

November 1, 2006 Health clinic designation approved

For Immediate Release

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New Kensington, PA - U.S. Rep. John Murtha announced today that Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently designated the Community Health Clinic, Inc. in New Kingston, PA, as a Federally Qualified Health Center look-alike for purposes of Medicaid reimbursement.

The Community Health Clinic (CHC) is located in Westmoreland County and serves indigent, under-insured and homeless clients from Armstrong, Allegheny, Butler and Westmoreland counties.

CHC served 17,887 individuals in 2006 although more than half were uninsured and, of the 12,253 served already this year, 7,563 were uninsured.

"Without the services of CHC, many people in these areas would be without primary health care, childhood and adult immunizations, free medications, and gynecologic and other women's health care services," Murtha said. "CHC's designation will greatly enhance its ability to develop and implement these comprehensive health care services."

With look-alike status, Murtha said, CHC will be eligible for reimbursements for services provided to people on Medicaid and Medicare, and will be able to apply for federal grants.

Murtha has been in contact with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services several times for over a year in supporting the CHC application for look-alike status.

"This designation will significantly improve CHC's financial situation and enable them to continue to provide these vital services throughout the area," Murtha added.