

MEDIA RELEASE

Warren Achievement Center, Inc.

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Michael Lewis, President/CEO of Warren Achievement Center, Inc., announces the acquisition of a Federal Rural Health Care Services Outreach and Rural Health Network Development grant in the amount of \$180,506. This is a two-year grant to be utilized by the Tri-County Health Care Planning Network (T-CHCPN), of which Warren Achievement Center is a member, in implementing the Country Roads to Health project. The Tri-County Health Care Planning Network is a group of community providers in Henderson, Mercer and Warren Counties, Illinois, that recognize the lack of transportation options is leading to unmet health care needs of residents.

The T-CHCPN has developed the following output and outcome goals:

1. Develop a permanent and free-standing network of providers and support organizations to address health care needs in the three county area.
2. Make a formal evaluation of barriers to accessing healthcare in the area.
3. Complete a strategic plan focusing on community transportation to address the unmet healthcare needs of residents in Henderson, Mercer and Warren Counties.
4. Development of a sound network sustainability strategy to create meaningful long-term change in the community.

The planning process will include consistent communication with the external community, conducting an environmental scan including focus groups of potential users of services, a market analysis, an internal assessment, and a SWOT analysis. The potential users of service include seniors, those seeking mental health/substance abuse treatment, the disabled, children/families and those with critical health needs such as dialysis and chemotherapy. This information will then be used to set goals and objectives and develop an action plan to implement those goals and objectives including researching funding sources. It is believed that using a return on investment model the network will be able to show the potential for reduced trip costs for agencies, a reduction in missed appointments, improved access for consumers, less duplication of services and greater productivity in the services already being provided.