the refuge clinic

ESR Clarification Request

1. Is your proposal still viable for implementation as originally submitted?

The original proposal is still viable for implementation. Refuge Clinic plans to move forward with the programs outlined in the application and patients will have access to the same resources. The clinic provides services to individuals who are economically and socially disadvantaged, and minorities comprise 55 percent of the clinic patient population. As the pandemic has highlighted, those who are economically and socially disadvantaged are affected disproportionately by COVID-19 because of health inequities in the healthcare system. Refuge Clinic is committed to continue to provide services to those most adversely affected by COVID-19 and will continue to do so in endeavors to bridge the underserved to healthcare. Now more than ever we anticipate a surge in the need for free healthcare as the pandemic continues, and unemployment continues to grow.

2. Please detail any modifications you will be making to the original submission in order to comply with the new service delivery requirements in the COVID- 19 environment? *(i.e. social distancing, capacity requirements, group event restrictions, etc.)*

Refuge Clinic expects to see a change in the way encounters are measured, knowing that telehealth will be an additional mode of delivery of care versus in person visits in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Existing wrap around services are still in place for telehealth encounters, just as they would be for in person visits. The clinic anticipates numbers may be lower than previous years considering executive orders for businesses closing in the monitoring of COVID-19. In tracking numbers over the past 3 months, Refuge Clinic experienced an increase in telehealth visits as it relates to counseling and behavioral health services, but there is a decrease in medical and dental services as restrictions and guidelines create a slower pace in delivery of care. Even in consideration of these factors, the funding requested will still be necessary for continuing services to care for those most vulnerable to the negative impact of COVID-19.

3. Will these new modifications increase or decrease your proposed budget? Please detail any increases or decreases to your proposed budget including additional costs and/or other secured funding.

Refuge Clinic recognizes there may be a potential decrease in overall patient appointments compared to past years. However, the clinic anticipates an increase in services for those who have been affected by the economic downturn. Continued need is expected, and the original requested allotment for these services does not cover the total expenses of the program for the year. Even with decreased numbers among in person medical and dental visits, the clinic is committed to providing the same services, leaving the original amount requested accurate for the grant cycle period.