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ALLSTON BRIGHTON, WALTHAM

Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center eyes \$19m facility in Allston Brighton

Posted by Matt Rocheleau May 7, 2012 01:45 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center plans to build a \$19.1-million facility in Allston Brighton to consolidate several of its current sites and to allow for long-term growth, officials said.

The [health organization](#) announced last week that it has received a \$5 million federal grant authorized through the federal health care law to help kick-start funding for the new center.

Under the leadership of Allston resident Joseph M. Smith, the community health center was established in 1974 at the Charlesview Apartments complex. The organization says it now serves nearly 12,000 patients annually at five locations in Allston, Brighton and Waltham.

But, leaders of the organization say the center has been unable to keep pace with demand for medical, dental and behavioral health services.

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“There are thousands of new patients who need our services that we do not currently have the space to serve, and with this grant, we will now be able to build a new facility to serve everyone in the Allston-Brighton community who needs high quality, cost-effective primary care services,” Elizabeth Browne, the center’s director, said in a statement.

“We are elated that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services selected our health center for funding,” her statement said. “This \$5 million is a down payment on making our dream of a new, larger facility a reality.”

Officials at the community health center could not immediately be reached for further comment Monday.

The organization was one of 11 Massachusetts community health centers selected to share in Affordable Care Act grants totaling nearly \$34 million – money that federal officials estimate will help the centers provide care to roughly 42,500 new patients.

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