



ACCESS INFORMATION

IN THE KNOW

- Project Access submitted a grant application July 8 to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for an additional year of funding from its Community Access Program (CAP). Up to 70% of the current year's grant funds are available to Project Access to continue its current CAP activities, such as the case management program at Wesley Medical Center and Via Christi Regional Medical Center.
- United Way of the Plains recently notified Project Access that its request for 2003 funding has been approved, the third year United Way has provided financial support. The program will receive \$180,000 in 2003.
- Project Access continues to be contacted by communities throughout the nation interested in learning how to establish their own program to provide health care to the uninsured. Early in the year, representatives from the Santa Fe, NM medical community visited Wichita. A group from the Travis County Medical Society (Austin, TX) recently spent the day visiting Project Access. Travis County plans to begin enrolling patients October 1. Other communities who received assistance from Wichita's Project Access and are now enrolling patients include Topeka and Oklahoma City.
 "We're pleased to be part of a nationwide network of communities seeking ways to assist the uninsured," said Anne Nelson, program director.

Year Two Report Analyzes Donated Services

The HCFAs and UB92s have been scrutinized, the numbers processed and the graphs created. The result of all these computations is the "Project Access Year Two Operations Analysis Report," compiled by Ruth Wetta-Hall of the Department of Preventive Medicine at KUSM-Wichita.

Her research demonstrates that many factors have remained relatively unchanged, in particular demographic characteristics and medical diagnostic categories. But what has changed since statistics were compiled for the first year of operation of Project Access (1999-2000) is important — the average donated service charge is lower in year two.

From 2000-2001, the average donated service charge for patients treated by a physician decreased by \$425 in comparison to year one findings. The average donated service per hospital admission decreased by \$1,493.

Other key findings in Wetta-Hall's report include the following:

- The number of Project Access patients living at 100% of federal poverty guidelines increased by 5% from year one.
- A great majority of patients are served for \$5,000 or less.
- Nearly 50% of year two patients served by physicians were treated for less than \$500; 14% were cared for between \$500 and \$1,000. Only 5.3% received donated services greater

	Year 1	Year 2
Number of patients receiving donated physician services	1,010	1,269
Average donated office service charge per patient	\$3,137	\$2,712
Number of patients receiving donated hospital services	566	682
Average donated service per hospital admission	\$4,388	\$2,895

than \$5,000 and the primary diagnoses of these patients was cancer.

- Just over 50% of patients in year two had only one hospital admission.
- More than 67% of patients had a length of stay at an area hospital of less than 24 hours.
- More than 50% of patients who had both hospital and physician office treatment in year two were treated for \$5,000 or less, compared to 41.7% in year one.
- Total charges for donated physician office services in year two was \$2,215,094 for 1,269 patients.
- Total charges for donated hospital services in year two was \$4,254,255 for 682 patients.

"Area hospitals, physicians and other health care providers are serving a large number of ill Sedgwick County residents who would otherwise be unable to access medical care," said Wetta-Hall.

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Average Participant in Project Access – Year 2

75% have a high school education or less

73% are unmarried

70% live at or below 100% of federal poverty level

62% are female

58% are employed

50% are Caucasian

Newest Staff Member Hard At Work

Kristi Friesen joined the staff of Project Access in November 2001. As program secretary, her duties are extensive: answering the phones; assisting the three service coordinators with patient charts and records; entering HCFA and UB92 claim forms in the database; conducting SF8 and productivity surveys with new and re-enrolling patients; filing charts; and mailing patient reminder post-cards.



But despite the workload, Kristi loves being a staff member at Project Access.

“It’s been great being part of an organization that helps people,” Kristi explained. “I enjoy interacting with the patients and hearing positive feedback from the people we’ve been able to help.”

Kristi worked in the human resources department at Kansas Children’s Service League before joining Project Access. She has a business administration degree from Grace University in Omaha.

Primary Diagnostic Categories	
Physician Offices	genitourinary system musculoskeletal system signs, symptoms & ill-defined conditions
Hospitals	neoplasms musculoskeletal system signs, symptoms & ill-defined conditions

Year Two Report

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Using a formula developed by the federal HRSA Community Access Program, the cost savings in Wichita-Sedgwick County from the volunteer efforts of local health care providers is approximately \$3,000,000 for the 1,484 patients enrolled in Project Access in 2000-2001.

“We’re pleased with the findings of the Year Two Operations Analysis Report,” said Anne Nelson, program director. “They support what we hear from patients every day — that Project Access is making a difference in the health and well-being of many citizens of Wichita-Sedgwick County.”

Information for the operations analysis report was drawn from the CARES demographic database, UB92 reports and HCFA reports.

“Missing data inflates or deflates utilization estimates,” said Wetta-Hall, emphasizing the **importance of the billing reports submitted to Project Access by physicians and hospitals.**

NUMBERS COUNT

Since September 1, 1999...

3,279 patients have enrolled in Project Access. **577 patients** are currently enrolled as of July 9

561 physicians are currently participating in Project Access

\$4,862,846 in care has been donated by physicians submitting HCFA billing reports

\$11,061,079 in care has been donated by seven area hospitals submitting UB92s

\$914,186 in prescriptions have been purchased with funding provided by the Sedgwick County Commission and the Wichita City Council and filled at no charge by **69 participating pharmacies**

City Proud of Project Access

The City of Wichita featured Project Access as one of three effective community initiatives in its recent efforts to be named an All-America City, a prestigious national award recognizing civic excellence. Wichita was selected as one of 30 finalist communities for the 2002 award. However, it was not among the 10 finalists designated as a 2002 All-America City. Wichita won the award in 1961, 1993 and 1999.

Tricia Petz, Project Access administrative assistant, along with Fred McLean of Good Samaritan Clinic and Patty Mitts of SRS, helped to represent Wichita at the awards activities held June 15 in Kansas City.



Medical Society of Sedgwick County
1102 S. Hillside
Wichita, KS 67211
(316) 688-0600
www.projectaccess.net