



Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.

17 West Courtney, Dunkirk, NY 14048

www.chautauquaopportunities.com

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 9, 2006

Chautauqua Opportunities Awarded \$217,380 from NYS Health Department to Fund New Community Health Worker Program

The New York State Health Department has recently approved the application for a \$217,380 grant to Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. for a Community Health Worker Program (CHWP).

This program is designed to identify low-income, high risk, pregnant and parenting women in targeted areas of Chautauqua County and provide them with a range of health and education services on an in-home basis. The CHWP will assess women for a range of health indicators and prepare an individualized plan of services that addresses their health needs. The goal of the program is to improve birth outcomes as well as overall health for women and children in the program. Areas that will be addressed include: timely entry into prenatal care, lead hazards in the home, breast feeding, substance abuse, domestic violence, breastfeeding, family planning, HIV, immunizations, depression, and dental health. The program will make a significant impact on the health of participants.

There will be screening sites at the North and South ends of Chautauqua. The locations will be Connections North, 10825 Bennett Road in Dunkirk, New York and at the Laughlin Community Action Center, 610 West 3rd Street, Jamestown, New York. There will also be additional

outreach efforts through COI's thirteen monthly WIC clinics located throughout Chautauqua County

The Community Health Worker Program will be integrated into COI's Health Services department as part of the Maternal and Child Health Services division, which includes WIC (Women, Infants, Children), MOMS (Medicaid Obstetrical and Maternal Services), and a Prenatal Home Visiting Program.

This program was developed to improve birth outcomes through community outreach and education efforts. According to the 2000 Census, 13.8% of Chautauqua County's population lives below the poverty level. This situation does not allow access to proper family health care. Health Services Division Department Head Julie Town said, "With a declining tax base in Chautauqua County, there are few resources for much needed services including health care for women and children. Through this program, we are able to help future moms and their children have a healthier start at life. The fewer health problems a child has after being born, the greater the likelihood that the child will have a healthy beginning in preparation for school readiness and success."

For more information, contact Chautauqua Opportunities' Health Services at 661-9430 or 366-8176.

###

.....
Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. a Community Action Agency dedicated to promoting empowerment, economic independence, and opportunities for low-income people for over 40 years.

**CONTACT: Teresa Alonge- PR
(716) 366-3333 Ext 268**