

Gateway to Better Health Pilot Program-Year 1 Outcomes (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2013)
Presented August 2013

Executive Summary

Launched on July 1, 2012, the Gateway to Better Health Pilot Program provides primary, specialty, and urgent care coverage to uninsured¹ adults in St. Louis City and County, aged 19-64, through a network of community providers. The State has been authorized to spend up to \$30 million annually to preserve and improve primary care and specialty care in St. Louis in lieu of spending that amount of statutorily authorized funding on payments to disproportionate share hospitals (DSHs). The goal of the program is to provide a bridge for safety net providers and uninsured patients to coverage options available through federal health care reform.

In its first complete year of operation (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013), Gateway to Better Health provided health coverage to more than **28,000 otherwise uninsured St. Louis area residents**, ensuring these individuals access to basic medical services. Preliminary findings suggest that approximately **70% of currently enrolled individuals have utilized services** within the previous six months (January 1-June 30, 2013).

The information below provides a summary of key outcomes achieved during the first complete year of Gateway to Better Health operations:

- ***Gateway provided nearly 47,000 primary care and dental visits.***
 - Gateway primary care physicians see about 3,200 patients in their offices each month, providing everything from routine medical care to managing complicated chronic conditions.
 - Gateway dentists at community health centers see about 800 patients in their offices each month, providing basic preventive care, giving patients the opportunity to achieve better overall health.
 - Approximately 30% of all Gateway patients live with a chronic condition, such as diabetes or hypertension. These patients now have greater access to outpatient care and medications as well as care coordination and management programs that will keep them healthier and reduce preventable ED visits and hospitalizations.

- ***Gateway provided more than 150,000 medications to manage chronic conditions and other diseases.***
 - Access to affordable prescription drugs is an important ingredient in the management of chronic conditions and other diseases. All participating community health centers in the Gateway network either have on-site pharmacies or contracts with local pharmacies to provide easy access to Gateway members as they manage their health needs.

- ***Gateway provided more than 28,000 specialty and diagnostic care visits.***
 - For those Gateway patients with more advanced medical needs, primary care physicians are able to refer their patients for diagnostic and specialty care services as well as outpatient surgeries. Doctors make more than 2,000 of these referrals for advanced care each month.

¹To be considered “uninsured,” applicants must not be eligible for coverage through the Medicaid State Plan. Screening for Medicaid eligibility is the first step for the Gateway to Better Health eligibility determination.

- ***Less than 5% of Gateway patients used the emergency department for non-emergent reasons.***
 - Gateway patients are accessing emergency care appropriately. Less than five percent of all Gateway patients who have accessed emergency department (ED) care have done so for low-severity medical concerns. In comparison, St. Louis hospitals reported last year that 22% of their total ED visits were for non-emergent reasons.

- ***Based on preliminary findings, Gateway coverage is helping patients to better control their chronic conditions.***
 - As Gateway enters its second year, health outcome data from the program are beginning to emerge. For example, in one study at Grace Hill Health Centers, after enrolling in Gateway, 75% of a previously uninsured patient cohort with uncontrolled hypertension now has blood pressure less than 140/90. **More extensive medical outcome data will become available as the Gateway Evaluation Plan is executed through 2013/2014.**

- ***More than 50,000 otherwise uninsured individuals enrolled to receive healthcare coverage.***
 - As of June 30, 2013, health center efforts resulted in enrolling over 28,000 individuals in the Pilot Program at some point over the preceding year. During the first complete year of operations, preliminary findings suggest that health centers retained approximately 83% of patients enrolled at the July 1, 2012 program start date.
 - Mandatory Medicaid screening for Gateway applications resulted in over 22,000 individuals enrolled in MOHealthNet programs.

- ***After enrolling, 92% of Gateway patients said they would recommend their health center to a family member or friend.***
 - From July 1, 2012—June 30, 2013, satisfaction surveys were conducted on a quarterly basis with patients and providers intersecting with Gateway to Better Health. Overall, both patients and providers tended to have good experiences with Gateway.