



## **Expansion of Health Services in Pinellas County Project Summary**

Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc. (CHCP), is a not-for-profit Federally Qualified Health Center that provides affordable, high-quality primary health care services to the residents of Pinellas County. In 2019, CHCP served nearly 60,000 residents of Pinellas County. Importantly, 96% of CHCP's patients were at or below 200% federal poverty level.

CHCP is an accredited and certified patient-centered Medical Home that complies with Section 330 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act. Additionally, CHCP health centers are dually accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC) and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

The proposed project aims to address some of the urgent needs in Pinellas County.

### **Goal 1:**

*Actively participate in the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force's guided activities aimed to reduce the number of opioid based death and injuries in the County.*

CHCP will continue its efforts in the area of substance abuse prevention and treatment. This is a multi-directional program, executed within the framework proposed by the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force and in collaboration with the Pinellas County Department of Human Services. The availability of support from the Pinellas County Government will allow CHCP to initiate and expand the following specific actions:

- Maintaining county-wide naloxone kit distribution points at CHCP service locations. In collaboration with the Florida Department of Health, CHCP will establish necessary procedures and protocols for receipt and distribution of naloxone through the organization's pharmacy program. CHCP will participate in available State programs to obtain naloxone at no cost. All members of CHCP's patient service team will receive training on naloxone. CHCP will conduct annual training for all providers as it relates to naloxone effectiveness as an overdose response option.
- Conduct an ongoing education program on opioid death and abuse prevention for CHCP dentists and members of dental staff.
- CHCP collaborates with the Florida A&M University (FAMU) to incorporate information on the proper use and disposal of prescription opioids within the framework of the Medication Therapy Management (MTM) program. The program's innovative design allows patients the flexibility of receiving either personal face-to-face MTM services at two CHCP service sites or via a remote connection from other CHCP locations.



- Utilizing CHCP’s OB and pediatric program to collaborate with community partners on Operation PAR “Mentoring Moms” program including the Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN). CHCP works to mitigate existing gaps through utilization of embedded medical personnel within specialty settings and exploration of higher levels of EHR connectivity.
- Maintaining a Case Manager and Community Health (Outreach) Worker necessary to improve patient engagement and community outreach. Case Management provides patients with a “warm handoff” from a primary care provider (PCP) to a substance abuse care provider or another referral.
- CHCP closely collaborates with community and university-based programs including USF’s Family Study Center, AHEC, Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas County, and others.
- Expand behavioral health services for CHCP patients.

The project budget includes salaries and benefits for the personnel directly involved in proposed activities and necessary contracted services. The estimated amount of funding needed for this goal is \$204,053.

**Goal 2:**

*Assist with addressing the need for quality and equitable health care services for residents of the Lealman community by expanding access.*

The Lealman CDP has a population of over 20,000 and referred as an at-risk zone of South Pinellas. Over 50% of area residents have an income below 200% of poverty. CHCP continues to operate the Lealman health center, an essential access point for adults and children in this community to obtain affordable quality healthcare. CHCP maintains Community Health (Outreach) Workers to connect patients with health and social support services, to track the utilization and results of various services, and follow up with patients to assure continuity of care and best possible outcomes. These activities include linkage to substance abuse prevention services and proactive case management for patients with the substance use disorder diagnoses.

The project builds on CHCP’s existing capabilities and systems including the use of state-of-the-art Electronic Health Records, highly regarded analytical tools, and community partnerships. The project allows scalability for increasing the volume of services rendered.

The project budget will support the salaries and benefits for the personnel serving patients at the Lealman facility and support its operations. The estimated budget for this goal is \$742,160.



**Goal 3:**

*Improve access to dental care for residents of South St. Petersburg and Clearwater.*

To improve access to dental care for neediest areas of Pinellas County and reduce unnecessary utilization of ER services, CHCP hired an additional dental provider, additional dental hygienist and 3.5 additional FTEs of ancillary staff. This will allow the organization to increase the volume of services for the neediest residents of South St. Petersburg and Clearwater.

The project budget will support the salaries and benefits for the additional dental personnel serving patients at the Johnnie Ruth Clarke and Clearwater facilities and support its operations. The estimated budget for this goal is \$357,385.

The total budget for personnel, benefits, training and educational materials for the proposed project is \$1,303,598. CHCP will need financial support from the Pinellas County Government in amount of \$525,831. The remaining \$777,767 necessary for the projects will be obtained through the Low-Income Pool (LIP) program. Furthermore, CHCP will assume and cover all other operational expenses for the project.