



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Michelle Shaljian, PCDC, 212-437-3933, mshaljian@pcdc.org

Henry Thompson, CHCR, 718-924-2254, hthompson@chcrichmond.org

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER OF RICHMOND TO EXPAND PRIMARY & DENTAL CARE FOR STATEN ISLAND'S UNDERSERVED

PCDC to provide \$2.5 million in bridge financing to expedite state-funded project

October 5, 2011 (STATEN ISLAND, NY) - Today the Community Health Center of Richmond (CHCR) announced that it secured \$2.5 million in Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC) financing to expedite a state-funded grant project to build an extension clinic for residents of Staten Island's North Shore. The two-story 5,600-square-foot clinic, located at 439 Port Richmond Avenue will significantly expand the clinic's number of annual medical visits, and also offer new dental, ophthalmology, and podiatric services.

"We believe this is a huge step in expanding access to primary care for Staten Island," said **Henry Thompson, CEO of CHCR**. "This expansion is critical to bringing much needed primary care to the North Shore, which is home to the majority of Staten Island's underserved, many of whom are immigrants and/or uninsured and without a regular provider."

The \$5 million project funded by the State of New York Department of Health, Bureau of HEAL, Workforce Development & Capital Investment, will include the construction of three exam rooms and six dental operatories, in addition to administration and conference/training room spaces. The newly renovated space will allow the center to accommodate 12,000 additional annual visits and will include a new elevator to make the facility ADA compliant, as well as improve HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems.

"The Community Health Center of Richmond is a vital provider in the Staten Island community and we couldn't be more excited to accelerate their expansion," said **Ronda Kotelchuck, PCDC's Chief Executive Officer**. "This project will allow CHCR to enhance services for a community in great need of high-quality, patient-centered primary care."

CHCR is Staten Island's first community owned and operated primary health care clinic. The site was established in 2006 as a result of a planning process led by the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation and major stakeholders on Staten Island, after a study identified the pressing need for primary care capacity in the North Shore of Staten Island. CHCR now serves approximately 8,000 patients a year.

PCDC, a nonprofit lending organization provided the financing through its Bridge Loan fund, which helps support temporary cash flow needs for borrowers facing specific funding hurdles, such as the need to use cash not yet available via committed government or foundation grants. PCDC has deployed more than \$9 million in Bridge Loan financing since 2008.

About Community Health Center of Richmond (CHCR): The mission of the Community Health Center of Richmond is to provide quality primary care that is accessible, affordable, and respectful to all the communities it serves. Established in 2006, CHCR is a 501c3 nonprofit health care organization and Article 28 Diagnostic & Treatment Center under the Public Health Law of the State of New York. In 2009, CHCR received full Federally Qualified Health Center

(FQHC) status from the US Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). CHCR provides comprehensive patient-centered primary care, including internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, well baby care and geriatrics. The center also provides enabling services such as social work, health education, and assistance with enrollment in public health insurance programs and community health outreach.

About PCDC (www.pcdc.org): Founded in 1993, PCDC is a nonprofit organization recognized by the U.S. Treasury as Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). PCDC provides the capital to build new facilities, expand practices and upgrade outmoded equipment, leading to better services for more patients. To date, PCDC's programs have leveraged a total investment of \$270 million for 91 primary care capital projects in underserved communities across New York State. This investment has transformed 655,000 sq. feet of space into fully functioning primary care practices while creating 1,300 construction jobs and 2,300 permanent jobs. This additional capacity now accommodates an additional 1.7 million medical visits annually by 575,000 underserved New Yorkers.

###