

Healthcare Earmark Request Form (Fiscal Year 2011)

1. Project Title: 21st Century Facility for Established Health Clinic

2. Requester: Leon County Board of County Commissioners

3. Recipient: Neighborhood Health Services (NHS)

4. Project Description: **Neighborhood Health Services New Facility**

Neighborhood Health Services (NHS) has outgrown the space that we currently rent, which has always been suboptimal. We are seeking funds to build a new facility or to renovate one that is donated. NHS needs a new, 21st century facility to better serve our patients and to accommodate the anticipated continued growth in the number of patients served and the increased programs to better serve them.

NHS's objective is to build a new facility with sufficient space to include a primary health care clinic with 10 exam rooms, a mental health clinic with 6 rooms for therapy, a dental clinic, a diabetes center, and an integral health program. As we conceive this new facility it will allow for enhanced collaboration with Florida A&M University and Florida State University. As contemplated, the digital infrastructure of the facility and NHS operations will support the cost-effective delivery of rural health care.

Depending on a number of factors, including site availability, the size of the facility would range from 8,000 to 15,000 square feet. Thus we would seek matching funding from other sources.

We currently rent space in the Lincoln Center, a facility that was not designed to accommodate a medical practice. As our patient load increases and as we also expand the services that we provide to better care for our patients, we find the space less optimal and much less accommodating for our needs. That fact is very evident in our clinic's hallway as there is often a traffic jam of staff members and patients trying to move down the narrow hall. Patients often experience longer than normal wait times in the waiting rooms due to a lack of examination rooms in the clinic.

As a result of the expansion that will occur once a new facility is secured, NHS will be able to treat many more patients, helping to keep our community's workforce strong. The agency's strategic plan calls for the formation of a scalable holistic medical center model where the needs of the whole persons are addressed. Neighborhood Health Services (NHS) provides primary and mental health care services to uninsured, uninsured and homeless citizens of Leon County through a contract with the Leon County Board of County Commissioners and the Leon County Health Department so that uninsured citizens who require non-emergency medical services don't have to resort to treatment at the local hospitals' emergency room (ER). Emergency room services for the uninsured are expensive, not just for the patient, but for the taxpayers as well.

NHS' programs help to reduce the number of patients who receive non-emergency ER services, thus saving money for the city, county and state.

As the incidence of unemployment increases locally, so does the incidence of being uninsured, underinsured or homeless. The lack of insurance has increased NHS' patient encounters during fiscal year 2008-2009 by almost 72% over the number of patient encounters for fiscal year 2007-2008.

The benefits of this project are as follows: 1) medically needy receiving the services they need in a more effective and efficient manner; 2) reduction in the number of non-emergency visits to the local emergency rooms; 3) increased health, strength and productivity among target population; 4) expanded delivery of services to rural areas; and 5) enhanced collaboration among healthcare and learning institutions.

NHS provides primary and mental health services, in addition to providing referrals to specialty health care services, to uninsured and underinsured citizens who qualify based on federal poverty guidelines and to homeless citizens. For fiscal year 2008-2009, NHS provided more than 9,500 patient encounters. We anticipate an increase in this number until the unemployment that has occurred as a result of an unstable economy decreases.

5. Amount you are Requesting: \$2,000,000

6. Total Cost of Project: \$2,000,000

7. Is the request to fund operations, construction or both? Fund construction

8. What type of match exists for this project? None at this time. However, NHS anticipates that it will, in fact, seek matching funds for this project.

9. Is future year funding likely to be requested, if so why? No. This would be a one time funding request to construct a new facility or renovate an existing facility for NHS.

10. Has this request been made in the past? No