



# Bond Community Health Center, Inc.

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September 24, 2014

Leon County Commission

Dear Leon County Commission:

Bond Community Health Center is applying for refunding of its *HIV Early Intervention Services Program Existing Geographic Service Areas (EISEGA) Part C* grant under *HRSA Announcement 15-026*. The competitive continuation application is due on 10/15/2014.

Bond is requesting a letter of support from the Leon County Commission. Below is an abstract of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS primary care services program Bond has provided to Leon and surrounding counties since 2008

Bond Community Health Center (BCHC) is the sole provider of HIV/AIDS Part C primary medical care, a dedicated continuum of social services and supportive care has evolved within the service area with which BCHC has established referral partnerships. This includes Big Bend Cares (the local Part B program), with whom BCHC has a formal MOA for community outreach coordination and services. Big Bend Cares provides HIV prevention, testing, and counseling throughout the eight-county Part 2B area, connecting the newly diagnosed to BCHC for care. BCHC also works with the Florida A & M University College of Pharmacy to operate a pharmacy within the Health Center and bring Medication Therapy Management / medical case management to its clients on antiretroviral therapy. Agencies such as Children's Medical Services (a pediatric multispecialty group) and Whole Child Leon (a Countywide pro-child network of agencies) make direct referrals to BCHC for Part C Early Intervention Services. The Leon County Health Department provides HIV prevention activities, Outreach, Counseling and Testing; an STI Unit, providing intervention, testing and reporting; and testing and vaccines for hepatitis care. Other community based agencies offering services and interventions for specific populations, such as those who are moving from incarceration to the community, provide referrals to the BCHC program.

In 2013, BCHC cared for 521 PLWHA—338 male and 176 female and 7 male-to-female transgendered; 83.7% (436) were African American. Within the calendar year, 128 new HIV+ patients presented for care. A total of 34.9% (182) of BCHC's Part C patients carry a CDC defined diagnosis of AIDS. Of Bond's 521 patients, 164 (31.5%) describe themselves as MSM (men who have sex with men). Further, January 1, 2013 – September 17, 2014, 72 newly identified HIV+ clients have been brought into care.

Bond is desirous of continuing its collaboration with local safety-net providers and the State and local governments to care for the vulnerable HIV/AIDS residents of Leon and surrounding counties. Leon County's letter of support will validate our partnership. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

*Bernard Goodman*

Bernard Goodman, CEO