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# VA breaks ground on outpatient health center in Charlotte

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After years of planning, federal health officials broke ground Friday on a \$150 million medical complex that will be the Veterans Administration's second location in Charlotte.

About 250 people attended the event, including Charlotte Mayor Pro Tem Michael Barnes, Mecklenburg County Commissioners Chairman Trevor Fuller, U. S. Rep. Robert Pittenger and U.S. Sen. Richard Burr.

The new Charlotte VA Health Care Center, projected for completion in spring 2016, will be built at the corner of West Tyvola Road and Cascade Pointe Boulevard, near the Tyvola/Billy Graham Parkway interchange at Interstate 77.

Childress Klein-Cambridge Healthcare Solutions, based in Herndon, Va., will build the six-story, 295,000-square-foot health center on a 35-acre site.

The VA already operates a smaller, 55,000-square-foot outpatient clinic at 8601 University East Drive in east Charlotte. The closest VA hospital is the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury.

The new Charlotte health center has been in the planning stages since 2009 and will help meet the area's growing demand for health services by veterans. More than 140,000 veterans live in the Charlotte metropolitan area, about 60,000 in Mecklenburg County alone. Karen Garloch



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