



Clarkston Community Health Center Inc.

3700 Market Street, Suite E1 Clarkston, GA 30021

Phone: 678-383-1383

www.clarkstonhealth.org

November 22, 2022

Commissioner Ted Terry
DeKalb County Board of Commissioners
1330 Commerce Drive
Decatur, GA 30030

Dear Commissioner Terry,

The Clarkston Community Health Center (CCHC) is a free health clinic with a mission to provide a compassionate, welcoming medical home to uninsured individuals in and around Clarkston, Georgia, in order to unlock the inherent dignity and opportunity of those we serve. Located in a state that has the third highest rate of uninsured individuals in the country, in a county where 1 in 6 individuals do not have healthcare, and in a city - Clarkston - where half of the population reported in a recent survey done by Georgia State University that they did not have access to healthcare, CCHC is advancing an innovative, sustainable healthcare model that is meeting a clear need in our community. **Through primary and preventive health care, specialty clinics (including vision, dermatology, cardiology, mental health, and more), and free medications from our on-site pharmacy, our services seek to provide comprehensive care to those who otherwise have none. By making each patient healthier, we are working to transform the health of our entire community.**

Since opening our doors in 2015, CCHC has served more than 7,500 individuals with patient-centered, culturally competent healthcare. Our patients come from dozens of countries - refugees and immigrants who have come to our shores seeking safety and opportunity - as well as from the United States; we serve all who come who do not have health insurance and are living at or below 200% federal poverty level. Our staff and volunteers speak over 10 languages, and we have created a culture where everyone is respectful, curious, and humble - allowing us to meet the unique needs of this diverse area. CCHC is working to build a world where healthcare is a right for all, and where patient care draws on the best of our country's core values: welcoming, respectful of diversity and of the dignity of every human soul, human-centered and holistic. Our services are provided in a highly under-resourced community to historically marginalized populations. Yet, we do not view Clarkston as a community of deficit and burden, but rather as a community of abundance and opportunity.

Our model is built on partnerships that allow us to multiply the impact of every dollar we raise. Our strong collaborative partnerships with top-tier institutions include Emory University (the University itself, as well as Emory University Healthcare, School of Medicine, School of Nursing, the Institute for Health Improvement, and the Rollins School of Public Health), the University of Georgia, Morehouse School of Medicine, Mercer University, Clayton State University, the University of North Georgia, and the CDC. Thanks to our valuable collaboration with students and physicians, CCHC sees more than 750 patients every year (4,000+ total patient encounters) with only two part time paid nurse practitioners. Our 75+ medical professional volunteers provide hundreds of hours of pro bono service, equating to over \$600,000 in value.

CCHC is at a critical moment in our history. With a seven-year track record of success in helping to make our community healthier, at a time when healthcare is an urgent need in metro Atlanta with the closing of Atlanta Medical Center, we have a proven model that needs critical support to significantly scale our impact. Thanks to the



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incredible support of our partners and supporters, we have purchased a 2.5 acre piece of land in Stone Mountain (on a bus route from Clarkston) and we have raised over \$4,000,000 for this project - over half of our capital campaign goal - allowing us to break ground in 2023 on our new, 12,000 square-foot facility. Our goal is to open the new clinic in 2024 with a core staff of medical practitioners and our robust partnerships in place to continue to leverage volunteers, students and retired medical professionals. Once we move into our new home, we have a plan in place to have a strong and sustainable diversity of funding streams from donors, insurance billing, private pay and earned income - all while continuing to serve those who have no insurance.

Our strategic plan calls for a step by step approach to increasing the capacity of our medical team in 2023 and 2024 to be able to open our doors on more days during the week, to serve more individuals in our community, and to ramp up our operations as we work toward moving into our new home in the years ahead. Our core clinic is currently only open two days a week - on Wednesdays and Sundays. We have specialty clinics throughout the week as our volunteer doctors and nurses are available. We rent our current location and it is available to us seven days a week. The only limitation is the funding needed to expand our medical team. The next critical position in our plan is a full time Clinic Director who can serve as a catalyst for growth and impact.

Our request, therefore, is for an investment in building the capacity of our team by providing support for a full time Clinic Director. In securing funding for a full time Clinic Director, we would have the capacity to double the number of days our clinic is open, and to double the number of patients we serve in 2023. This medical leader of the team will be a certified nurse practitioner who will lead the medical team in coordination with our Chief Medical Officer, provide patient care, strengthen our volunteer recruitment and management efforts, strengthen and expand our partnerships, and work to ensure that our clinic operations are effective, continually improving, and culturally sensitive. The total cost of this position - salary and benefits – will average \$125,000 a year. With support for this position, our clinic will be taken to a new level, able to open our doors four days a week, doubling the number of patients we serve (from around 750 annually to at least 1,250 annually) while also strengthening our partnerships to unlock additional pro bono support.

We are respectfully requesting consideration of a two year commitment of \$250,000 to help CCHC double our impact and position ourselves for success as we prepare to move into our new home. For a commitment at this level, we anticipate being able to provide our culturally sensitive, free healthcare services to an additional 1,000 individuals in the next two years in and around Clarkston. Such a significant jump in impact is possible only because our existing infrastructure is strong and poised for growth.

With a track record of success, a model that is working, a plan for sustainability, a north star to aim toward with our new home, and support from a wide variety of generous philanthropic - from the Blank Foundation, the Imlay Foundation, the Dobbs Foundation, the EZ Agape Foundation, the Dhanani Family Foundation, and more - CCHC is uniquely positioned to become a significant part of the healthcare ecosystem in the Atlanta metro area.

We are now seeking support from DeKalb County to help provide a vital community service in our county as we grow into the future.

At CCHC, we believe that healthcare is not a burden, but an opportunity. We are proud to offer a culturally sensitive, patient-centered experience for our community of patients, and a global health experience for our partners who, in turn, offer compassionate, cutting-edge care to those we serve. While we have accomplished a great deal, our service has only been made possible by donors and volunteers who have trusted in our mission. We hope you will join us and our many partners in caring for this vulnerable and valuable community.



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With Gratitude for your consideration,

Jeremy Cole

Executive Director

Clarkston Community Health Center