



Delta Access Program (DAP)

Desha and Lincoln Counties, Arkansas

Community Size: 28,402 (2000 Census)

Population Uninsured: 7,127

Located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta Region of Southeast Arkansas, Lincoln and Desha counties have unique healthcare obstacles that the community has worked diligently to overcome. With approximately 25% of residents uninsured in the region and major gaps in access and continuity of care, the Delta Health Care Consortium (DHCC) was created in the spring of 2001. Working under the mission “to improve access to health care services for the residents of Lincoln and Desha counties in the Arkansas Delta by providing information, resources, and services in order to educate, empower, and involve them in the management of their health,” the Delta Access Program was formed.

Working with the vision of “100% access to health care for all residents,” DAP serves as a nonprofit infrastructure to house coordinated access to care for all uninsured adults in the service area between the ages of 18-64 whose household income falls within the 200% federal poverty level. DAP’s approach to achieving access incorporates enrollment and referral services for clients to medical homes/primary care providers and state funded programs along with in-house pharmacy assistance. Since DAP’s inception, over 2100 residents have enrolled. Currently more than 1150 clients are actively utilizing services.

DAP, governed by an 11 member Board of Directors through the DHCC, has established a connected collaborative of members in the health care, business, faith, and government sectors.

Partners working with DAP include:

- Ascension Health
- Daughters of Charity Services of Arkansas
- Desha County Department of Human Services
- Desha County Department of Health
- Lincoln County Department of Human Services
- Lincoln County Department of Health
- Delta Memorial Hospital
- McGehee-Desha County Hospital
- Delta Minister’s Fellowship
- Dumas Community Foundation

- Dumas Area Diabetes Council
- Desha Hometown Health Improvement Project

Utilizing a live information system which links the area hospitals, clinics, and human services departments, DAP and its partners can identify access to care issues from the point of contact helping to transition clients into available and appropriate programs.

DAP is supported by grant funding, community donations, individual contributions, volunteers, and in-kind donations. Benefits from client access to resources are illustrated in DAP's latest fiscal year outcomes measures from June 30, 2006–July 1, 2007.

- Over \$222,000 in donated medications have been dispensed through pharmacy assistance programs
- \$6,975 in donated eye care services
- \$45,771 in donated durable medical equipment
- \$10,474 in donated professional/community volunteer services
- \$5,880 in donated specialty services for clients including MRI and mammogram access

Goal setting for DAP continues as the program looks for ongoing relationship building with local communities and organizations in both counties. Encouraging additional volunteers, both community and professional, remains a high priority for DAP along with accessing new sources of donated services for our clients. Increasing the visibility of the program in a local, state and national arena leads to greater opportunities for the clients served.

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