

In reference to the grant opportunity for Cooperative Agreements to Implement Zero Suicide in Health Systems, Myrtle Hilliard Davis Comprehensive Health Centers is pleased to present this proposal for your review. As a leading provider of quality, low-cost healthcare services in the St. Louis Metro area, MHDCHC is in a unique position to utilize this grant award to benefit at-risk populations in eastern Missouri and to expand our reach into surrounding communities.

Founded as a small medical professional training center in 1969, MHDCHC has since grown to include three full-service facilities offering comprehensive, affordable care to over a hundred thousand patients annually. Our mission is to improve health outcomes in our community by providing multi-generational healthcare, education, and support to all who need us, regardless of income or socioeconomic status. We hope to eliminate health disparities and empower every member of our community to live a long, healthy life, a vision that includes extensive efforts to prevent self-harm and suicide.

The State of Missouri has not been immune to the nation's rising suicide rates over the last two decades. St. Louis County alone saw the number of deaths by suicide increase by over 66% from 2000 to 2014. Because we focus on those with the most need—low-income individuals and families who are uninsured or underinsured—we also encounter many who are most at risk for suicide such as military veterans, the homeless, and those with mental health disorders. We see a great need to raise awareness of suicide, to establish referral processes, and to improve care and outcomes for such individuals. With the right suicide prevention and intervention programs in place, MHDCHC and our community partners can thwart further rate increases and dramatically reduce or altogether eliminate suicidal behaviors and preventable cases of suicide in our community and beyond.

For almost fifty years, MHDCHC has worked to build an extensive network of community support and to establish a reputation for a compassionate, patient-centered, holistic approach to care and an experienced, competent workforce of dedicated healthcare professionals. We are partnered with the city and county health departments as well as dozens of local nonprofit groups in our determination to serve as many people as possible. We are therefore well-positioned to implement the Zero Suicide Model effectively and efficiently. With the resources of the SAMHSA grant, we believe we can successfully accomplish its goals to transform our health system into one that is ready to identify, treat, and ensure continuity of care for individuals at risk of suicide and to promote the overall mental and emotional wellbeing of our patients.

Thank you for this opportunity to work with you in such a significant and impactful endeavor! We look forward to hearing from you soon.

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