

Project Title: **Corolla Community Health Center**
Applicant Name: Corolla Civic Association
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Type of Funding Requested: New Access Point(NAP)

Overview of the Community to be Served, and the Target Population.

The Corolla Civic Association has spearheaded the development of a health center to serve a target population of approximately 3700 individuals (35% of whom are under 200% FPL) within Currituck County, NC. The County is federally designated as rural, a Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), a Mental Health HPSA, and a Medically Underserved Area. The target area is comprised of 5 zip codes that form a “J” shaped pathway that descends approximately 13 miles south through small rural towns of southern Currituck County, crosses the Currituck Sound, and loops back north through 20 miles of barrier island to the northernmost tourist destination of the County, Corolla. The road north is a single lane, 35MPH road flanked by Sound to the west and Atlantic Ocean to the east. Not far into Corolla, the paved road ends, and the final 12 mile stretch of the zip code is an off-road strip of 4-wheel drive only beach which is home to a small residential community of predominantly low-income individuals (and a Wild Horse Sanctuary). The off-road portion of Corolla, NC extends up to the non-accessible Virginia state line. Residents of the target area, from the small agrarian towns, to the coastal rental area, up to the Wild Horse sanctuary, are predominantly employed in low-wage, seasonal, occupations that support the target area’s tourist industry; construction, food service, retail, water sports, and real estate. The area experiences a **weekly** swell of approximately 57,000 visitors from July to September where travel time through this 28 mile “J” can take up to 3 hours, each way, during peak season.

Proposed Project Will Address The Need For Comprehensive Primary Health Care Services

NAP funding will enable the creation of an inaugural health service site in this remote community where permanent residents face distinct financial, cultural, and geographical access to care barriers. **There is not any** health, human, or social service infrastructure--private, non-profit, or health-system sponsored—at this time. Corolla Community Health Center will serve as a hub for primary care, wellness/prevention services and education, and ultimately integrated mental/behavioral health for the immediate target population, and acute care, and treatment for minor injuries for seasonal visitors. In contrast to previous unsuccessful private efforts to sustain part-time, limited service operations, our vision is to provide year round care, foster patient compliance, develop niche health prevention and wellness programs in partnership with area businesses, the school, and fire departments and ocean rescue, and build an effective network of specialty services with distant providers. CCHC will leverage the high volume seasonal influx of tourists, and part-time residents and their need for acute and minor injury services, and “away from home” primary care maintenance.

Patients, Visits, Staffing, and Services

NAP funding will enable CCHS to provide comprehensive primary care services to an estimated 900 unduplicated patients (approx.1800 visits) upon completion of the first full year of operation (12/31/20). The initial clinical team will consist of 1.2FTE of providers including a physician’s assistant, a physician, and a co-located licensed clinical social worker. A nurse coordinator, a receptionist, a financial clerk/biller, a community relations/outreach specialist and a streamlined Management Team round out the initial overall staffing plan.