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Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center Receives \$12 Million Federal Grant to Fund Construction of its Cornelius Wellness Center

(Cornelius, OR - October 8, 2010) Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center is pleased to announce its receipt of a \$12 million federal grant to support the construction of the new Cornelius Wellness Center. The grant will cover 88% of the estimated project costs of \$13,717,569 with the balance of funding made up in community support. The grant was awarded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration through funding approved in the Affordable Care Act.

“Health centers like Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center work hard to provide culturally appropriate services and access to health care for thousands of low income and uninsured families in Washington County” said Senator Ron Wyden. “The funding will allow Virginia Garcia and health centers like it throughout the state to expand existing centers or construct new ones that will form the safety net for thousands of patients who would otherwise be without access”.

Virginia Garcia is the only federally-qualified health center in Washington and Yamhill Counties and their care saves local hospital emergency departments \$9.8 million annually. By 2014, Virginia Garcia will serve 45,000 patients per year – 15,000 more than it serves today. At that time, Virginia Garcia will serve one of every three uninsured community members. The organization provides approximately \$5.4 million a year in uncompensated care to uninsured individuals, which will continue to be funded through community support.

“Families across Washington County depend on Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center for everything from their kids’ check-ups to dental care,” said Senator Merkley. “The new health care law will create jobs by helping build a new facility to ensure that countless Oregonians receive the health care they need.”

The Cornelius Wellness Center will help Virginia Garcia respond to the critical need for health services to the community in Western Washington County. The 42,000 square foot facility will replace the organization’s aging clinic and will incorporate the latest thinking on the integrated health care home model: medical, behavioral health, pharmacy, health education services, and will align with the dental and vision services offered at the Cornelius site. The new facility is expected to accommodate over 11,000 patients and will generate over 104 jobs during its two year construction phase.

“This is great news for the Main Street Area of Cornelius and a significant contribution to the health care of the community” said Cornelius Mayor, Bill Bash.

The design of the facility will incorporate sustainable “green” technology and will be LEED Gold certified. The design will also incorporate community gardens and green spaces on the site located in the center of the City of Cornelius. The project will feature electronic health record technology to support efficient and high quality services.

“Community health centers, such as the Virginia Garcia Memorial Clinic, are at the heart of the health reform law’s commitment to delivering quality and affordable care. Community health centers in Oregon see approximately 250,000 patients each year and provide preventive and primary care services to patients regardless of their ability to pay, with service charges set according to income” said Congressman David Wu. “In many cases, community health centers provide the only source of health care available to low-income families. Funds made available under the health care reform law will create construction jobs and health center jobs in Oregon, and will enable community health centers to provide affordable care to even more patients.”

For more information about Virginia Garcia, please visit www.viriniagarcia.org.