

February 10, 2022

Susan Hoskins
Executive Director
Friends Foundation for the Aging
P.O. Box 1081
Langhorne, PA 19047

Dear Ms. Hoskins:

The Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers (Camden Coalition) respectfully requests your consideration of a \$50,000 grant in support of our Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP). Our organization, created in 2002, works to improve care for people with complex needs in by providing person-centered care management, piloting initiatives that address chronic illness and social barriers to health and wellbeing (i.e. housing, legal issues, behavioral health, polypharmacy, substance use), and strengthening the capacity of providers and systems to collaborate. Aligning with the Friends Foundation for the Aging's vision, our MLP ensures that low-income adults, many of whom are older, have adequate access to resources, housing, healthcare, and support.

To better address health-related social barriers for community members with complex care needs, the Camden Coalition partnered with Rutgers Law School – Camden and the Center for Healing at Cooper University Hospital to form a medical-legal partnership. The MLP addresses legal issues — a threatened eviction, a benefits denial, a utility shut-off — that undermine a patient's health and wellbeing and can be better met through the legal system. Our care team works closely with a consulting attorney to assess a patient's legal needs and provide legal guidance to address these challenging issues.

The MLP serves Camden-area residents enrolled in our care management programs, patients referred through the Accountable Health Communities initiative, and patients from the Center for Healing. The program serves low-income adults of all ages, races, and ethnicities; however, 44% of those served are 50+ and the majority served are Black and Hispanic/Latino. Socioeconomic factors as well as health and healthcare issues contribute to earlier aging for those the program serves. Camden is one of New Jersey's lowest income areas and also has some of the lowest life expectancies. New Jersey's average life expectancy is 80.3 while Camden averages only 73, with one neighborhood averaging just 67.2. In addition, chronic homelessness has been shown to shorten an individual's lifespan by up to 20 years, and 11% of cases are referred from our housing program.

The MLP collaborates with the Camden Coalition's internal Data and Quality Improvement team to collect implementation and outcomes data. Data used to evaluate the program includes administrative records from our HIE, Medicaid claims data, follow-up with participants, including longer-term surveys. MLP staff further tracks the overall type of issue encountered, and denotes quantitative and qualitative outcomes as applicable.

In addition to the programmatic partnerships with Rutgers and Cooper, the MLP has secured support from the following sources: Holman Enterprises, Santander, the Sozosei Foundation, and

Rutgers' Maida Public Interest Fellowship and Lois and Samuel Pratt Program. A grant would be used to support low-income older adults with legal barriers to health; specifically, MLP attorney time and costs associated with patient advocacy.

Please feel free to contact Lauren Wampler, Program Manager, Grants & Development, at lwampler@camdenhealth.org or 856-365-9510, ext. 2065 with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Noonan', written in a cursive style.

Kathleen Noonan
Chief Executive Officer