



HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

Healthy People Living in Healthy Communities throughout El Dorado County

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November 10, 2010

Health Resources Services Administration

Re: El Dorado County Community Health Center New Access Points Application

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of the County of El Dorado Health Services Department, I wish to express strong support for the proposal by the El Dorado County Community Health Center (the Center) to establish a new, full service primary care clinic in Cameron Park, California. This new clinic will help relieve overcrowding of existing health center facilities and will provide a convenient location in the western area of the County for medically underserved people.

Many people in the County have been significantly impacted by the current economic downturn, resulting in loss of health benefits. Lost health benefits and reduced public services have left large numbers of people without access to required health care services and the proposed new clinic will be an important source of care for vulnerable, underserved people.

The Center has a recognized track record for providing quality, culturally competent services to the residents of the County. In addition, the Center is an active health partner in our community's Access El Dorado (ACCEL) Initiative, a County-wide collaborative seeking to create a healthier community, especially within our vulnerable populations. Through ACCEL, the Center participated on a task force for the development of improved Health Information Technology systems and has taken the lead in a demonstration project to ensure medical homes for indigent adults. In recent months, the Center has collaborated with the County Health Services Department Mental Health Division to establish new referral pathways and services for mentally ill people and with the Public Health Division to ensure teen reproductive health clinic services.

Finally, the Center's leadership team has repeatedly demonstrated their ability to develop and execute plans for growth in a rapid and sustainable manner. This ability is demonstrated by the Center's stable performance, as well as its physical expansion over the past six years, first expanding the size of its primary location and then, two years ago, expanding into a second site in Placerville.

HRSA's investment in this Cameron Park project will be a critical factor in our community's ability to ensure that vulnerable and underserved residents in the County of El Dorado have access to continued quality medical care.

Sincerely,

Neda West, Director

Health Services Department