

**Charles A. Dean Memorial Hospital & Nursing Home Improvement Project
Request for Federal Funding - January 5, 2009**



Charles A. Dean Memorial Hospital & Nursing Home seeks funds for the improvement of its Operating Room, Emergency Department, Radiology and Imaging Departments. The project is intended to take the main part of the hospital building – constructed in the 1960s – and overhaul it to meet all code requirements, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

To the general public, this will result in enhanced customer service. Hallways will no longer double as waiting rooms. Patient rooms will be warmer and offer more privacy. Access to the building will be easier for those with mobility issues.

For the hospital's patients, this will mean an expansion and improvement of imaging services, in particular the addition of digital mammography technology and a higher-resolution CAT scan machine. The most appreciated change for patients will be the inclusion of the new CAT scan machine into the main hospital building: currently, patients needing a CAT scan must be brought outside to a separate building. In the winter months, this literally means wheeling a patient through the snow and into the wind and cold for imaging services.

While the footprint of the hospital will not change, the emergency room entrance will have a vestibule over it, making access for walk-in patients or patients brought by ambulance much easier.

Charles A Dean Memorial Hospital is a critical-access health care facility offering 24-hour emergency room and ambulance services, 24 beds for patient care, and a host of laboratory, imaging, and special services. The hospital also owns and operates Northwoods Healthcare, a primary care physician's office which also houses a series of specialty clinics. C.A. Dean is also part of Eastern Maine Healthcare systems, but operates independent of this larger system in terms of operations, finances, and capital improvements.

C.A. Dean Hospital was started as a community hospital and continues as such to this day. Many residents in and around Greenville are able to live here due to the access to health care services our hospital provides. C.A. Dean is Greenville's largest employer by far, with over 150 full-time equivalent positions. A recent economic impact analysis of C.A. Dean Hospital shows over \$11 million added to the local economy through direct and indirect financial impacts annually. Over 70% of the children in our local school system have a family member who works at C.A. Dean Hospital. With the nearest comparable facility located 35 miles south of Greenville, many of those who become hurt or ill in the Maine Woods which surround Moosehead Lake would likely perish without the services C.A. Dean Hospital provides.

C.A. Dean Hospital has gone through rough times financially, and strict financial discipline and deferring of capital needs has brought our hospital back from a \$1 million + deficit several years ago to a break-even position last year. But this recovery has left little to no financial capacity for capital improvements. The current recession and decline of Wall Street fortunes has greatly eroded prospects of giving to the current capital campaign. Yet without the aforementioned improvements, market share for health care services will continue to decline, and the hospital may eventually be forced to consider discontinuing some of its vital services.

The funding sought through the proposed federal economic stimulus package will sustain our community hospital decades to come. These improvements will stop the backslide of deferred maintenance to an aging physical plant, modernize and expand strategic out-patient services, and bring our local hospital into compliance with numerous federal codes and laws. The improvement project will also generate at least 5 new jobs within the first 3 years of operation, and possible another five in the next 3. More importantly, this improvement should help to retain all 150 current positions at C.A. Dean Hospital.

On behalf of our community, we as Town of Greenville and C.A. Dean Hospital officials request that Maine's Congressional Delegation vigorously support funding for this necessary project within the proposed federal economic stimulus package.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted;

Eugene F. Murray, Jr., President and CEO
Charles A. Dean Memorial Hospital & Nursing Home

John Simko, Town Manager
Town of Greenville

Enclosures