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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Ammonoosuc Community Health Services Receives
\$2.6 Million to Expand its Littleton Facility**

LITTLETON – Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. (ACHS) received an affirmative Notice of Grant Award on December 9th for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Facility Investment Program (FIP) for funding to expand the ACHS – Littleton Facility.

News of this award comes at a time when ACHS has realized a significant increase in demand for services over the last year and a half. As a result of this growth, the Littleton care delivery site has become insufficient to effectively and efficiently deliver the nationally-recognized, high-quality care and optimal outcomes our patients consistently experience.

Ed Shanshala, ACHS' CEO, says of this news, "I have a hard time expressing how delighted we are having been selected to receive this grant. As we continue to realize an increase in demand for service these funds will enable ACHS to increase access and bring new efficiencies to our provision of integrated healthcare to the 1 in 3 residents of the 26 towns we serve who call us their "Patient-Centered Medical Home of Choice".

Having been recognized by HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) as one of only 26 FQHCs who were identified as "high-performing" the ARRA FIP funds will provide a much needed expansion and renovation to our ACHS-Littleton care delivery site. This will enable us to continue to provide even more high quality patient outcomes which the community has received from ACHS since 1975. We are passionate about being our "community's health partner for life."

The facility expansion will almost double the size of the current site and improve every aspect of the setting in which care is currently delivered. There will be an increased number of exam rooms with state-of-the-art equipment allowing for increased patient service and provider productivity, internal access to both levels of the building, installation of an elevator and more lab space. Energy efficiencies will be implemented into the overall design and design of the clinical areas will enhance patient flow."

The towns ACHS serves are considered by HRSA as Medically Underserved Populations in northern Grafton and lower Coos counties in New Hampshire. Recent economic conditions resulting in job and insurance losses and reduced wages and a lack of public transportation have added to the already challenged access to primary care for many members of our community. We anticipate an increase in demand for the sliding-fee-scale primary care services that ACHS has provided since 1994. The expansion of ACHS-Littleton will significantly increase the organizations ability to care for the underserved populations in its service area. Our mission is to provide evidence-based, outcome specific, systematic medical care that is patient-centered, focused on prevention and accessible and affordable to all. This expansion is critically important to meet our goals, maintain our quality of care and serve those in need.

Founded in 1975, Ammonoosuc Community Health Services is a nonprofit community health center offering a network of affordable primary health services. Our programs promote and support the well-being of individuals and families by emphasizing preventive care and encouraging active participation in one's own health.

ACHS serves 26 New Hampshire towns in northern Grafton and southern Coos counties and has sites located in Littleton, Franconia, Whitefield, Warren and Woodsville. Clinical teams, made up of doctors, nurse practitioners or physician assistants supported by nurses and medical assistants, provide comprehensive services on a sliding fee scale to over 10,000 patients.

For more information about ACHS, visit www.ammonoosuc.org or call 444-2464. ACHS is accepting new patients, call the New Patient hotline at 1-866-201-5076.

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