

2019 Neighborhood Community Development Program New Project Application

Agency: Spokane Public Schools

Proposal: John R. Rogers High School-Based Health Center

Overview: Spokane Public Schools and CHAS Health have partnered to bring a school-based health center to Rogers High School. We have applied for a private grant to help fund the initial operations for this new health center, and we received letters of support for the project concept from a variety of local organizations, including Bemiss Neighborhood Council, Spokane Regional Health District, The Zone Project, Communities in Schools, and WSU School of Medicine.

Funding Request: Spokane Public Schools is requesting \$165,000 in CDBG funding to renovate 1,188 square feet to create the health center. Any funding neighborhood councils allocate for the capital component of this project is extremely helpful.

Problem Statement: Rogers High School serves approximately 1500 students in northeast Spokane. Key demographic statistics include a 77% free and reduced lunch rate (highest rate in the City of Spokane) and 20% special education and 504 plan rate. The school borders three neighborhood districts in the City of Spokane which are each some of the lowest income neighborhoods in the state. 39% of kids here live in poverty compared to 22.5% in the City of Spokane and 14.3% Statewide. There are major health disparities in these neighborhoods. As a comparison, the Southgate neighborhood has Spokane's highest life expectancy (85.7 years), but the life expectancy for the neighborhoods surrounding Rogers High School ranges from 73.4 - 76.3 years, meaning individuals residing near Rogers will live as much as 12.3 fewer years as compared with other Spokanites. These neighborhoods also disproportionately have a higher percentage of adults aged 25 and older with a high school diploma or less as their highest education level, as compared with the rest of the City. As income and education levels are inversely proportional to health outcomes, a school-based health center at Rogers would be a significant step in addressing these disparities.

Objectives: Spokane Public Schools and CHAS Health are working together to implement this project. Spokane Public Schools owns the facility and will oversee the renovation required to create the health center, and CHAS Health will provide medical staff to operate the health center. Our goal is to remodel the space for the health center and begin serving students by Oct. 31, 2019. The objective is to provide medical and behavioral health services for students, teachers and staff, with the vision to add dental in the future, and to also develop a plan for the surrounding neighborhoods to be able to access the health center. Our request is for CDBG funding to support the renovation necessary for this project.

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