



# Uninsured in Nashville

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Safety Net Consortium of Middle  
Tennessee, LLC

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# How big is the problem?

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- > 750,000 uninsured in Tennessee  
(12.7% of population = 766,928)
- > 50,000 uninsured in Nashville  
(12.7% of population = 76,200)



# Why are people uninsured?

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- Group coverage unavailable through employment
- Cannot afford premiums
- Uninsurable for medical reasons
- Affects all income categories
- Undocumented residents



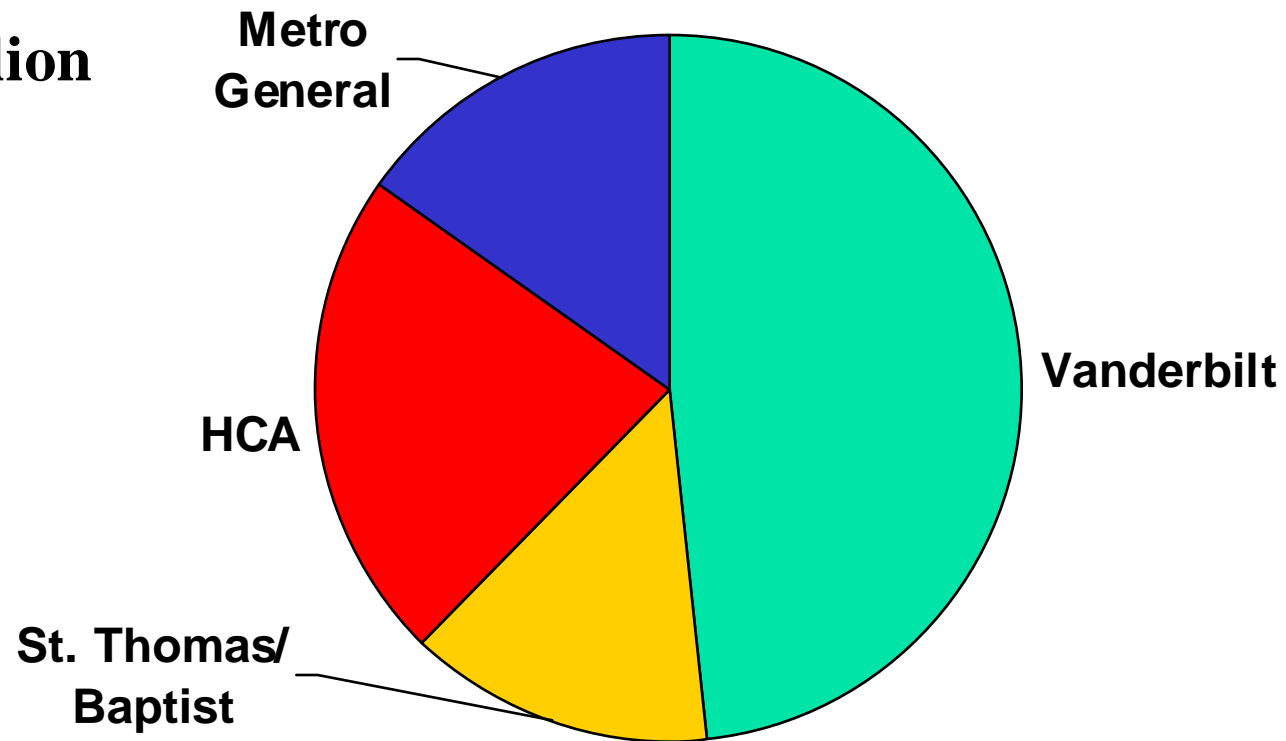
# Impact?

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- Less preventive care, less therapeutic care, higher mortality
- Inappropriate use of hospital emergency departments
- Growing uncompensated care at hospitals

# Uncompensated Care - 2005

**\$204 million**



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# Nashville's Approach to the Problem:



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# Safety Net Consortium of Middle Tennessee

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- Formed May 2000
- Composed of all Nashville hospitals and clinics that serve the uninsured on a sliding fee scale
- Board of Directors and two Advisory Boards – Nashville and Behavioral Health
- Health Department is managing partner



# Bridges to Care

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- Links uninsured persons to a health clinic that lowers their normal charge for low-income persons
- Provides help with some prescription medications, patients pay \$7
- Provides help with transportation





# Requirements to Enroll

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- Must not have health insurance.
- Must live in Davidson County.
- Must provide documentation of family income.
- Must sign a release of information statement.



# Care Coordination

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- Catholic Charities of Tennessee provides care coordination.
- Care Coordinators are located where uninsured persons are likely to be – hospital ERs, health department clinics, DHS, etc.
- Primary function is to link the uninsured person to a safety net provider.



# Pharmacy Services

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- Prescriptions for BTC enrollees are filled at Lentz PHC and General Hospital.
- \$7 co-payment per prescription per month.
- Co-payment waived for the homeless.



# Transportation Services

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- Care Coordinator screens BTC enrollee during the initial enrollment session to determine if they are eligible.
- Transport only to Consortium clinics and BTC Plus Doctors.
- Health Department schedules trip.
- Bus pass mailed to enrollee.



# Safety Net Providers

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- Matthew Walker
- United Neighborhood Health Services
  - Cayce, Waverly-Belmont, Sam Levy, Southside, Shade Tree, Madison
- Faith Family Medical Clinic
- Siloam Family Health Center
- St. Thomas South, West, Preston Taylor



# Safety Net Providers

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- Meharry Medical College Clinic
- Downtown Clinic for the Homeless
- General Hospital Ambulatory Care Center
- ProHealth Nashville
- Vine Hill Community Clinic
- Comprehensive Care Center



# Safety Net Providers

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- Christian Family Medical Center –  
Donelson, Rivergate, Southern Hills
- Hermitage Medical Clinic
- First Response Clinic
- Baptist Hospital/UT Medical Clinic



# Bridges to Care Results

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More than **40,500** uninsured residents of Nashville have been linked to a medical home since the inception of the program in February 2002.





# Enrollee Characteristics

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- 42% are employed, 37% more than 20 hrs.
- 94% have incomes below 200% poverty
- 61% white, 36% black, 3% other
- 28% born in another country, 17% Mexico
- 25% are Hispanic
- 14% homeless
- 11% cannot read



# Bridges to Care Results

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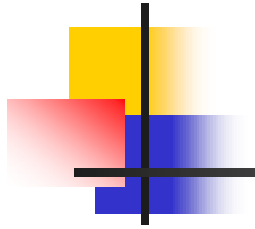
More than **168,000** prescriptions have been filled for BTC enrollees at the Lentz and MNGH pharmacies. **\$2,540,000**



# Bridges to Care Results

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More than **6,000** free, round trip transports to medical services have been provided.



# **BTC** **BRIDGES** *Plus* **to Care**



# How it Works

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- BTC enrollees with income below 200% of poverty are eligible.
- Managed by Nashville Academy of Medicine.
- Specialists see BTC patients referred by a doctor at a Safety Net Clinic for a \$10 charge per visit.
- Hospitals provide services upon the request of the BTC Plus participating physician.
- Kroger fills prescriptions, \$5 co-pay.



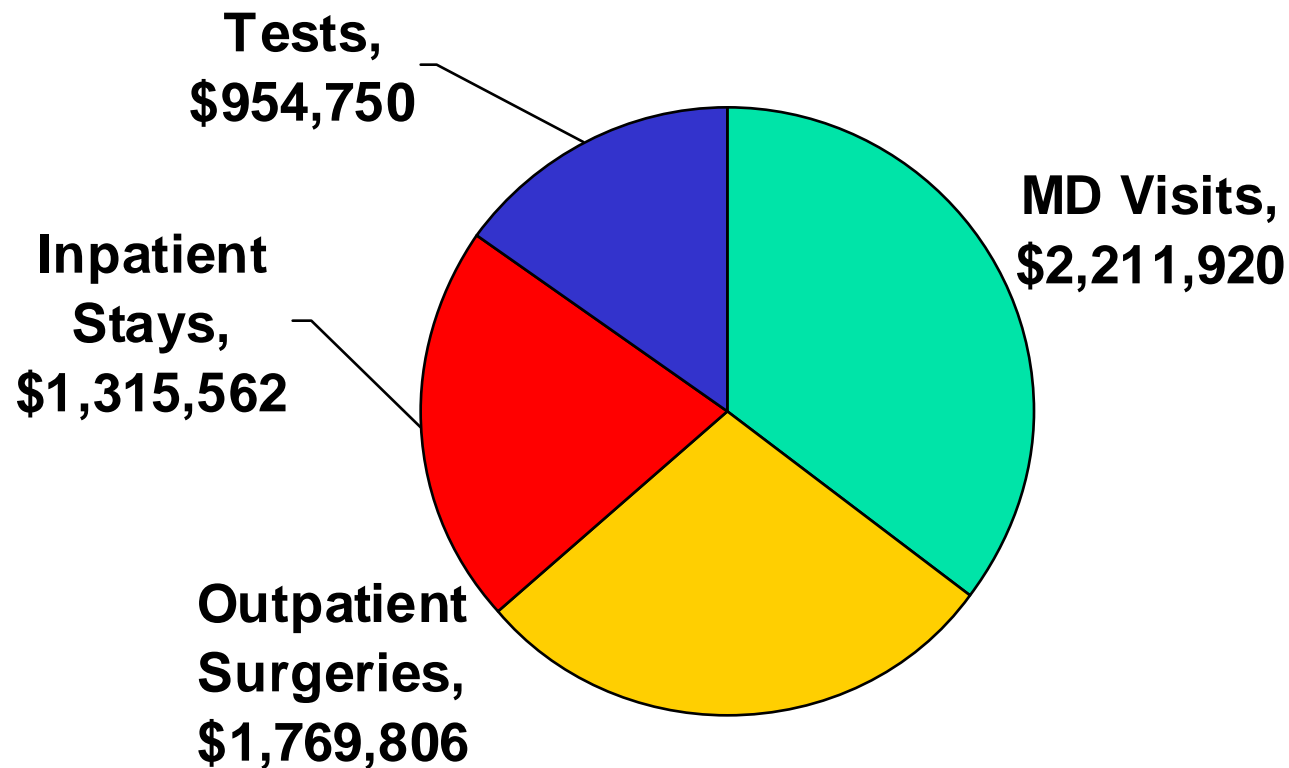
# Results

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- 6,224 patient slots as of August, 2007
- 578 physicians participating
- More than 1,489 patients served
- 4,333 physician patient visits
- 648 diagnostic tests
- 241 outpatient surgeries
- 177 inpatient days

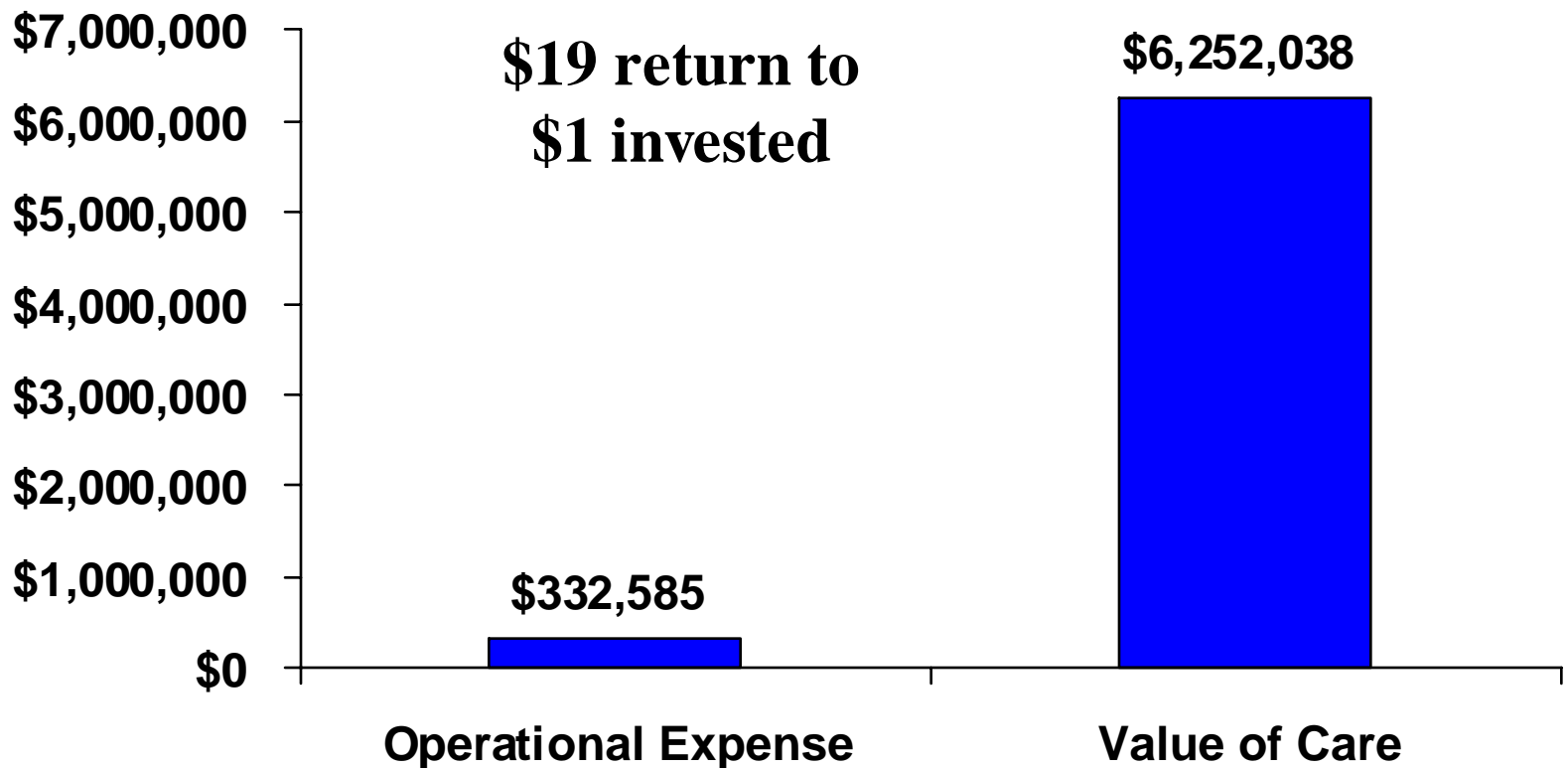
# \$ Value of Services Provided

**Total = \$6,252,038**





# Return on Investment







# Creating a Network of Volunteer Behavioral Health Providers

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# The Problem

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- Nashville has an estimated 16-18,000 uninsured residents in need of mental health or substance abuse treatment.
- Current capacity is severely inadequate to meet the needs of the target population



# The Goal

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- Develop a coordinated system of volunteer behavioral health providers
- All private and public mental health, substance abuse, and alternative therapy providers are being invited to join the network



# The Goal

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- Recruit as many as 500 volunteer behavioral health providers in the first year
- Link at least 100 uninsured and underinsured financially needy persons to care in first year



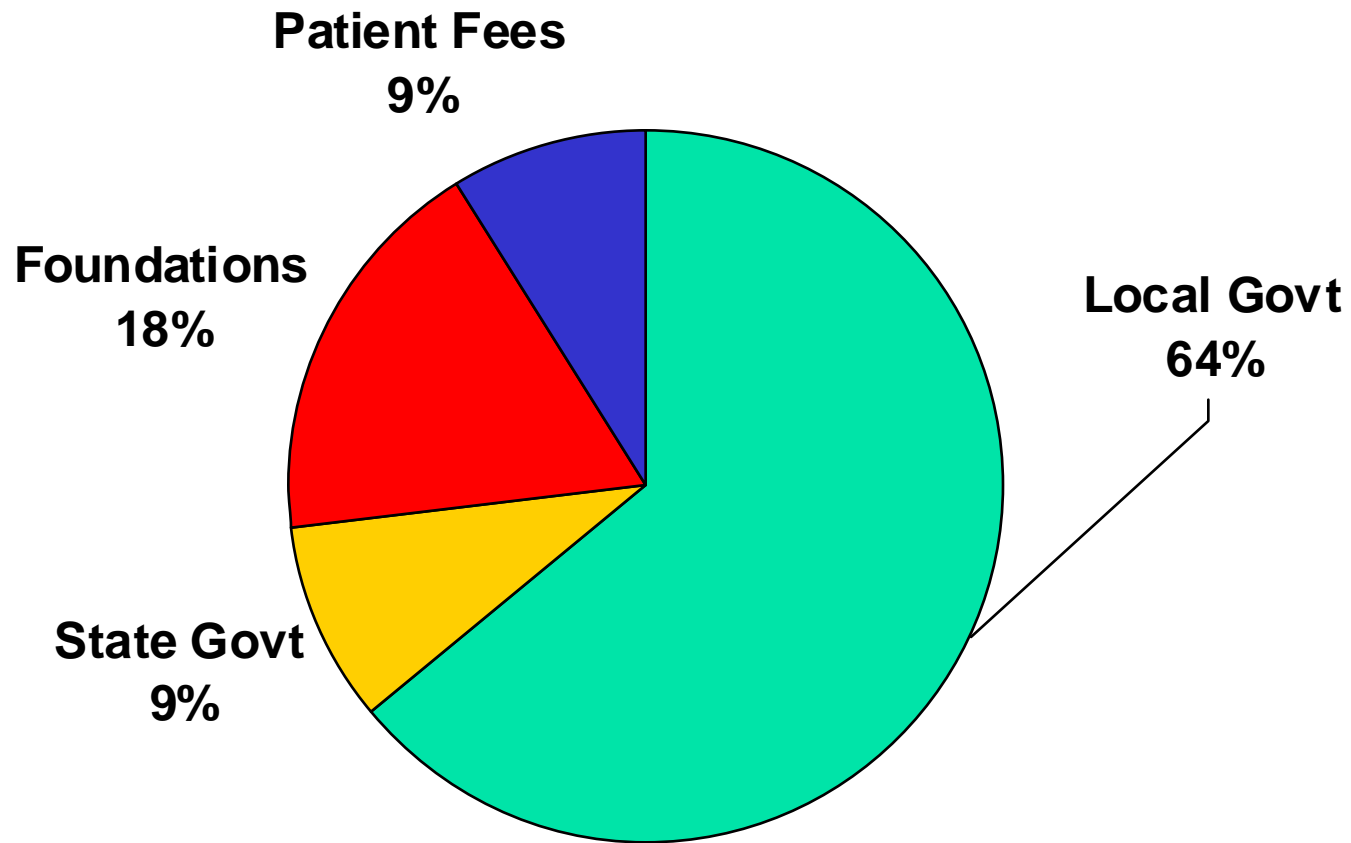
# Annual Operating Budget

Administration	\$272,000
Care Coordination	\$400,000
Pharmacy	\$200,000
Transportation	\$7,500
Mammograms	\$10,000
Specialty Care	\$170,000
Behavioral Health	\$85,000
Total	\$1,144,500



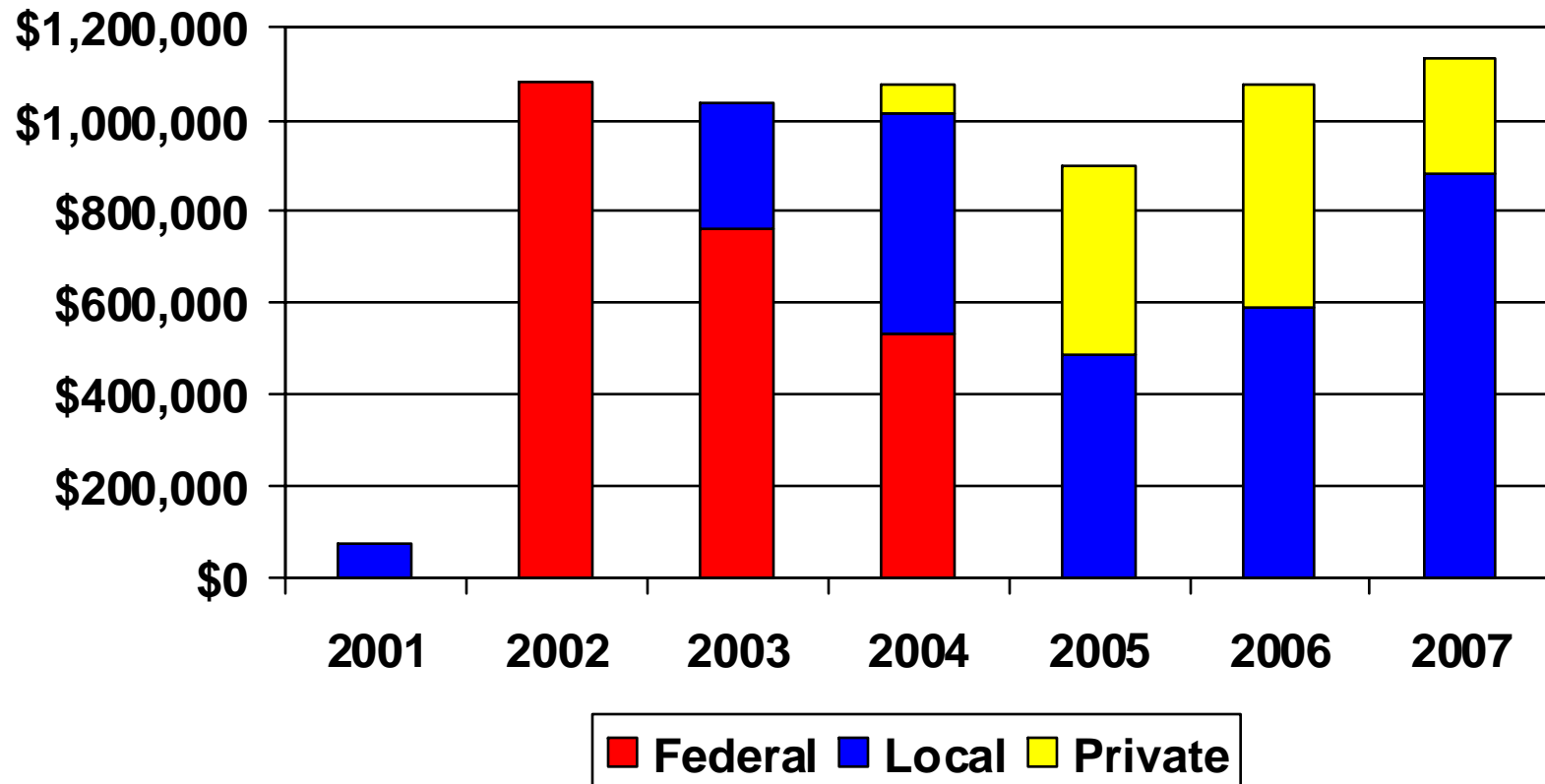
# Funding Sources

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# Bridges to Care Funding



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