

# GRANTMAKER FOCUS

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SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

## REACH Healthcare Foundation

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The REACH Healthcare Foundation (REACH) was established in 2003 with proceeds from the sale of a regional nonprofit hospital and health care organization to Hospital Corporation of America, Inc. The foundation was approved as a 501(c)(3) in 2004. Since its first year of grantmaking in 2005, the foundation has invested \$31 million in programs and initiatives aimed at ensuring access to quality, affordable health services for all.

The foundation was formed for the purpose of improving the health of poor and medically underserved people in the Kansas-Missouri bi-state region. The foundation's longstanding interest areas include oral health, mental health, and safety net services, along with health policy and advocacy. Located in the Kansas City metropolitan area, REACH's service area includes Allen, Johnson, and Wyandotte counties in Kansas; and Cass, Jackson, and Lafayette counties in Missouri, a region that includes urban, rural, and suburban communities across two Midwestern states.

**Program Information:** REACH's grantmaking priorities are outlined in a theory of change that guides grantmaking decisions and identifies targeted strategies to advance models of patient-centered care, promote integration of oral health and mental health with physical health care, support health policy for protecting health care coverage, advocate for consumer engagement in health care decisions, and increase the cultural competency of health care organizations and their providers.

### ► Financial Information:

Total Assets: \$117.3 million (FY 2011)  
Amount Dedicated to Health-Related Grants: \$4.2 million (FY 2011)

### ► Special Initiatives and/or Representative Health and Human Services Grants:

- **Medical Home Initiative** – The Medical Home Initiative provides individualized technical assistance and peer support for safety net clinics to adopt tenets of the medical home model of care. Eight clinics are participating in the initiative; four have achieved recognition as medical homes through the National Committee for Quality Assurance (\$1.1 million since 2007).
- **Cultural Competency Initiative** – Through this initiative the foundation aims to improve health equity by increasing the cultural competence of health and human service organizations and their providers. A major component of the initiative is technical assistance to assess organizational knowledge and skills and to help organizations develop plans for strengthening cultural competence.

To date, nearly 20 organizations have benefited from technical assistance and a learning community. Two additional funders have joined the initiative since its start (\$480,000 since 2008).

- **The Affordable Care Act Opportunity Fund** – REACH partnered with four health foundations that work in Kansas to establish a \$450,000 fund to help state agencies and nonprofit organizations prepare for implementation of the health care law. The fund awarded grants to help organizations leverage federal health and innovation grants (\$50,000).
- **Regional Health Care Initiative** – This initiative is a joint effort with other metropolitan-area funders to increase the capacity of the region's safety net health care system. The effort supports a safety net clinic and a community mental health center collaborative and has produced several reports on the state of safety net and behavioral health services (\$1.6 million since 2007).
- **Rural Health Initiative** – In 2012 REACH introduced a new effort to partner with rural community leaders on identifying strategies for achieving substantial improvements in health care access and quality. REACH is working with teams from three rural counties on community engagement and strategy development. The foundation expects to begin investing in the counties' proposed strategies beginning in 2013 (\$70,000).

### Role of Philanthropy in Meeting Pressing Needs:

*“At REACH, we see a critical and urgent need to educate incoming policy leaders about the benefits of the health care law to people in the two states where we work. We are committed to supporting health advocacy and determining the role we can play in encouraging our states to participate in the expansion of Medicaid. If that is accomplished, we will come much closer to achieving our foundation's vision of access to health care for uninsured and medically underserved people.”*

**Brenda Sharpe**  
President and CEO

