



**Project/Event Name:**

Prenatal medical care to uninsured and underserved women residing in Beaufort and Jasper Counties.

**Use of funds:**

The requested funds will be used to provide prenatal medical care to uninsured and underserved women in a safe, welcoming and confidential setting. Services include pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, prenatal vitamins, testing for sexually transmitted infections, pap smears, counseling, individual and group classes, support groups and essential baby items.

**Justification of Request/Public Benefit:**

The need for early prenatal care continues to increase in our community, but an overwhelming number of these moms-to-be do not have the financial resources to pay for the care they receive. In the past year we have seen a 21% increase over the previous year in the number of clients that were seen at the Pregnancy Center. In November we expanded our Moss Creek office space to meet the increasing demand for our services.

Many of the women who come to us for help would receive little to no prenatal care without our assistance. The professional services we provide are offered free of charge to these uninsured and underserved women because we know that early prenatal care is critical to the health and welfare of both the mother and her baby.

It is well documented that a healthy pregnancy is one of the best ways to promote a healthy birth. Getting early and regular prenatal care improves the chances of a healthy pregnancy and can help prevent complications. Prenatal care provides women with important information on nurturing and protecting their infants, monitors existing health conditions and identifies health problems that may arise during the pregnancy with a goal toward healthy moms and healthy babies. Mothers who do not get prenatal care or wait to get prenatal care until late in their pregnancy are almost three times more likely to deliver babies with low birth weights and other health issues. According to SC DHEC: PHSIS-Division of Biostatistics newborns with low birth weights are five times more likely to have serious health issues and protracted neonatal hospital stays. Pregnant women, their babies, families and the community benefit when moms and babies are given the opportunity to be healthy and well.

The availability of prenatal care to women who are uninsured or underinsured in our community is very limited. According to the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control statistics, only 76.9% of mothers residing in Beaufort County received prenatal care in the first trimester, and only 68.7% of mothers residing in Jasper County received care in the first trimester. Sadly, for many women who lack access to early prenatal care it is not unusual that the first time they see a doctor is when they show up in the emergency room to deliver. PCCLC plays a vital role in providing care to women included in these statistics.

The Kaiser Family Foundation states the main reason individuals lack healthcare coverage is due to the high cost of health insurance (Tolbert et al. 2020). It is important to acknowledge that low-income families are more likely to be uninsured. The statistics from the South Carolina Census Data Center 2019 indicate the estimated percentage of people under 65 without health insurance in Beaufort County is 14.4% and 19.4% in Jasper County. These numbers are significantly above the South Carolina average of 13.2%. Increasing the support for non-profit healthcare organizations or

community health centers who deliver comprehensive care to these populations would help Beaufort and Jasper Counties provide the uninsured with quality care (Community Health Rankings). Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED) shows that in 2021 10.1% of the population in Beaufort County were living below the poverty line, and in Jasper County the number was 18.5%. These individuals are the ones most likely to lack the funds necessary to purchase health insurance, and thus many of them have no access to preventive medical care, including prenatal care for mothers and their babies. The Pregnancy Center offers our services free of charge in an effort to reach out to this vulnerable, underserved population.

In 2022 PCCLC recorded 2,093 client visits, 1,480 from Beaufort County, 535 from Jasper County and 78 from other counties. Unique clients by ethnicity statistics demonstrate: 70.6% of our clients are Hispanic; 10.8% Caucasian; 10.8% African American/Caribbean; and 5.8% Other. Unique client by age statistics show: Age 14- 19--6.2%; Age 20-24--25.5%; Age 25-29--25%; Age 30-34--21%; and Age 35 or older--22.3%.

The PCCLC clinical staff includes Registered Nurses, an APRN/Nurse Midwife, Volunteer and Client Services Coordinator, and Bilingual Interpreters. Salaries budgeted for the Registered Nurses, APRN/Nurse Midwife, Volunteer Coordinator and Interpreters are \$210,000. The Interpreters are full-time employees, and the nurses and nurse midwife are part-time employees. We have the flexibility to increase nursing hours as needed. PCCLC's Medical Director and Radiologist serve in a Volunteer capacity. A team of dedicated volunteers assist in all of our clinic sites by greeting clients, scheduling appointments, organizing and distributing donations, and other tasks as needed.

Our average cost to provide services is between \$500-\$600 per client, depending on how early in one's pregnancy a client reaches out to the Center and the frequency with which services are provided according to the client's needs. In 2022 PCCLC provided comprehensive care to 647 unique clients. 372 ultrasounds were performed (\$160/ea); 481 pregnancy tests were administered (\$25/ea); 1,398 pap/STI lab tests were ordered (\$160/ea series), and 428 prenatal vitamins were distributed (\$6/90 day supply).

#### **Project cost breakdown:**

Average Cost of services per Client @\$550 X 650 clients = \$357,500

#### ***Associated Costs include but are not limited to:***

Average Cost of Ultrasounds per Client @\$160 X 375 Ultrasounds = \$60,000

Average Cost of Pregnancy Tests per client @\$25 X 480 Tests = \$12,000

Average Cost of Pap/STI Lab Tests per Client @ \$150 Series X 1400 Tests = \$210,000

Average Cost of Prenatal Vitamins per Client @\$6 X 430 Bottles = \$2,580

\*Professional Staff Salaries = \$210,000

**AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$50,000 TO HELP COVER COST OF PRENATAL MEDICAL CARE SUMMARIZED ABOVE.**

*\*Professional staff include Registered Nurses, APRN/Nurse midwife, Client Services/Volunteer Coordinator and Interpreters. Approximately 70% of our clients are Hispanic, the majority of which are Spanish speaking. Interpreters must be present for all client interactions to ensure all information is comprehended by the client.*