On Tuesday, August 11th, 2009, the New York State Department of Health signed off on its grant contract with SUNY Downstate to conduct health resource planning in central Brooklyn. The grant, titled the Brooklyn Healthcare Improvement Project or B-HIP, is in the amount of $926,530 and is scheduled to go until February 25, 2011. Prior to receiving the signed contract, the project leadership was notified that the grant had been approved but not the accompanying funds.

Data will be collected on healthcare provider sites, services offered, service utilization, languages spoken, hours of operation, insurance and charity care policies, educational and professional qualifications, and linkages with other facilities. A key focus of the survey will be to study the overuse of emergency rooms and hospitalizations for conditions that could be prevented by good outpatient care.

Grace Wong, Vice President of Managed Care and Clinical Business at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and Project Investigator for B-HIP indicated the importance of the project, “This is the first time in at least 25 years that an effort is being made to accumulate a comprehensive list of healthcare services and utilization over a broad portion of one of New York City’s boroughs.”

“We are very grateful to have the enthusiastic support of leading healthcare institutions, insurers, government agencies, planning boards, and other stakeholders in this important effort,” she added.

An innovative part of the survey will be the mapping of information into a Geographic Information System (GIS) that can be used by all stakeholders, done in conjunction with SUNY Downstate’s Graduate Program in Public Health.

Now that Downstate has received the grant funds, a full complement of project staff can also be hired. In the meantime, project leadership has been busy meeting with the project members to provide an overview of the initiative and with insurers to discuss sharing claims data.

The project leadership is excited to announce that four positions have now been posted for the B-HIP Project. Three of the positions are full-time and include a Community Liaison, a Data/Utilization Analyst, and a GIS Programmer. The fourth is a part-time Administrative Assistant to the Project’s Director. These positions will be in place for the duration of the grant. The closing date for applications is October 11, 2009. In coming months, information will also be released for neighborhood canvasser positions that will be paid on an hourly basis and will be responsible for going block by block gathering provider data.

For more details and information on how to apply for the four posted positions, visit the following links:

Community Liaison: http://138.5.41.200/VacPost/RF.IDC?SeeLine=9/77


Administrative Assistant:

For questions or more information about B-HIP, contact us at 718-270-2726.