

Hernando County Opioid Prevention Grant Program

Name of Agency: Premier Community HealthCare Group, Inc.

Program Site Address: 7551 Spring Hill Family Health Center, Spring Hill, FL 34606
300 South Main Street, Brooksville, FL 34601

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 232, Dade City, FL 33526

Project Category: Expansion of Support Services - Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder

Description of Services: Premier Community HealthCare Group, Inc. (Premier) is requesting funding support to expand access to opioid prevention and treatment services care for Hernando County residents. The specific services to be expanded will include behavioral health therapy and medication management through substances like suboxone, vivitrol and naltrexone. Services will also include medication-assisted treatment, substance use disorder, and recovery services. Premier's integrated behavioral health and primary care model of care plays a critical role in addressing substance use disorders (SUD) as primary care providers are often the front line for patients' behavioral health concerns. The integrated model at the two-family health center locations in Hernando County enable Premier to increase access to screening for mental health and substance use disorders. It also ensures continuity of care for the provision of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) services and recovery support. Additionally, Premier's model includes telehealth access which increases access to care for community members.

Start Date and Targeted Completion Date: The start date will be contingent on a grant award date. Premier is positioned to implement expanded services within 30-45 days of an award date. Completion date is also contingent on the grant period. The services rendered will be aligned with the grant project period timeline.

Purpose, Goals, Objectives:

There is a critical shortage of behavioral health and opioid prevention services in the community. As the world experienced the traumatic crisis of COVID-19 pandemic, the growing mental health and opioid addiction worsened. The purpose of the project is to address and respond to the community needs as it relates to behavioral health support and substance use/opioid prevention. Based on the most recent Hernando County community health needs assessment conducted by WellFlorida Council, there were 24 opioid overdose deaths in 2020 whereas the opioid involved non-fatal overdose emergency department visits were 188 in 2021. Furthermore, the opioid involved non-fatal overdose hospitalizations were 92. A series of additional indicators in the

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community health needs assessment convey the staggering challenges that community members face and the critical needs for behavioral health services.

The primary program goal of the proposed program is to expand the Substance Use Disorder and Behavioral Health (SUD-BH) services to address the lack of integrated SUD-BH services available in Hernando County. The target number of clinic visits and patients to be benefit from services through this proposed project will be determined based on the funding allocation. Typically, a full-time provider will see on average 6-8 patients a day for therapy and an average of 15-20 for medication management. The allocation of the provider for this grant will be contingent on the funding amount.

Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder problems constitute a unique health care need of the target population and a fundamental problem in health care. Within the community Premier serves, health behavior death rates for drug overdoses, drug poisonings and motor vehicle crashes have increased and reflects the statewide and national dilemma. Enhancing the integration of services and expanding access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services for SUD-BH will improve outcomes for patients and support the system of care for persons affected by SUD-BH.

The integrated model creates a team to provide primary care, psychiatry, therapy, nursing, and case management for persons with mental health and medical illnesses. Selected mental health conditions addressed at Behavioral Health sites include alcohol related disorders, other substance related disorders, depression & other mood disorders, and attention deficit & disruptive behavior disorders. In 2022, there were 11,212 Behavioral Health clinic visits along with 1,933 virtual visits. Additionally, for the same timeframe, there were 2,567 Substance Use Disorder service clinic visits. There is a correlation showing a significant percentage of patients seen for Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder services were also seen in Family Medicine, Pediatrics, and or Women's Health. This data speaks directly to the impact of SUD-BH Services along with integrated primary care services in treating the whole person.

Agency Capacity to Manage Program: Since 1979, Premier Community HealthCare Group, Inc. (Premier), a Federally Qualified Health Center, has provided comprehensive primary, preventative, and supplemental health services to the medically underserved community members of Pasco and Hernando counties. The mission of Premier is *“to provide accessible healthcare services for all.”* Accredited by the Association of Ambulatory Health Care and recognized as a Patient Centered Medical Home for using evidence-based, patient centered processes that focus on highly coordinated care and long-term participative relationships, Premier is a safety net for the medically underserved population and has the capacity to manage the proposed program expansion. In 2022, Premier provided healthcare services to over 44,000 community members through its six service lines. Premier also provides a Discount Fee Program based on the federal poverty level limits to determine financial responsibility for each

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patient and has a 340B community benefit pharmacy program that ensures uninsured patients benefit from the lowest cost possible. Also, in accordance with Premier's policy, there is the capacity to care for patients that have no financial means, turning no one away regardless of inability to pay. The cost of care remains; thus, Premier's fundraising efforts have increased to support patient services and program costs that are not covered by existing federal funding. Premier has expanded on multiple levels over the past decade to meet the evolving needs of consumers and ensure that its mission is alive in all corners of the community.

Population(s) Serviced:

The target population of medically underserved, uninsured and low-income persons in the Hernando county area is more likely to experience health disparities because of social determinants and the availability of daily needs such as safe housing, healthy foods, job opportunities, quality education and other social supports. Minorities, homeless and special populations have the greatest health disparities.

Premier will provide care for the community's most vulnerable population, uninsured, underinsured, and special populations (homeless, veterans, elderly, farmworkers, and public housing residents).

Existing Resources: Under the leadership of the Behavioral Health Service Line Manager, Premier established integrated substance use disorder (SUD) services in 2019. The expansion of services in Hernando County would enable more local residents to access the help they need to live safe, drug free and productive lives.

Premier is hopeful for a favorable reply to this funding request proposal as an investment from the Opioid Prevention Grant program administered through Hernando County Government. As described in the proposal, the funds requested will further serve Hernando County residents, especially to help address unmet needs and improve health outcomes for some of the most vulnerable and medically underserved community members of the community.

Contact Person:

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Submission Date:

March 24, 2023

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	Grant Funds Requested	Premier Matching Funds	Total	Budget Narrative (Brief Description due to space limitations)
Substance Use Disorder Services	\$25,000	\$70,000	\$95,000	Licensed provider salary, benefits, and taxes.
EHR User License		\$3,000	\$3,000	Telehealth/EHR User/Admin licenses for provider 12 mos
Computer/Telephone/Office supplies & equipment		\$5,000	\$5,000	New provider start up costs - Computer, Consumable office supplies, Telephone, other equipment
Provider Training		\$1,500	\$1,500	Annual training/professional development/CEU
*Total	\$25,000	\$79,500	\$104,500	