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# Sun Health will sink \$110 million into expansion

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The Northwest Valley is growing and so is its health care system.

Sun Health expects the population of its primary service area - Sun City, Sun City West, Youngstown, Surprise, El Mirage and Peoria - to increase by about 60 percent, from 350,000 to 550,000, in the next eight years, said Keith Dines, Sun Health executive vice president for strategic development.

Sun Health will build three satellite centers, expand Del E. Webb Hospital and Boswell Hospital, and hire more staff to meet the needs of the community.

But Sun Health is not satisfied to simply respond to growth, Dines said. He said the health care provider is working with Northwest Valley communities to make the area more attractive to biotech firms.

"We plan on being a catalyst in bringing biotechnology to the area," Dines said.

Sun Health plans to invest more than \$110 million over the next three years to expand hospital facilities, build satellite offices and expand its workforce.

"We've got many different projects going on," Dines said. "It's a good time to have my job."

Sun Health Del E. Webb Hospital will build a six-story, 175,000-square-foot patient care tower as part of an \$85million investment. The tower will include an emergency room, 70 additional surgical beds and two floors that can be built out to accommodate another 76 beds.

The new emergency room will be able to service about 85,000 patients a year.

Sun Health Boswell recently opened 72 additional critical-care beds as part of a \$25million expansion project, Dines said. The expansion also includes an additional clinical lab, an imaging facility and expanded emergency room services.

To make health care more accessible and affordable, Sun System will construct and staff three satellite offices.

In Surprise, Sun System will build a 135,000-square-foot medical center at Greenway Road and Civic Center Drive. The facility

opens in the second quarter of 2008, and will include an urgent care center, an ambulatory surgery center and physicians' offices.

Sun System will build a 60,000-square-foot facility in north Peoria at Jomax Road and Lake Pleasant Parkway that will include an urgent care center and physicians' offices, Dines said. The medical center, which should be open in the second quarter of 2008, also will provide diagnostic and women's services.

In north Buckeye, Sun System will build an 8,000-square-foot facility that includes an urgent care center, opening in the third quarter of 2008.

Along with its many construction projects, Sun System plans to recruit 15 physicians in 2007 and 20 in 2008.