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Date: September 4, 2009
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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION

NEWS RELEASE

THE NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION RECEIVES \$4,000,000 GRANT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Possible recommended five year grant project, totaling \$20,000,000

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division's Primary Care Office announced today the Office has been awarded a federal grant for providing Nevada's uninsured residents access to affordable health care. The initial grant totals \$4,000,000 for the first year and, based upon performance, may be extended for a total of five years.

Approximately \$3.3 million (83% of the total) each year will be used to pay for insurance premiums for the target population, which includes uninsured, low-income 60-64 year olds. Additionally, \$600,000 per year will be used to enhance the operations of Nevada's two non-profit health care networks, Access to Healthcare Network in northern Nevada and Great Basin HealthNet in southern Nevada. The networks will have the lead in recruiting participants for the five year project and will assist others who contact them to access health care services. The Primary Care Office will receive approximately \$100,000 to manage the program.

"Nevada's seniors are the people we need to thank for making our state as great as it is today," said Governor Jim Gibbons. "I commend the State Health Division for taking an aggressive approach in acquiring these federal funds that will ensure about 400 of our seniors get the health insurance they need."

Project goals include:

- Implement a statewide plan for sustainable health care. Funds will be used to create and sustain The Center for Sustainable Healthcare, on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno;
- Provide outreach and enrollment assistance to approximately 400 uninsured, low-income 60-64 year old Nevadans. This will be accomplished by the two non-profit networks;
- Provide insurance to the target population by purchasing a comprehensive benefit package. The insurance carrier has not been identified;
- Offer client-friendly navigation and wellness services to all participants and all individuals that seek assistance through a call center and the two non-profit networks; and
- Monitor the health status and satisfaction of the approximately 400 newly insured Nevadans. This information will be compiled and used to inform decisions nationally and within the state.

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