

East Texas Border Health Clinic dba Genesis PrimeCare NETWORK PLAN

East Texas Border Health Clinic dba Genesis PrimeCare Consortium
Consortium 41132

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INTRODUCTION

The East Texas Border Health Clinic dba Genesis PrimeCare Consortium is a 501c3 community health center organization (FQHC) with healthcare operations in the Northeast Texas counties of Harrison, Marion, Cass, Bowie, and Gregg. Rural clinic sites are located in Marshall, Jefferson, and Atlanta, Texas with two non-rural sites in Texarkana, and Longview. The administrative offices of Genesis PrimeCare are located at 1500 West Grand Avenue, Marshall Texas. The organization is governed by a 13 member, volunteer, Board of Directors, who are representative of the communities served. East Texas Border Health Clinic dba Genesis PrimeCare is requesting funding support from the Rural Healthcare Connect Fund to provide broadband connectivity for the rural clinic sites in Marshall, Atlanta, and Jefferson Texas.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK

To provide sufficient and reliable network connectivity to support the use of electronic medical records and essential web-based resources in all Genesis PrimeCare's rural clinic locations and enable communications with the administrative office.

The objectives of the proposed federal support from the HCF program are:

- Arrange for network set up and management of each rural clinic location in the most cost-effective manner with broadband connectivity to enable uninterrupted, continued service.
- Provide appropriate network services to facilitate existing and future usage of electronic medical records technology.
- Maintain broadband connectivity to ensure HCF support for monthly recurring costs and throughout the budget period.
- Modify and scale bandwidth as new opportunities to better serve our patient communities evolve.

STRATEGY for Aggregating the specific needs of HCPs

In order for the East Texas Border Health Clinic dba Genesis PrimeCare Consortium (rural local area of East Texas) to maintain an integrated, private, up-to-date health care network through which members can share core infrastructure services (e.g. access to Electronic Health Record (EHR), telehealth, collaboration/consultation with specialists, etc.) we require a network that will provide:

- Direct IP connectivity between consortium members (clinic sites).
- Pooled, centralized, and redundant access to the Internet
- Network-wide firewall to the Internet to safeguard healthcare information
- Ability to provide Encryption of all network traffic to ensure privacy

STRATEGY for leveraging existing technology to adopt the most efficient and cost effective means of connecting those providers;

Genesis PrimeCare has IT staff that troubleshoot problems and are mobile to visit clinic locations within the existing network. This approach eliminates the need and expense of providing technical expertise at each location. However as more rural clinic sites are added to the scope of core medical services, it is increasingly more important to ensure these locations are connected to the network. As such, Genesis PrimeCare will identify the lowest cost broadband service providers in the rural counties of Marion, Cass, and Harrison that can support our existing and future broadband needs for health and patient services.

The network project is a cost saving project in itself and the best way to keep costs down and utilize technologies that are currently available. Genesis PrimeCare is presently increasing capacity, and acquiring more rural clinic locations. Some of these clinics have never been connected to the internet by dial-up or broadband. As part of updating and making these locations capable of broadband connectivity, we will install fiber or equivalent optic cabling and replace outdated routers, switches and wireless access points as required to maintain stability and security. The updated infrastructure will provide a service conduit capable of delivering new and enhanced services and improving the performance. Existing technologies and current industry standards will be exploited whenever possible in an effort to keep costs down.

We are requesting HCF support for the following:

- Monthly Recurring Costs for Dedicated fiber or equivalent internet, 100Mbps(Down) x 100Mbps(Up) to the building

Broadband Services will be used to improve and provide quality health services and delivery

A critical component of healthcare moving forward in the 21st Century is the need to automate and carry out the delivery of healthcare services and operations using electronic processes and systems to capture and communicate all activities and data across all healthcare systems. These transactions represent the means of providing lifesaving information to providers and individuals that will be the basis for all care, treatment and healthcare services in the advancing future. Facilities and providers will be accountable for the efficient use of this technology and will be required to have it effectively installed and used in their facilities moving forward. Failure to do so will affect the quality of the care and the ability to have metrics that effectively describes the care delivered since the rural health care providers are often not in the information loop to demonstrate outcome effectiveness. The ability to be “accountable” for the

healthcare services delivered affects all aspects of healthcare...patient outcome, provider compensation, quality of care, patient satisfaction, etc... To this end, rural as well as non-rural providers must be able to coordinate care through EHR, as well closely monitor test ordered and results, referrals, and follow-up. A good example of usage is that radiography records (x-ray) have necessary high resolution content and can only be sent and viewed by a broadband network connection.

The broadband technology will provide services in a direct way to help rural health care providers have effective technical guidance and operational assistance with all of their information technology services. These services will provide consistency in this aspect of facilities organization with the ability to give 24-7 resources and fill any gaps that may be occurring with the ever changing IT market.

With the advent of “meaningful use” and the implementation of electronic software and hardware systems at the forefront of healthcare delivery, it is imperative that Genesis PrimeCare’s IT technical assistance in all aspects of the information technology be available to our rural health care clinics as we acquire the needed technology and implement these systems to advance the quality of healthcare delivery. With broadband capability, the electronic health records of rural patients will have improved service to distant HCPs and appropriate sharing of patient information will be improved for accuracy, speed and convenience.

Previous Experience In Developing And Managing Health IT Programs/Network

Genesis PrimeCare was fortunate to have the expertise of two very large health systems’ IT departments develop and establish the existing network that is being used. This was primarily due to the close associations with these entities as Genesis PrimeCare was a new FQHC. Since that initial assistance, Genesis PrimeCare has managed the network with its own in-house staff, many are former IT personnel of the large health systems. Genesis PrimeCare’s current Information Systems Director, Patty Pickering previously worked with one of the health systems and was part of the team that initially developed and set up Genesis PrimeCare’s network.

Project Management Plan, Network Leadership, Structure, Work Plan, Schedule and Budget

East Texas Border Health Clinic dba Genesis PrimeCare Consortium will be led by Patty Pickering, IT Director. All members of the consortium are owned or operated by East Texas Border Health Clinic dba Genesis PrimeCare, enabling network and equipment costs to be allocated to the appropriate site for each site’s 35% payment contribution. **The consortium is requesting HCF support for one of our rural clinics located in Atlanta, Texas-Cass County (HCP 50883), and the Administrative Office located in Harrison County Texas.** In the near future we will request HCP support for the remaining clinics located in Harrison and Marion Counties. The Health Centers 330e grant funds and patient revenues will supply the 35% contribution. Genesis PrimeCare’s project plan is to:

- Submit Form 461, Network Plan, and RFP to USAC
- Allow 28 days to post on website
- Identify most cost effective service provider (approximately 1 week)
- Contract negotiation and signing (approximately 1 week)
- Circuit Installation (within two weeks of executed contract)
- Begin using Contracted Services (within 1 month of signing contract)

East Texas Border Health Clinic dba Genesis PrimeCare Consortium will review any bids submitted while the network plan and 461 are posted on the USAC website, and if no bids are submitted, seek quotes from local vendors. Selection will occur after the 28 Day posting. Quotes will be sent to USAC for review along with documentation of justification for acceptance of a particular vendor.