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**For immediate release**

**DHHR announces \$1.5 Million to fund Black Lung Clinics**

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources received \$1.5 million from the Health Resources Services Administration to help coal miners with black lung disease. The funds will be distributed to eight community health centers in the Mountain State to provide direct services to assist coal workers who have respiratory and pulmonary conditions as a result of working in coal mines. The State appropriates \$198,000 additional money to supplement the federal funds.

The grants will allow Bluestone Health Association, Lincoln Primary Care Center, Hygeia Facilities Foundation, New River Health Association, Preston-Taylor Community Health Center, Rainelle Medical Center, Tug River Health Association and Valley Health Systems to provide direct services that may include outreach and education, primary care, patient and family education and counseling, patient care and coordination and pulmonary rehabilitation to coal miners and their families regardless of their ability to pay.

DHHR's Bureau for Public Health Commissioner Chris Curtis said, "The hard work of coal miners in West Virginia offers benefits to citizens of the state and the nation. With this grant and the state's supplement, we can help make a difference in the quality of life for those who need it."

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