

## **PROJECT ABSTRACT**

**Project Title:** Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program

**Applicant Organization Name:** Greater Meridian Health Clinic, Inc.

**Address:** 2701 Davis St., Meridian, MS 39301-5708

**Project Director Name:** Wilbert L. Jones, CEO

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**All grant program funds requested:** Rural Health Care Services Outreach, \$200,000

**Funding preference:** Funding preference requested for Medically Underserved Communities

**Community and community need(s).** Greater Meridian Health Clinic, Inc. (GMHC) is applying on behalf of the Mississippi Access Group Network (MAGnet), a Mississippi Chartered Corporation with a mission to align Mississippi's Community Health Centers (CHCs) to strengthen collaboration for improved health access, performance, outcomes and cost efficiencies. All MAGnet members including GMHC are CHCs. The service area includes residents of 16 rural counties served by MAGnet members, including Coahoma, Covington, Holmes, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leflore, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Panola, Pearl River, Quitman, Tunica, Warren, and Winston counties, and rural CTs in Copiah and Lamar counties. The service area population is 440,063. More than half of residents (52.8%) live with incomes below 200% FPG ("ACS, 2011-2015," Census, 2016). While Mississippi is consistently found at the bottom of health and socioeconomic rankings nationally, the service area lags behind both the state and the nation across a wide array of health disparities and social determinants of health.

**Target population group(s)/target service area(s).** The target population is the low-income, rural residents of 16 underserved counties. MAGnet partners serve a very low-income (87.5% with incomes below 200% FPG), predominantly African American (74%) population (UDS).

**Focus area.** Cardiovascular risk and behavioral health.

**Proposed services.** Shared protocol/algorithm for hypertension, blood pressure monitoring, hypertension registry, integrated behavioral health services with primary care, SBIRT screening, depression screening, and a Community Health Worker-led educational on heart health.

**Number of consortium members involved and who have signed MOU.** The five consortium members of MAGnet include Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc., Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center, Inc., Central Mississippi Civic Improvement Association dba Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center, Inc., Greater Meridian Health Clinic, Inc., and Southeast Mississippi Rural Health Initiative, Inc.

**Evidence-based or promising practice model(s).** Million Hearts® 2022 strategies; Behavioral Health Integration with Primary Care (BHI) including depression screening and Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT); and "With Every Heartbeat is Life," a Community Health Worker intervention.

**Model modifications.** Minor adjustments to BHI implementation due to varying resources among MAGnet partners. The Million Hearts® 2022 and "With Every Heartbeat is Life," models and strategies will be implemented as designed.

**Expected outcomes.** Reduced cardiovascular risk, improved access to integrated behavioral health, improved cardiovascular health, and decreased health disparities.

**Funding preference.** GMHC requests a funding preference as it meets the requirements for Qualification 2: Medically Underserved Community/Populations. All sixteen service area counties are designated Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) in their entirety.