



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

McPherson Governmental Campus

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District 1 - Craig Curry, Commissioner
District 2 - Kathy Bryant, Vice Chair
District 3 - Matt McClain, Commissioner
District 4 - Carl Zalak III, Commissioner
District 5 - Michelle Stone, Chair

August 20, 2024

Mathew Clay, Chief Executive Officer
Heart of Florida Health Center
2553 E. Silver Springs Blvd
Ocala, FL 34470

Dear Matt,

I am writing on behalf of Marion County Board of County Commissioners (Marion County) to express our strong support for Heart of Florida Health Center (HFHC) in your request for funding from the Human Services-Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the HRSA-25-085 New Access Point grant. We are pleased that Heart of Florida Health Center is choosing to grow again to meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents in Marion County!

The innovative use of using the HFHC Mobile Access Clinic at the built sites of Interfaith Emergency Services and Marion County while identifying a permanent site, demonstrates the dedication of the Heart of Florida Health Center to continue to close the health care gaps for men, women and children living the underserved locations of Marion County Florida. These areas expand from the Northwest area to the Ocala National Forest in Marion County where there are the highest unmet service needs for community residents are low income, experience housing insecurity, homelessness, are migrant workers, very low income, and are un-insured.

HFHC has a well-documented history of developing and participating in community collaboratives and partnerships to help meet the health care needs of Marion County's most vulnerable residents. As the largest safety net provider in Marion County, HFHC is the largest safety net provider serving over 38,000 patients annually through over 110,000 visits. HFHC is highly regarded in the community, with a dedicated Board of Directors, Leadership, and staff, as well as continuing support from community stakeholders, all committed to making your mission a reality.

Marion County considers HFHC a leader in providing primary, behavioral, SUD and dental care services which are critical to the underserved, unseen, and underrepresented residents. HFHC has the full support of Marion County to receive funding under the New Access Point (NAP) grant in their proposal to create new access points for a continuum of primary care and prevention services in the underserved areas in Marion County.

Sincerely,

Michelle Stone,
Chair, District 5 Commissioner