, a strong communication plan is the key to building support for your health center from within your community. [Read more!](#)

### Helpful Links

- ▶ [Board Bulletins](#)
- ▶ [OKPCA Policy](#)
- ▶ [HRSA.gov](#)
- ▶ [NACHC.org](#)
- ▶ [OKHCA.org](#)

**Oklahoma Primary Care Association**  
4300 North Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 203  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
Phone: 405-424-2282  
Fax: 405-424-1111  
E-mail: [info@okpca.org](mailto:info@okpca.org)

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