



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Fort Bend County, Texas

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

M. desVignes-Kendrick, MD, MPH, FAAP
Director

Kaye Reynolds, DrPH
Deputy Director

January 25, 2018

The Ellwood Foundation
c/o H.W. Hightower, Jr.
P.O. Box 550049
Houston, TX 77255

Dear Mr. Hightower,

Thank you for the opportunity to present the proposal for support of The Fort Bend County Clinical Health Services. **Fort Bend County Clinical Health Services is requesting a \$10,000 investment from the Ellwood Foundation to support our Tuberculosis screening program.**

Tuberculosis causes far more deaths than any other infectious disease worldwide. It infects one-third of the world's population, and kills three million people every year (a quarter of the world's preventable deaths). Fort Bend County Clinical Health Services works in conjunction with the Texas Department of Health to prevent and control tuberculosis within our community. The ultimate goal of this program is to eliminate tuberculosis among the people of Fort Bend county and Texas.

Amount Requested

\$10,000.00

Organizational Background

The Department of Health & Human Services is Fort Bend County's principal agency for protecting the health of county residents and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. The Department includes six subordinate departments and three programs, covering a wide spectrum of activities.

Fort Bend County Clinical Health Services Department, one of the six subordinate departments, provides clinical services in the core public health areas of STD treatment; tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis and treatment; and provision of childhood and adult immunizations.

The Mission of Clinical Health Services is to prevent, control and eliminate communicable diseases among the residents of Fort Bend County.

Need

In 2016, 1,250 cases of tuberculosis (TB) were reported in Texas, a rate of 4.5 per 100,000 population. TB can affect anyone but is more likely to be diagnosed in persons born in a foreign country where TB is prevalent, persons living with diabetes or HIV/AIDS, persons who abuse alcohol and other drugs, persons who live in congregate settings (including prisons and other detention centers), the homeless, and health care workers.

Animal Services
Rene Vasquez, Director

Clinical Health Services
Ngombe Bitendelo, RN, BSN, MPH.
Director

Emergency Medical Service
Graig Temple, MS, NRP, Chief

Environmental Health
Troy Scalco, RS, DR, Director

Indigent Health Care
Martha Hernandez, Manager

Public Health Emergency Preparedness
David Olinger, Program Coordinator

Social Services
Anna Gonzales, MSW, Director

Veterans Service Office
Dwight Marshall, VSO

TB is curable with proper treatment. However, some strains of TB are resistant to the drugs used for treatment. In 2016, ten people in Texas were diagnosed with multidrug resistant TB. There were no cases of extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) reported in Texas in 2016. XDR-TB is the most difficult form of TB to treat.

In Texas, 54 percent of reported TB cases in 2016 were among Hispanics, 19 percent were among African Americans, 9 percent were among Whites, and 19 percent were among Asians. Homelessness, TB/HIV co-infection is more commonly found in larger urban areas of Texas.

Plan to Address the Need

Meeting the needs of Fort Bend County's TB patients who live in the community relates to Health Promotion as the health of foreign-born TB patients directly impacts the public health of the community in which they live. All medical professionals are aware of the theory of herd immunity. This concept states that the community is only as healthy as the herd or the surrounding population. If the herd is healthy, the members will likely remain that way. In order to help address the TB problem in Fort Bend County, the Clinical Health Services department implements the following functional elements:

- Conducting overall planning and development of policy, prioritizing TB control activities
- Identifying persons who have clinically active TB
- Protecting the health of the public by isolating and treating persons who have infectious TB with directly observed therapy (DOT)
- Coordinating care with other health care providers
- Identifying and managing high-risk persons infected with *M. tuberculosis*, utilizing DOT when deemed necessary
- Collecting and analyzing data on TB cases, suspects, contacts, and preventive therapy recipients
- Following up - Physical assessment, TB assessment
- Contacting investigation
- Advising local institutions and practitioners
- Ensuring prompt, mandatory reporting of each confirmed and suspected case of TB
- Treating multiple drug resistant Tuberculosis

The TB program helps alleviate the impact of diagnosis the TB has on a patient. Active TB has several symptoms which has a direct impact on a patient physically. Patients with active TB suffer from symptoms such as a bad cough that lasts three weeks or longer, pain in the chest, coughing up blood, weakness or fatigue, weight loss, no appetite, chills, fever, and sweating at night. All these symptoms will have a debilitating effect on a wage earner. In some instances the symptoms will prevent a person from working. The TB patient will not be able to work or contribute to supporting the family.

Typically, TB treatment will isolate a family from the community while they take the appropriate steps to heal. With this isolation TB patients need additional services to help them through this period. Fort Bend County's Clinical Health Services department, along with local organizations will help address the needs of the TB patients by providing a holistic approach to healing. This approach includes social service providers, psychological, social and medical needs.

Evaluation

To ensure the effectiveness of the evaluation plan and that the methods of evaluation are appropriate to the program's outcomes, the personnel will be responsible for implementing the following evaluation model. Both formative and summative evaluations will occur. Formative evaluations will be conducted to provide information to the program staff on how to improve and refine the on-going project. A summative evaluation will be conducted at the end of each year to assess the overall quality of the program and the effectiveness of meeting specified outcomes. The evaluation process will be comprehensive with specific data collected to analyze the effectiveness of the delivery and impact.

Sustainability

Fort Bend Clinical Health Services has developed a plan for sustaining the **holistic approach to TB screening** that has broad institutional support. The plan includes:

1. the involvement of multiple campus locations and input from the county commissioners - allowing the Clinical Health Services department to pull some funding directly from operating budgets,
2. a continued effort to seek out external funds, and
3. partnerships with local non-profit agencies.

With the involvement of multiple campus locations, the project will receive monetary input from all locations ensuring the responsibility is shared by multiple invested parties. In addition to multiple campus involvement, the county commissioners have approved the CHS budget to support TB screening.

Thank you for taking time to consider this grant request. Please find the organizational budget and IRS determination letter attached.

Sincerely,

Ngombe Bitendelo, RN



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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