

September 19, 2006 Nursing organization receives grant

For Immediate Release

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Indiana, PA - U.S. Rep. John Murtha announced today that the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) of Indiana County has received a \$25,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The funds will be used for a new initiative in case management that will assist VNA in monitoring patients with diabetes.

The project will expand the existing nurse outreach program by the acquisition of 27 new monitoring units with related glucometer cables that will be used to monitor diabetes once patients are discharged from area hospitals.

"Southwestern Pennsylvania is disproportionately affected by diabetes, yet too often, residents in rural areas are isolated from their healthcare providers by disabilities, lack of transportation or inclement weather," Murtha said. "We hope that these new monitoring units will lead to an improved quality of life for rural patients by helping them to avoid the debilitating effects that often result from poorly managed diabetes."

It is anticipated that these monitoring devices will greatly improve the "self-care" aspects of these discharged patients and reduce the number of home visits by 22%, the number of Emergency Room visits by 66%, and re-admissions by 80%. Approximately 108 patients will benefit from the use of this equipment over a one year period of time.

In addition to ARC funding, other local sources will provide \$26,300, bringing the total project funding to \$51,300. The project is part of the ARC's overall goal to assist the region to be able to connect and utilize the information highway to promote economic and human resource development.