As the largest not-for-profit health benefits insurer in the Mid-Atlantic region, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield (CareFirst) is proud to make a difference in the community by awarding grants to support initiatives and programs that help meet the health care needs of the communities we serve.

In fulfilling its mission to remove barriers to healthcare access, CareFirst recently invested nearly $3 million to expand the use of telemedicine services to help providers evaluate, diagnose and treat patients in rural and underserved areas in Maryland, Washington, DC and Northern Virginia.

In this CareFirst in the Community eNewsletter, we are pleased to share with you how we are expanding our Telemedicine initiative.

Information & Questions:

E-mail us at carefirstcommunityaffairs@carefirst.com
Visit our CareFirst in the Community website

Expanding the Use of Telemedicine

Over the next three years, the following organizations will receive funds to develop or expand existing telemedicine initiatives:

**Children's Hospital Foundation** - $300,000 to improve access to in-home pediatric care for Medicaid and uninsured patients;

**Cornerstone Montgomery** - $415,000 to improve access to behavioral health services to underserved communities upon discharge from hospital care;

**George Washington University** - $410,000 to provide specialty care for underserved patients in Washington, D.C.’s Wards 7 and 8 through creation of a telemedicine clinic at Unity Health Care’s Anacostia location;
The Medical Society of Northern Virginia Foundation - $250,000 to increase the number of volunteer specialists available to patients at Northern Virginia safety net health centers;

Queen Anne’s County Department of Health - $400,000 to implement the county’s Mobile Integrated Community Telemedicine Health Program;

Mosaic Community Services - $501,590 to increase access to behavioral health services and enhance care coordination for patients in Central Maryland;

Total Health Care - $245,046 to improve quality and reduce the cost of care through primary care telehealth solutions for patients living with diabetes and hypertension;

University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation - $100,000 to enhance telemedicine services at skilled nursing facilities in West Baltimore;

Virginia Hospital Center Foundation - $275,000 to develop an outpatient clinic that will assist patients in overcoming barriers to care through telemedicine initiatives; and,

Western Maryland Health System - $100,000 to serve patients with chronic conditions through remote monitoring and virtual video meetings.

With this investment, CareFirst has provided more than $4.2 million in telemedicine grants, including four grants issued in 2014 to:

Catholic Charities of Baltimore - $53,479 to deliver behavioral health services to about 120 underserved children and adults in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel and Allegany counties using video-conferencing technology;

La Clinica del Pueblo - $424,635 to expand remote access to its bilingual counselors and health care providers through teleconferencing to about 650 patients in the Washington, D.C. area;

Sheppard Pratt Health System - $647,200 to provide about 1,200 patients of federally qualified health centers in Worcester, Somerset, Garrett, Cecil, Caroline and Dorchester counties with access to psychiatrists via teleconferencing and video-conferencing; and,

Atlantic General Hospital (AGH) in partnership with Baltimore’s Kennedy Krieger Institute - $189,656 to provide initial evaluations and follow-up visits to about 325 children and young adults with learning disabilities and behavioral disorders in Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.