



GUIDE PROGRAM, INC.

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# Press Release

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## **KAISER PERMANENTE AWARDS \$99,527 IT GRANT TO GUIDE PROGRAM, INC.**

*Laurel, Maryland, March 11, 2011* -- Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc. has awarded the GUIDE Program, Inc., a grant of \$99,527 to support implementation of the agency's information technology (IT) strategic plan during 2011. The Kaiser Permanente grant provides the agency funding to upgrade and deploy an enhanced IT backbone for the organization, replace aging computers, increase overall security for private information, and evaluate and analyze the agency's electronic medical record requirements.

In consultation with NPower-Greater DC, a nonprofit organization that helps other nonprofits meet their IT needs, GUIDE developed a comprehensive multi-year IT initiative, the goal of which is to align the agency's technology needs to its long term strategic mission, plans, and challenges. The plan provides the agency a pathway for comprehensively addressing business and healthcare compliance and regulatory requirements as well as helping to move away from *ad hoc* management of IT system problems.

Not-for-profit community service healthcare organizations like GUIDE are challenged to find resources to enhance IT infrastructures in ways that parallel the modern healthcare industry as a whole, but are having to do so with limited and declining public resources and charitable contributions. "Kaiser Permanente is proud to invest in GUIDE with a grant to help the organization build a strong health IT infrastructure," according to Maritha Gay, Senior Director of External Affairs. "Kaiser Permanente is committed to removing cultural, financial, and technological barriers to building healthy communities."

Funding long term capital overhead expenses such as replacing computer systems as they age and become less efficient and more costly to maintain is a particular challenge for those in the nonprofit environment. The capacity building grant from Kaiser Permanente will assist GUIDE in responding to these challenges in new and creative ways by providing the funding necessary to implement many of the core elements of the organization's technology plan. Ultimately these new technology solutions will provide for improved efficiency and

management of care provided to the clients served by the agency, and help set the stage for expanded services in the future.

**About GUIDE Program, Inc.:**

GUIDE is a non-profit agency that has been actively providing behavioral healthcare and social services in the region since 1968. Annually the agency serves over 2,000 children, youth, and families with emotional and behavioral health challenges, and adults with serious and persistent mental illness. The agency delivers behavioral healthcare services and provides access to related healthcare supports to individuals and families with low to moderate incomes. In addition to providing community counseling and therapeutic services directly, the organization provides community living opportunities to youth and adults who require specialized and supported housing assistance resulting from mental and behavioral health problems. GUIDE operates programs located in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, as well as in Baltimore City although services can be offered throughout the Washington/Baltimore metroplex. For more information about GUIDE, visit [www.GuideProgram.org](http://www.GuideProgram.org).

**About Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States:**

Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States region, headquartered in Rockville, Maryland, provides and coordinates complete health care services for almost 500,000 members through 30 medical centers in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Founded in 1980, Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States is a total health organization comprised of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc., and the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, P.C., an independent medical group that features approximately 900 physicians who provide or arrange care for patients throughout the area. Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States is considered one of Maryland's "Top HMOs," according to the Maryland Health Care Commission. The health plan was ranked in the nation's 100 top commercial health plans and 20 top Medicare health plans – and the #1 Medicare plan for Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. – by “NCQA Health Insurance Plan Rankings 2010-2011 Private.” For more information about Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States, visit [www.kp.org](http://www.kp.org).

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