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UCFS celebrates federal designation



Jennifer Granger, chief operating officer of UCFS, left, and Nancy Cowser, vice president of planning for the agency, open a bottle of champagne during a breakfast Wednesday on Norwichtown Green to celebrate UCFS becoming a federally qualified health care system. (Judy Benson/The Day)

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By Judy Benson (/apps/pbcs.dll/personalia?ID=j.benson)

Norwich — United Community & Family Services celebrated finally becoming a federally qualified health center with a breakfast and champagne toast Wednesday on Norwichtown Green, a designation that gives it access to federal grants for services and facilities.

"Now the floodgates of money can open," said Chuck Seaman, chief executive officer of UCFS.

The designation, announced Tuesday, came after eight years of lobbying and application efforts by UCFS and Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd District, who praised the health clinic staff for their persistence and determination.

Seaman said the new status means UCFS will now have malpractice insurance through the federal government and can start to offer new specialty care services to add to its primary care, dental and mental health services.

The celebration took place against a backdrop of 17,000 flags planted on the green by UCFS volunteers to represent the 17,000 patients who received care from the agency last year.

