

**Mercy in Me Free Medical Clinic Updates Policies to Include More Uninsured Workers**

The Board of Directors of Mercy in Me Free Medical Clinic has announced that as a result of a revised policy approved July 14, 2011, there is an increase in the maximum poverty level under which prospective patients may be eligible for service. Prior to the July 14 decision, a patient's **household income** could not exceed 150% of the Federal poverty level. Under the revised policy, that household income may not exceed 175% of the poverty level, making more uninsured people eligible to apply for the free routine healthcare provided by Clinic volunteer medical staff. [See chart.]

Applicants at least 18 years of age must be residents of Chesterfield County, may not be pregnant, may not have access to Medicaid, Medicare, private health insurance, or VA benefits. Unemployed applicants must be seeking employment, and employed applicants must demonstrate proof of income.

Applicants are screened every Monday and Tuesday between 8:30 and 11:30 at the Clinic, which is located at 32 Foundry Hill Road, Cheraw, in the medical office of retired surgeon Dr. Ted Coggeshall. Dr. Coggeshall donates use of the building by the Clinic. Documentation required are a driver's license or State picture ID showing an active Chesterfield County address, a power bill or water bill, Social Security card, previous year's tax return, a rent statement from the landlord, and several additional items that must be provided by all members of the applicant's household.

People who are unemployed must be seeking employment but may be made temporary patients of the Clinic for three months.

All staff at the Clinic is volunteer, including doctors, nurses, office staff, medical technicians, grounds staff, maintenance staff, etc.

The Clinic is usually open one morning a week and patients see doctors by appointment only. Additional information about the Clinic, what it does and what it does not do, patient responsibilities, and so forth may be found on the Clinic website at [www.mercyinme.org](http://www.mercyinme.org) or by telephone at 843-537-5288.

Mercy in Me is funded through donations from the public and through several grants from private foundations. It receives no government assistance. People and organizations who wish to contribute may mail contributions to Mercy in Me Free Medical Clinic, P.O. Box 1684, Cheraw, SC 29520. Mercy in Me is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation.

**2011 POVERTY GUIDELINES****Annual Guidelines**

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>175% of Poverty</u>
1	\$19,058.00
2	25,743.00
3	32,428.00
4	39,113.00
5	45,798.00
6	52,483.00
7	59,168.00
8	65,853.00

**Monthly Guidelines**

**Family Size 175% of Poverty**

1	\$1,588.75
2	2,145.00
3	2,702.00
4	3,259.00
5	3,816.00
6	4,374.00
7	4,931.00
8	5,488.00

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