

City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

November 4, 2014

Mr. Jeff Comer
Chief Executive Officer
Sitka Community Hospital
209 Moller Avenue
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Dear Mr. Comer:

The City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) is happy to provide the requested Letter of Support for Sitka Community Hospital's telemedicine grant application. The Letter of Support is attached. If obtained, telemedicine will provide additional benefits to our community.

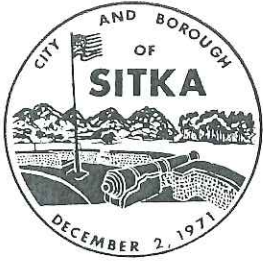
In conjunction with the grant application, there are some administrative details which need to be coordinated between Sitka Community Hospital (SCH) and the CBS. If the grant is awarded, the CBS will be the grantee and, therefore, responsible for grant administration and compliance. Furthermore, the grant will be subject to Federal and State Single Audit Act requirements, necessitating record keeping and reporting on the part of the CBS and additional work and examinations by the CBS's external auditors.

The CBS has coordinated with the telemedicine grant writer to include a provision for administrative cost recovery in the budget accompanying the grant application. If the grant is awarded with funding for administrative costs, the CBS will bill the grant accordingly. If, alternatively, the grant is awarded without funding for administrative costs, it would be the intention of the CBS to bill the SCH for applicable grant administrative costs.

To capture the responsibilities of each party in this pass-through grant, it would be the desire of the CBS to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which would outline the responsibilities and expectations of both parties in regards to grant administration. Thus, the attached Letter of Support is being provided with the implicit understanding that we will work steadfastly to complete a MOU if the grant is awarded.

Sincerely,

Michael Harmon
Acting Municipal Administrator



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Linda Kwon, MPH, Program Coordinator
Rural Health Care Services Outreach
Office of Rural Health Policy

RE: HRSA Rural Health Care Services Outreach – Sitka Community Hospital

Dear Ms. Kwon:

I am writing to confirm that Sitka Community Hospital (SCH), which is applying for funding under HRSA-15-039, is a public entity within the City & Borough of Sitka. Purchases made by SCH are exempt from sales tax. This status is of a permanent nature and need not be renewed yearly.

The City & Borough supports SCH's funding application under the Rural Health Care Services Outreach program that would extend implementation of remote electronic monitoring for acutely ill patients to Sitka Community Hospital (SCH). Alaska physicians' historical commitment to utilizing new technologies to improve the quality of care in isolated rural communities will ensure the success of this project.

The availability of remote intensive care and Telestroke monitoring will serve all segments of the population of Baranof Island, and Telestroke will be especially useful in caring for seniors who reside in the Sitka Pioneer Home and SCH's long-term care unit. The project will reduce MedEvac transports, improve critical-care outcomes, and develop the medical infrastructure to keep Sitkans in their home community for the highest levels of care. In addition, the community needs assessment component of the project will enable local institutions and statewide partners to evaluate and further enhance the quality of care.

SCH has served the community of Sitka for over 50 years, and adding telemedicine services will create a robust continuum of care that serves as a replicable model for other communities. I strongly encourage HRSA to give favorable consideration to SCH's application.

Sincerely,

Michael Harmon
Acting Municipal Administrator