

OneAthens Healthcare Plan

Create the OneAthens Healthcare Plan to serve the primary health care needs of the estimated 14,250 uninsured in Athens. The Plan will operate as a 501(c)3 (non-profit tax, deductible organization) and have an initial work program with the following goals:

GOAL 1: CREATE A LOCAL HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN FOR PRIMARY CARE

- Focus: reimbursement for primary care services for the 14,250 uninsured in Athens
- Initially, this Plan will reimburse for primary care provided to Plan members being seen at Athens Neighborhood Health Center, Nurses Clinic, and Mercy Clinic, and some primary care services at Clarke County Health Department. This will increase capacity (both hours and number of staff) of the clinics.
- Estimated costs: \$2,200,000 (\$61 per visit x 35,625 visits – patients visit doctor on average 2.5 times per year)

GOAL 2: SUPPORT DESIGNATION AS A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER FOR ATHENS NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER

- Focus: FQHC designation ensures improved reimbursement rates, creates access to best prices for pharmaceuticals, and includes gaining status as a health professional shortage area which allows doctors, dentists, mental health professionals, and nurses to work with clinics to pay off student loans.
- Estimated costs: Application consulting services currently donated to ANHC

GOAL 3: DEVELOP CLINICS INTO “MEDICAL HOMES”

- A Medical Home is defined as a provider network that establishes a provider network; includes a basket of services: chronic disease management, wellness and health maintenance, and acute illness care; provides reasonable access to network providers by phone; ensures the ability to obtain acute care or advice within 24 hours including nights and weekends; ensures that office visits are well organized and that the schedule and wait times meet recognized standards; and provision of and/or capacity for referral for education and social service navigation.
- Focus: ensure indigent have a regular provider, able to contact provider, coverage on evenings and weekends.
- Estimated costs: Commitment obtained from clinics to move in this direction with funding from Local Health Coverage Plan

GOAL 4: CREATE HEALTH OUTREACH AND NAVIGATOR NETWORK

- This Outreach Network will provide holistic follow-up for low-income Athenians who utilize the clinics and ER to help them navigate the healthcare system as well as enroll hard to reach uninsured members of the community into the Coverage Plan.
- Focus: Case Managers and community-based volunteers decrease visits to ER, provide disease management, health promotion reminders, and connection to existing resources.
- Cost: Four nurse case managers, two social work case managers, and nurse program manager. (see cost structure below)

GOAL 5: CREATE A PHYSICIAN REFERRAL SYSTEM

- The Physician Referral System coordinates donated medical services provided by primary and specialty care physicians in their offices for uninsured and low-income Athenians. System staff coordinates patient visits and follows up with patients to connect them to other resources.
- Focus: Evenly distribute patients to physicians in order to increase physician's willingness to provide uncompensated care.
- Cost: \$ 280,000 to coordinate the recruitment of volunteer physicians and the disbursement of patients. This is a mid-range estimate based upon Gainesville, GA (\$170,000) and Buncombe County, NC (\$390,000).

GOAL 6: CREATE A MEDICATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- A Medication Assistance Program will help patients access medicines at affordable rates
- Focus: Discount programs already exist through drug manufacturers, but patients need help filling out the paper work. In addition, clinics can coordinate buying power with pharmacies and hospitals for pharmaceuticals not included in discount programs.
- Cost: Part of Goals 2 and 4

GOAL 7: DEVELOP FUNDRAISING STRATEGY

- Work with ACC, State Government, the Federal Government, area Hospitals, and Foundations to secure funding for a five year period. Sustaining funding will be developed during the initial five year period.

OneAthens Healthcare Plan Estimated Staffing Timeline

Action	Target Date
Support Federally Qualified Health Center designation for Athens Neighborhood Health Center	Ongoing
Hire overall director	4/1/08
Director coordinating with agencies, government, & local contacts to establish funding, policies, & support. Coordinates other pieces of the recommendations. Applies for grants. Establishes legal structure (501c3). Hires other key people.	4/1/08 – 8/30/08
Hire Manager of Health Plan	6/1/08
Engage volunteer IT manager	6/14/08
Hire Outreach/Navigation Manager	8/1/08
Implement Health Plan	9/1/08
Hire Case Managers	10/1/08
Establish Navigators/Outreach workers	12/1/08
Establish Referral Network	5/1/09
Create Medication Assistance Program	Ongoing

Estimated Summary of Costs

Overall Director	\$125,000
Manager of Health Plan	\$100,000
Manager of Outreach/Navigation	\$ 75,000
Nurse Case Managers	\$208,000
Social Work Case Managers	\$ 83,200
IT Manager	Volunteer or donated
Health Plan	\$2,200,000
Referral Network	\$ 280,000
Estimated Total	\$3,071,200