



CRCHC Receives Grant from HRSA Early Childhood Development



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Concord, NC – *Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Centers is one of the five health centers in North Carolina to receive funding from the HRSA Early Childhood Development.*

During National Health Center Week in August 2023, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded \$30 million to 151 HRSA-funded health centers to refine developmental outcomes amongst children ranging from ages 0-5. Of the 151 health centers, CRCHC was selected and received a grant of \$200,000. The Early Childhood Development Funding is used by health centers to increase the number of children and their families assisted with accessing appropriate follow-up services. According to the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), in 2021 health centers served nearly 3 million children ages 0-5, which was seen as a window of opportunity to increase developmental screening and needed follow-up services.

Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Centers will allocate the funding to the recruitment and retention of early childhood development staff and utilize the best practices to further enhance the pediatric program. CRCHC plans to partner with local community organizations to offer ECD screenings to children in the Cabarrus and Rowan counties. The funds ultimately give the organization the opportunity to improve its care coordination and referral services for the pediatric population.

"We are grateful to have been selected by HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration) as a recipient of funding for critically needed early childhood development screening and referral to services. An African Igbo proverb says, "It takes a village to raise a child." With this in mind, we hope that by leveraging our care teams that integrate clinical social workers and community health workers with experience in behavioral health, we can foster the idea of a village and help parents, caregivers, and families identify potential problems early," said Jamie Stevens, PMHNP, DNP, CRCHC's Director of Behavior Health. "They can help parents and caregivers access the services they deserve and that can give children the best chance for a healthy and successful life. Too often parents of children who have developmental problems have difficulty understanding what is happening with their child, they have anxiety about what it means for the future and have difficulty knowing how to respond. Stigma and fear are real things for parents of very young

children when a developmental problem is detected. The hope is, by speaking openly and honestly with parents and caregivers, our skilled behavioral health staff can help them work through the fear and stigma and break down the barriers that might get in the way." said Jamie.

Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Centers, Inc. (CRCHC) is a community-based nonprofit organization founded in 2003 and dedicated to positively impacting the health of the community. CRCHC serves more than 15,000 patients annually by providing quality medical, dental, and behavioral health services, without regard for a patient's ability to pay, and serves as a community resource for eliminating health disparities.