



CONTACTS:

West Orange Healthcare District
Dana Loncar, Consensus Communications
Cell: (407) 808-3441

Health Central Hospital/Orlando Health
Kena Lewis, APR
Cell: (407) 403-1661

PRESS RELEASE

West Orange Health District awards \$13.8 million grant to Health Central Hospital to Expand **Expansion will increase bed count, expand specialized care areas and convert hospital to all private rooms**

Ocoee, FL (November 7, 2014) – The West Orange Healthcare District (the District) has awarded a \$13.8 million grant to Health Central Hospital to expand. The grant is the second largest in the history of the District and will fund 75 percent of the total expansion costs. Orlando Health will fund the remaining 25 percent. The funds will be used to add 40 rooms to Health Central Hospital, increasing its bed count from 171 to 211 and enabling the further development of specialized care.

“We are extremely pleased and thankful for support from the District,” said Greg Ohe, President, Health Central Hospital. “This 40-room addition to the hospital will benefit west Orange County residents in a couple of very important ways. It will enable us to expand or establish several specialized care units; it will provide the highest levels of service and patient care to local residents; and it will provide for private rooms for all patients, which impacts quality, safety, and patient satisfaction,” added Ohe.

As planned, the \$18.3 million expansion is a four-story addition located on the north side of the hospital above the new emergency department. The project will align with floors two through five of the current building and will add a 10-room unit to each floor.

“The District is honored to significantly contribute to the expansion of Health Central Hospital,” said Ken Harker, Interim Executive Director of the District. “This project aligns directly with our mission of enhancing health and wellness in west Orange County,” continued Harker.

“Our Board believes the contribution we have made in Health Central through this expansion project is an investment in the healthy future of west Orange County,” added District Board Chairman John Murphy. “The fact that residents will be able to access specialized care in their own community is a huge benefit,” continued Murphy.

Twenty-two rooms will be used to enhance or develop the specialized care units at the hospital. Room additions on the second floor will be used for post cardiac and vascular catheterization patients and the continued expansion of technology in this area. The third floor will be home to a step-down unit for orthopedic/spine patients and an expanded spine program. The fourth floor is targeted for use as an oncology unit providing symptom management and supportive care for cancer patients. And the fifth floor will be used for pre and post general surgery patients with chronic conditions.

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The remaining 18 rooms will be used to eliminate the hospital's semi-private rooms. Studies show that private rooms offer enhanced infection control for patients, increased privacy, encourage family participation in the healing process, and can even reduce the number of days a patient spends in the hospital.

Construction of the 40-room expansion will complement construction of the hospital's upcoming emergency department expansion. In May, 2013, Health Central Hospital was awarded a \$25 million grant by the West Orange Healthcare District to consolidate and expand its emergency department, which currently consists of 42 beds in two separate areas. When complete in summer of 2016, the emergency department will expand from 15,000 square feet to 54,000 square feet with 52 beds in one unified area.

"By coordinating the room and emergency department expansions and utilizing existing resources within the hospital, we will realize significant cost savings due to economies of scale realized by running parallel construction projects," added Ohe.

About The West Orange Health Care District

The WOHD is an independent special healthcare district created by an Act of the 1949 Florida Legislature. The Governor of Florida appoints the 16 members of the District Board. Since the beginning, the purpose of the District has been to improve access to healthcare services for residents of West Orange County. In March 2012 the District Board sold all of the District's facilities, operations and assets, including Health Central, an affiliate of Orlando Health. Under the provisions of the sales agreement, Orlando Health has agreed to pay the West Orange Healthcare District \$181 million plus interest over 15 years. The proceeds from this sale will be used to award grants that will improve and preserve the health of District residents.

For more information and to review the grant guidelines and application please visit <http://www.wohd1949.org/grants.php> or call the District office at 407.296.1812.

About [Health Central Hospital](#)

Health Central Hospital is a community hospital committed to excellence, service and community involvement. The hospital was acquired by Orlando Health April 1, 2012. The staff, coupled with the most advanced equipment and technology, ensures that all patients receive the safe, quality, personalized care they deserve. The 171-bed hospital facility features comprehensive medical care and has been the standard in health care in the community for more than 60 years. The Health Central operation incorporates Health Central Park, a long-term care and rehabilitation facility, ExpressCare, an urgent care walk-in clinic, a state-of-the-art Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine Center and extensive outpatient services, including cancer care by UF Health Cancer Center – Orlando Health. Health Central Hospital offers a wide variety of services to help patients achieve and maintain healthy lifestyles. Educational classes range from childbirth and diabetes education to specially designed classes for preparedness before and after orthopaedic surgeries. Health Central's mission extends beyond exceeding expectations in health care and includes a commitment to enriching the community.

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