



City of San Marcos
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Application

Name of Agency/Organization: Austin Area Research Organization on behalf of Addressing Cancer Together

Address: 114 West 7th Street, Suite 800

City, State & Zip: Austin, TX 78727

Contact Person: Sandra Hentges Guzman Title: CEO

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Program Title: Addressing Cancer Together – Breast Cancer Initiative

Amount of Funds Requested: \$271,915


Program Status: (check one) ☐ Existing Program ☐ Program Expansion ☒ New Program

Category: (check one) ☐ Supporting Public Health Response ☐ Addressing Negative Economic Impact
☒ Serving Hardest Hit Communities and Families

NOTE: Events funded will be required to comply with CDC guidelines

Describe the program/event being funded with CSLFR funds: Attach additional sheet, if necessary
See attached.

Submitted By:



Signature

August 27, 2021

Date

Sandra Hentges Guzman, Chief Executive Officer & President

Printed Name and Title

Addressing Cancer Together – Breast Cancer Initiative San Marcos, Hays County

The ACT – Breast Cancer Initiative, along with private investment, intends to address health disparities, specifically related to breast cancer, among uninsured, low-income women at risk of breast cancer. When COVID-19 hit, cancer screenings dropped by up to 90%. This will result in at least 10,000 excess US deaths from breast and colorectal cancer alone (per the director of National Cancer Institute). The initial target population is uninsured women with income <200% of the federal poverty level, aged 50-74 or 40-49 if they are considered high risk.

In Hays County there are approximately 3,551 patients in our target population. Pre-pandemic, only about 40% of those who are uninsured got timely mammograms. Our intent is to increase screenings by 15% a year, newly screening over 530 women in the county over each of the next two years to identify cancers earlier and save lives. With the additional outreach and screening, we estimate about 14 women in our target population annually will have a positive breast cancer diagnosis. The patients served end-to-end by this initiative are estimated to cost approximately \$1.14 million for the first two years. This estimate is an “all in” cost, covering outreach, screening, diagnosis, treatment, insurance premiums, once we can get these women on insurance, and administrative costs. (Cost projections based on Medicaid reimbursement rates; estimated through extensive modeling by Dell Medical School.)

San Marcos funds and private investment will support care in Hays County through:

- coordination with FQHCs, other primary care clinics, hospitals, private treatment providers, and other players in the ecosystem
- community outreach to identify women in our target population who are not receiving timely screenings
- patient management and navigation across the entire care continuum
- breast cancer screening (both through fixed sites and mobile mammography)
- diagnosis efforts (diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds, biopsies)
- data collection, analysis and reporting through a common registry
- provider allocation, condition-based care reimbursement, and tracking of cancer-positive patients through Lone Star Circle of Care
- support for identified cancer patients for treatment, through cancer care providers for early and late-stage treatment
- administrative costs to set up and run the entire continuum of care

Allocation of ARPA funding by budget item will be determined per federal guidelines.

Governance:

Lone Star Circle of Care will act as the administrative lead, holding contracts with treatment providers, allocating patients fairly across treatment providers, and paying providers for treatment services based on a condition-based bundled-rate payment specific to cancer stage. Lone Star will also operate the Big Pink Bus to support mobile mammography outreach. However, the entire care ecosystem is much broader, and will be overseen by a regional 501-(c)(3) “Coordinating Entity.”

The Austin Area Research Organization will serve as the initial coordinating entity for the ACT – Breast Cancer Initiative. The ultimate coordinating entity will be an ongoing nonprofit entity that channels community resources, voice, and guardianship into overseeing the continuum of cancer care for the uninsured regionwide.