



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Delaware—Rural Housing Service

Strategic Partners

USDA Helps Expand Access to High-Quality Health Care

Outline of Need

La Red is Spanish for “the network”, and that is what has developed since the La Red Health Center began more than a decade ago as a 24-hr hotline to facilitate access to medical care for non-English speaking residents of Sussex County. Growing patient numbers caused the La Red Health Center in Georgetown, DE to outgrow its facilities. In 2008, La Red saw 5,000 patients. In 2009, that number grew to 6,500. La Red anticipates as many as 14,000 patients in coming years. Half the patients who visit La Red have no health insurance. The majority are Hispanic, many working as poultry farmers and speaking Spanish only. Because La Red operates in an area with a shortage of health care services, it is designated a “federally qualified health center”. A new ambulatory health care facility is needed.

How Rural Development Helped

In FY 10, \$2 million Community Facility (CF) loan for land purchase and construction of basic facility (Phase I – 15,000 sq. ft.). \$100,000 ARRA CF Grant for new equipment to furnish dental exam/treatment rooms. FY 11 \$999,000 CF loan and \$31,100 CF grant for construction of (Phase II – 10,000 sq. ft.). FY 12 \$500,000 supplemental funding for Phase II construction of facility . Total Investment \$3,630,100.



The Results

On April 2, 2012, La Red moved to the new 25,000 s.f. health center that has quadrupled the amount of space it previously had at two existing sites. Two doctors, a dentist and a dental hygienist have been added.

The new health center is located on a 3 acre parcel and has a much better doctor-patient ratio and is fully accessible and in compliance with privacy laws. The new facility features more waiting and exam rooms, HIV, Medicaid and Diabetes counseling rooms, and dental office and operatories. The health center also offers behavioral health services, counseling, staff and administration, including information technology. Studies have shown that those who have access to these types of centers are healthier because they are able to take advantage of preventive care. This translates into fewer visits to emergency rooms and a nationwide savings estimate in billions of dollars.

An organization that we are proud of, and in many cases serves as an extended arm to Rural Development, is NCALL (The National Council on Agricultural Life & Labor Research Fund, Inc.).

NCALL is a nonprofit that primarily provides housing opportunities to residents in rural communities, through technical assistance and training. Financing is also provided for affordable housing and community development. NCALL typically works in smaller increments of money -- thousands of dollars instead of millions. In this case, they provided the interim financing for the construction of the project. Now that the facility is complete, Rural Development will pay off the loan from NCALL and provide permanent financing for the facility. La Red also got money from banks, county council and private foundations, bringing the project costs to about \$4.5 million.

Fast Facts

Program: Community Facilities Program

Congressional District: DE-At Large

Investment: \$3,630,100 Loan and Grant

Partners: NCALL, Sussex County Council, AstraZeneca, Local Banks and Private Foundations

Demographics

Georgetown (Sussex County) is in Southern Delaware
Rural Population—4,643

Impact:

- Increase 4 jobs in medical area.

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