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## Health Center gets grant

By LOHR McKINSTRY, Staff Writer

MORIAH — Hudson Headwaters Health Network just won a federal grant of \$435,600 to help run the Moriah Health Center.

The New Access Point funding comes to Hudson Headwaters from the Health Resources and Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources.

Moriah Town Supervisor Thomas Scozzafava said it was Hudson Headwaters' history of getting such grants that drew the town to contract with it to run the Health Center.

"We couldn't be more pleased. One of the prime reasons the town board contracted with Hudson Headwaters was its ability to seek and secure federal funding for the Moriah Health Center.

"Their success truly ushers in a new era of health care for us. Now it's full speed ahead to find funding to build a new Health Center."

The town recently purchased land in the Moriah Business Park for a new Health Center and is seeking funding to construct a building.

Dr. John Ruge, chief operating officer of Hudson Headwaters, said in a news release that the grant will allow his agency to broaden its services.

"Not only does it provide ongoing operational support, it designates the Moriah facility as a federally qualified Health Center."

The grant funding begins in December.

Ruge said the area's state legislative and congressional delegation helped secure the Health Center grant.

Congressman John McHugh (R-Pierrepont Manor) has also gotten \$300,000 for the new building for the Health Center.

State Sen. Betty Little (R-Queensbury) worked with the State Department of Health to find transition funding to help Hudson Headwaters operate the Health Center until the federal funding begins.

Based on income, more than 40 percent of the population around the Moriah Health Center live at double the poverty level, according to the 2000 U.S. Census, Ruge said.

Mortality rates in the Moriah area are 17 percent higher than the state average.

"Clearly, this area will benefit from stable long-term primary care," Ruge said.

The Moriah Health Center is located in the Moriah Community Building, owned by the town, in Mineville.

