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28 July 2022

ARPA - RFP Coordinator  
Monroe County Purchasing and Central Services  
39 West Main Street  
Room 200  
Rochester, New York 14614

Dear RFP Coordinator:

I am writing in support of St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center (SJNC)'s application for the American Rescue Plan Act Funding Opportunity.

The Neighborhood Center is a longtime partner with UR Medical School and together the two organizations have collaborated and hosted a UR Well Clinic, which is staffed by medical students with supervising medical providers for well over two decades. First year students serve in the role of front desk/reception and check-in patients. Second year students room patients and conduct vitals. Third- and fourth-year students examine patients, present to an attending, and document their encounters in the agency's electronic health record. Through this progression, the students obtain a more thorough and firsthand understanding of the support roles and functions associated with an outpatient clinic. This Clinic, which is hosted at SJNC each Tuesday night provides medical students with vital opportunities to obtain firsthand knowledge of the medical profession and to implement the theory that they are learning via essential practice with appropriate oversight.

Through UR Well, shadowing, internships, and field placements, the Neighborhood Center is a "training ground" for professionals entering a diverse range of disciplines including primary care, specialty care—including ophthalmology, surgery and procedures, psychiatry, and cardiology. Through such experiences, UR Medical School's students are thus influenced by the Center's unique model of care. The health center is guiding the next generation of practitioners and helping to return the emphasis from a fee for service/transactional model to a patient/client focused approach to services.

SJNC's proposal for ARPA funding includes support for:

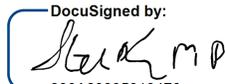
- 1.) Needed infrastructure improvements including a new roof and elevator, additional insulation to prevent ice damming, computer upgrades and telehealth investments, and renovation of the waiting area, exam rooms, and dental operatories. Providing this funding would not only offer vital support to SJNC, but it would be a significant investment in the overall health of the Greater Rochester community.
- 2.) Continued collaboration with educational programs—such as UR Medical School—to influence the next generation of providers and to continue to transform medical care.
- 3.) Outreach/engagement to individuals and communities that are most in need of mental health services, primary care, education, and preventive services—including the working poor, communities of color, and undocumented individuals.
- 4.) Staffing, stipends, and funds for independent contractors to ensure that the uninsured and underinsured residents of Monroe County have access to affordable and timely medical and mental health services to address the impacts of COVID, racism, violence, trauma, and health disparities.

This grant funding would allow SJNC to expand on its long history of innovation and to continue in its vital role as the “safety net for the safety net.” I would implore Monroe County to support the Neighborhood Center as it continues to provide health care and supportive services to the most vulnerable and those who are most in need of accessible and affordable health care—including the working poor, undocumented immigrants, the uninsured, and a disproportionate number of people of color.

As a longtime supporter of SJNC, a family medicine physician, and community leader, I am well aware of the vital role that the health center fills in the Greater Rochester community. I wholeheartedly support the organization’s request and strongly advocate that the proposal be funded.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

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Stella O. King-Turner, M.D., M.H.A.