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LIGHTHOUSE MEDICAL CLINIC

Proposal

The Lighthouse Medical Clinic provides free medical services to residents of the Eastside of Buffalo who do not have medical insurance. The clinic moved its operations to 1323 Jefferson Avenue during the summer of 2012. Services are provided from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on Wednesdays of each week. The area in which the services are provided was sufficient initially; however, the demand for services has increased so rapidly, the present location is being stretched beyond its capacity. The need for more space is the reason for the submittal of this proposal.

The number of people requesting services at the Lighthouse has been increasing almost exponentially. The waiting area, which at one time was sufficient for those waiting to see a doctor or physician assistant is no longer adequate. The clients, in many cases, are forced to wait in areas not designated for such activity or are forced to wait outside. The increase in the number of patients, in conjunction with the lack of space to adequately provide the needed services is creating concern about the ability of the clinic to continue to provide the best care.

The medical disparities of the clientele the clinical staff addresses such as asthma, diabetes, HIV and arthritis can be very uncomfortable and painful, especially when those burdened with the infirmities are forced to stand and wait outside. Their problems will only be exacerbated with the approach of winter if the space the clinic actually needs to operate is not addressed in order for the agency to be able to more effectively handle its caseload. The number of individuals with no insurance continues to increase as does the need for more space.

The area the free clinic currently maintains at 1323 Jefferson Avenue is 1,200 square feet and is insufficient to adequately accommodate the increase in the number of patients seeking services. There is a facility located at 1327 Jefferson Avenue which has a 4,000 square foot area and includes a large waiting area, 6 offices and 2 restrooms. Rent for the site is $19,600 annually. It is ideal and will accommodate the growing clientele satisfactorily. In order for the free clinic to obtain the site, GROUP Ministries is requesting funding in the amount of $10,000 from Erie County.

The free clinic is essential to the community, so much so that GROUP Ministries, Inc., owner of the building, is prepared to make an in-kind contribution of $500 a month toward the $1,500 monthly rent, or $6,000 annually. 1199SEIU Labor Management Initiatives, Inc. currently underwrites the $300 a month rent the Lighthouse Medical Clinic pays now and will continue to do so, which is equal to $3,600 annually. The remaining $10,000, which is needed to pay the annual rent is the amount of the grant GROUP Ministries is requesting from Erie County.

There is more space in the location the Lighthouse Medical Clinic is attempting to secure. Obtaining possession of the site will afford the free clinic the ability to better provide services, provide them to more patients and provide them in a more spacious, confidential and comfortable environment.