

November 27, 2017

Ken Gordon, CEO
Coos County Family Health Services
54 Willow Street
Berlin, NH 03570

Dear Ken:

On behalf of _____, I am pleased to write in support of Coos County Family Health Services' (CCFHS) Service Area Competition application for continued funding through the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Section 330 program.

CCFHS' provides more than 12,000 area residents with access to high quality primary care, behavioral health and oral health services each year. Their patients often struggle with low wages, limited insurance coverage and a host of other challenges that make staying healthy difficult. CCFHS plays an important role in our community, and is an essential component of the social safety net of our region.

In recent years a major focus of the organization's work has been on serving the region's older adults and individuals diagnosed with chronic diseases (such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease). According to the NH Department of Public Health, local residents suffer from high rates of tobacco use, obesity and diabetes. CCFHS has developed a comprehensive array of integrated primary care, behavioral health and oral health services to address these concerns, and has achieved recognition for the quality of these services that are provided to all patients regardless of income or insurance status.

More recently, the organization has begun operating a dental clinic, expanded its behavioral health program, and added weekend hours at its Page Hill location. We welcome these important new initiatives, and believe they reflect the organization's longstanding practice of responding to community need. Outside its work as a Community Health Center, CCFHS also continues to sponsor the RESPONSE program for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The program offers services for individuals living throughout Coos County, and is essential to the health and safety of area residents.

In our experience, CCFHS staff recognizes the value of collaboration with other organizations and participates in a wide range of partnerships at the regional, state and national level. CCFHS has a long history of working to advance the health status of North Country residents, and I strongly urge the Bureau of Primary Health Care to continue to fund and support their work as a Federally Qualified Health Center.

Sincerely,