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## Woonsocket, SD Community Health Center Part of Vital Infrastructure

Healthcare in rural communities is part of the vital infrastructure necessary to keep a community viable. Horizon Health Care, Inc. invests in numerous communities as it operates 20 medical and five dental facilities throughout the state of South Dakota. The Horizon Health Care clinic is a Federally qualified community health center that serves the city of Woonsocket and the surrounding area. The Woonsocket



*In the photo above is the new Horizon Health Care, Inc. Clinic in Woonsocket, SD.*

Community Health Center is the only medial healthcare facility in Sanborn County. Horizon Health recently built a new medical clinic in Woonsocket to replace an aging building that couldn't accommodate a growing practice, nor could it be expanded.

Medical care is critical to the community infrastructure, documented by the 3,200 annual patient visits in this town of less than 655 and a county with 2,324 citizens (according to the 2013 census estimate). Since completion of the new clinic, Horizon has the information technology infrastructure in place throughout its provider network to offer acute care in Woonsocket by providers located throughout the state at other Horizon locations. As such, it provides vital medical and mental health services to the area using a Sliding Fee Program to insure these services are available and affordable to all. Horizon also takes an active role in the community by supporting the area schools, athletic programs, and local organizations through sponsorships and community projects.

The new facility is approximately 2,736 square feet, includes three exam rooms, minor procedure room, ex-ray room, nurse's workstation, telemedicine room, laboratory room, reception area, and a provider office.

A funding package secured through a partnership between Central Electric Cooperative and East River Electric's Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. (REED) assisted with the construction of the new medical clinic in Woonsocket. East River Electric's Reed fund provided revolving loan funds received through USDA Rural Development's Rural Economic Development Grant program.

Horizon has long-term standing with the community and plays a very active role in providing medical services in the rural area. The Woonsocket clinic provides medial healthcare for Woonsocket and three surrounding communities including Forestburg, Artesian, and Letcher in Sanborn County.

**Obligation Amount:** \$300,000 Rural Economic Development Grant

**Date of Obligation:** September 24, 2014

**Congressional District:** At Large, Senator Thune, Senator Rounds, and Congresswoman Noem

**Partners:** Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., East River Electric's (REED) Fund, and USDA Rural Development

**Demographics:** The City of Woonsocket began in 1883 at the junction of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and Saint Paul Railroads. Woonsocket is the county seat of Sanborn County and is home to the Sanborn County Courthouse. The population in Woonsocket is 655 and Sanborn County's population is 2,324 citizens (according to the 2013 census estimate).

**Impact:** Horizon has a long-term standing with the community and plays a very active role in providing medical services in the rural area. The Woonsocket clinic provides medial healthcare for Woonsocket and three surrounding communities including Forestburg, Artesian, and Letcher in Sanborn County.