



## PRESS RELEASE

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### UNITY HEALTH CARE AWARDED FUNDING FOR ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

Washington, DC – Unity Health Care (Unity), provider of primary health care to the medically underserved in Washington, DC since 1985, has been awarded \$1.4 million by the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services for its successful Electronic Health Records (EHR) grant application. This award will provide a major boost to Unity's EHR initiative and its ability to offer EHR to over 70,000 patients served within its healthcare centers and programs. Unity was one of only twenty-seven programs selected from around the country for this highly competitive funding.

In announcing the award, HRSA Administrator, Elizabeth M. Duke noted that, "these awards are vital to reaching Presidents Bush's goal of adoption of electronic health records for most Americans by 2014." Duke added, "Health information technology has the potential to revolutionize health care especially for residents of underserved communities."

"As our network of service sites grows and the needs of those we serve increase through the District of Columbia, Unity will now move faster from a paper record environment to a state of the art electronic health record for all our clients," said Vincent A. Keane, CEO/President of Unity Health Care. "We are working actively with our vendor and can assure our clients that protecting your medical information while providing improved quality care will continue to be the fundamental principle of this service," Keane added.

As part of its plan to transition into EHRs, Unity has undergone a very detailed process to identify its needs and the vendor that would best suit those needs. A task force of Unity providers, front line staff and administrators evaluated more than six proposals that responded to the needs in Unity's request for proposal, and invited several to make detailed presentations to the task force. Unity recently selected *eClinicalworks* as its vendor of choice and is presently involved in negotiations with them regarding this service. Unity plans to have EHR at all its health centers by the end of 2008. When fully implemented, EHR will afford for health data collection and data sharing among its health centers and with many health partners in the District of Columbia.

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Unity Health Care provides health care to medically underserved in the District of Columbia, including almost 12,000 homeless men and women either in the streets or at shelters throughout the city. Founded in 1985, Unity Health Care is the fourth largest community health center network in the country, offering a full range of health services regardless of patients' ability to pay. Unity operates in more than 30 sites, including community-based health centers, homeless medical sites, specialized health centers, correctional health facilities, and mobile health units. Unity's mobile outreach vans travel throughout the city, providing care to homeless persons and "hard to reach" substance abusers. In 2006, Unity provided care to more than 70,000 people who accessed services more than 321,000 times. For more information about Unity Health Care, Inc., visit [www.unityhealthcare.org](http://www.unityhealthcare.org).

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