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## **National Study Cites Impact of Stimulus Dollars and Health Centers** *Investment in Ohio Sparked Additional \$102 Million in Economic Activity*

(Columbus, Ohio) – A recently released national study cited the clear return on investment of stimulus dollars invested in Community Health Centers from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

In early 2009 slightly more than \$2 billion dollars was invested in Community Health Centers nation-wide for capital improvements, expansion (or retention) of personnel and services, and adoption of health information technology. The intent was to support Community Health Centers' mission to serve populations with limited access to health care, such as the uninsured, low-income populations, minorities, and the homeless, as well as generate new economic activities in communities hit hardest by the recession. The report indicates that \$3.2 billion dollars will be generated in economic activity throughout the United States.

In Ohio, Community Health Center received \$61 million in grants that sparked over \$102 million in economic activity. In essence for every \$1 invested there was a return of \$1.67.

“Recovery Act funds for community health centers are helping to expand Ohioans' access to medical care while creating jobs,” said U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown. “By funding construction and new technology at community health centers, we will lower costs, improve health infrastructure, and address important human needs.”

The Ohio Association of Community Health Centers believes the ARRA investment will continue to pay dividends in the coming years.

“Ohio's Community Health Centers have worked extremely hard to assure people continue to have an access point for primary and preventive care. The projections in the study match our internal numbers and we expect that the funding will allow for unprecedented growth in patients through 2010. Ohio continues to suffer from a significant economic downturn and Community Health Centers will continue to reach out beyond the 160 communities we currently serve,” said Shawn Frick, President & CEO, Ohio Association of Community Health Centers.

More than 1,100 health centers throughout the United States have received ARRA funding to date. These centers are projected to serve 21 million persons in 2011, including nearly three million new patients as a direct result of ARRA funding.

The complete study, conducted by The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, can be found at <http://www.gwumc.edu>.