

**REQUEST FOR FUNDING
WEST LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
2012-2013 PROGRAM YEAR**

Agency/Department/Organization Name: Riggs Community Health Center, Inc.

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Contact Person and Position: Debi Sanders, Health Referral Services Coordinator

Program Name: Health Referral Services

Funding Category:

Capital Improvement

**Public Facilities/Infrastructure _____ Housing ____ Historic Preservation _____
Economic Development _____ Other _____**

Public Services (*Limited to 15% of the Grant*)

**Homeless Services _____ Elderly Services _____ Self-Sufficiency\Work
Related\Health Related X Other _____**

Program/Activity Description (*Please include target population to be served and what you anticipate to be accomplished by this program or activity*).

Riggs Community Health Center (Riggs CHC) proposes to continue its Health Referral Services (HRS) program which provides emergency medication and specialty health care assistance for low income residents of the West Lafayette community.

Through this truly community based program, over 70 providers including Cardiologists, Oncologists, Ophthalmologists, Neurologists, and Dermatologists offer essential specialty health care services for low income residents. Additionally, Riggs CHC has agreements with 38 general and specialty dentists who assist patients through the HRS program. These specialty visits are arranged for an initial office visit fee of \$5.00. Many providers often waive this minimal fee as well as reduce or waive fees for additional services needed beyond the initial visits. Without Riggs CHC's HRS program, 19 West Lafayette residents would have gone without vital specialty health care and emergency medication services in 2011.

Though housed in Riggs CHC's main facility and supported financially in large part by the Center, HRS is open to all West Lafayette residents regardless of their status as a Center patient. For many who lack health insurance, HRS often serves as an entry point for health care to Riggs CHC.

HRS is the area's sole provider of comprehensive, coordinated health referral assistance services for low income residents. In addition to providing vital specialty and medication services for those in need, the program also reduces tax dollars spent on emergency room visits, additional social services, and the incidence of communicable diseases. Through HRS, the health status of patients

is typically improved or maintained.

The HRS program is well known by the area's three hospital Emergency Room personnel as uninsured patients in need of medication are often referred to the program. Additionally, Riggs CHC's Behavioral Health Specialists work closely with the HRS program to ensure availability of specialty health care services for qualified residents.

Tippecanoe County continues to be a HRSA designated Medically Underserved Area (MUA) and Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA). Thus the demand for specialty care referrals remains a critical need. The HRS Coordinator continually works to increase the number of specialty physicians participating in the program and maximizing the number of individuals served.

Amount of Funding Requested: \$3,000.00

Anticipated Number of West Lafayette residents to be served: 20

Are you meeting your goals for the number of West Lafayette residents served in current program year? ___ Yes X No

If No, please explain:

Riggs CHC proposed to serve 35 West Lafayette residents through the HRS program in the 2011-2012 grant cycle. In 2011, Riggs CHC has served 19 unduplicated West Lafayette residents through 28 specialty referrals and medication assistance needs. The lower than expected number of individuals served through West Lafayette can be attributed to multiple factors. Many of the individuals previously served through HRS have since moved outside West Lafayette city limits and now seek services of the program as residents of other areas including Lafayette and Tippecanoe County, but without the financial support of West Lafayette. Another factor is the increasing number of free or \$4 medications available through discount stores. In 2011, HRS served 19 unduplicated West Lafayette clients. Of the 19 unduplicated clients, 11 received financial assistance for emergency medication needs totaling over \$1,600.00. Additionally, nine patients received assistance with specialty health care appointments at a greatly reduced office fee. Four of these nine patients sought eye care exams, and were only asked to pay \$5.00 instead of the normal rate of \$85.00, resulting in a total savings to West Lafayette residents of over \$300 in 2011.

Total program/activity budget for last calendar/program year: \$98,800.00

Total agency budget for last calendar/program year: \$7,212,487.00

Other Comments:

The sole focus of the HRS program is to provide medication and specialty health care assistance for LMI residents of the West Lafayette community. Through this program, 19 uninsured or underinsured, low income West Lafayette residents were assisted with specialty appointments and emergency medications last year. As noted, HRS clients do not have to be patients of Riggs CHC for emergency medication assistance; however they must be established patients for specialty care appointments. Assessment and diagnosis by one of our Primary Care Providers is necessary for a specialty referral. The health status of HRS clients is often improved and maintained. The out of pocket expense for LMI individuals is also greatly reduced.