

Application: 29008 | General

24,942

Started at: 7/10/2023 10:40 AM - Finalized at: 7/17/2023 06:54 PM

Page: 2023 Family Medicine Cares USA New Clinic Application



American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation

- Before completing this application, please read the **FMC USA Guidelines** (<https://www.aafpfoundation.org/grants-awards/family-medicine-cares-usa/application-details.html#>)
- **Important:** **Download Budget Work Sheet** (<https://www.aafpfoundation.org/grants-awards/family-medicine-cares-usa/application-details.html#>), then upload with the application online.
- The application packet must be received by **July 17, 7 p.m. Central Time**.
- **DO NOT SAVE AND FINALIZE THE APPLICATION UNLESS THE BUDGET AND ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS ARE UPLOADED.**
- **Questions:** Contact Sharon Hunt at shunt@aafp.org or 1-913-906-6006.

We encourage all to apply and are committed to supporting new free and existing clinics in the areas of need who reflect the rich diversity of the specialty and the patients served.

Application Date

7/15/2023

Clinic Opening Date

4/28/2023

Amount Requested (up to \$25,000)

24,942

The new clinic has received (or are in the process of receiving) the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics seal of excellence

Yes

The Family Physician named in the application is a member of the AAFP.

Yes

Clinic Services are provided at no cost to the patient.

Yes

Clinic Name

The MeSCO Clinic

Clinic Address

The MeSCO Clinic c/o The Department of Family Medicine
1501 Kings Highway
Shreveport Louisiana 71103 US

Telephone Number

+1 318-675-5640

Clinic Email

MeSCOClinic@lsuhs.edu

Website Address

instagram.com/mesco_lsuhs/ (http://instagram.com/mesco_lsuhs/)

Clinic's Primary Contact Name

Maria Kerrigan

EXAMPLE

Title of Clinic Contact

Executive Director

Clinic Contact's Telephone Number

+1 352-219-1374

Clinic Contact's Email

mrk001@lsuhs.edu

FP Name

Dr. Natalie Trujillo-Aguirre, MD

FP AAFP Membership ID

9225191

FP Cell (or best contact #)

+1 909-732-4111

FP Email

Natalie.TrujilloAguirre@lsuhs.edu

How is the FP Champion involved in the clinic? (Check all that apply).

Is the FP Champion the medical director of the clinic?

Yes

Is the FP Champion a board president of the clinic?

Yes

Is the FP Champion an active volunteer providing medical services?

Yes

EXAMPLE**Please describe or provide examples of the FP Champion's leadership role and involvement in the clinic.**

Dr. Trujillo has been instrumental in developing the MeSCO Free Community Clinic, a new collaboration between medical students and family physicians at LSU Health Shreveport (LSUHS) School of Medicine.

The rich involvement of medical students and resident physicians in the founding of our clinic was made possible by Dr. Trujillo, who ensured student voices and passions regarding this project were heard at the highest level. Her dedication was not only amplified in the school of medicine, but also The Ochsner Health system; for which without her advocacy, a partnership with MeSCO would not have been possible.

She serves as Medical Director and primary preceptor for MeSCO clinics and events, is active on our Board of Directors, and is a staunch advocate for faculty development and recruitment of new family physicians. She is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and serves the school of medicine as Director of The Clinical Skills Center and Foundations of Clinical Medicine course.

She has a history of service in medical missions locally and abroad. Through this and our work with MeSCO, she teaches us to uphold a high quality of care while navigating challenges, such as insurance restraints and barriers to treatment compliance, while holding space for others when the limits of medicine have been breached. Her dedicated mentorship is invaluable, empowering us to utilize our knowledge and learned skills, while equipping us to think critically to successfully apply our training. These pearls, not currently included in our school's curriculum, will make us better doctors.

Please provide brief descriptions for each section below (DO NOT STATE, "SEE ATTACHMENT".)

a. Geographic area(s) and demographics of patient population to be served.

We serve multiple sites in Caddo Parish. The Highland Center (520 Olive Street, 71104) and Bayou Grande for Volunteers of America (360 Jordan Street, 71101) have an ADI score of 10 and National Percentile (NP) of 98. Hirsch Coliseum (3207 Pershing Boulevard, 71109) has an ADI score of 10 and NP of 99. Providence House (814 Cotton Street, 71101) has an ADI score of 10 and NP of 100. Although St. Rest (1664 Garden St, 71101) shares a zip code with Providence House, its ADI score and NP are suppressed due to low population and/or housing. Since 1994, the Health Resources and Services Administration designated areas surrounding The Highland Center, Bayou Grande, Providence House, Hirsch Coliseum, and St. Rest as medically underserved.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the age distribution in Caddo Parish includes 23.2% persons under 18, 19% over 65, and 52.8% between 18-65, with 52.6% female and 47.4% male. Races represented include: 50.3% African American, 43.3% White, 3.3% Hispanic/Latino, 1.5% Asian, 0.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 1.8% with 2+ races. A staggering 23.6% live in poverty, 11.8% under age 65 live with disabilities, and 9.4% under 65 are uninsured. US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 7.6% of Shreveport's population is unemployed, with a rising unemployment rate of 4.1%. These disparities are largely concentrated in a 0.6 square mile downtown metropolitan area, approximating 16,000 individuals living in indigent conditions.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) reported that 21.4% of Caddo Parish is diabetic and 43.6% of adults above age 18 experience hypertension. The LDH's 2018 STD/HIV Surveillance Report reveals a high prevalence of STI's, with an incidence rate of 400+ persons living with HIV per 100,000. The diagnosis rate of Chlamydia is 900+ cases, Gonorrhea is 300+/, and Syphilis is 50+ per 100,000 persons, annually. CHRISTUS Health reports that births to mothers between ages 15-19 are highest in our region of Louisiana. Statistics aside, if you were to visit Shreveport, one 10-minute drive through our downtown area would demonstrate the degree of our community's hardship.

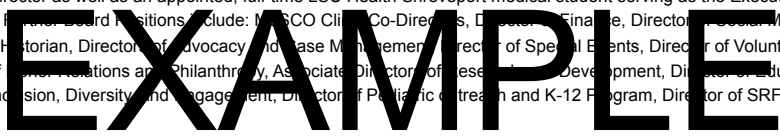
The MeSCO (Medical Student Charity Outreach) Clinic was established in 2021. After two years of planning and fundraising, we launched our mobile clinic with limited primary care services on April 28, 2023. We currently provide health screenings, convenience and preventative care, and treatment for minor injury and illness. We serve as a referral point, connecting the patients we cannot manage to appropriate resources and facilities. We rotate to each of our 5 sites once monthly. Each clinic is 4 hours, totaling 20 monthly hours of direct patient care and volunteer opportunities for physicians.

With support from the AAFP Foundation, we plan to offer more comprehensive primary care to our community members and meet the following objectives: 1) Provide well-women's exams, including pregnancy, STI, and Papanicolaou tests, 2) Provide point-of-care (POC) Infectious Disease testing and 3) Launch a formulary with medications for management of diabetes, hypertension, and common acute illnesses such as cutaneous infections, strep throat, URI's, and UTIs; all free of charge.

b. Clinic organizational or governing structure.

The MeSCO Board of Directors (BOD) oversees the clinic's strategic, administrative, and financial planning, ensuring advancement of the service mission. Officers crafted the clinic's standard operating procedures (SOP) in accordance with the NAFC quality guidelines and the National Society of Student Run Free Clinics' (NSRFC) framework. The NSRFC is an initiative whose current vision is to support the existence of student-run clinics at every health science center, providing an evidence-based tool kit that has guided the successful opening and sustainability of over 152 student-run clinics in the United States. This framework provides detailed directives for policy development and organization, such as administrative planning, clinical operations, fundraising, budgeting, pertinent laws and legalities, successful integration of clinics in medical curricula, physician recruitment, research, and developing community connections. Many participating clinics in the NSRFC network experience a steady increase in annual growth. StudentRunFreeClinics.org.

As outlined under NSRFC recommendations, our organization includes several levels of leadership both clinically and on the BOD. Our BOD is led by a practicing family physician serving as the MeSCO clinic Medical Director as well as an appointed, full-time LSU Health Shreveport medical student serving as the Executive Director and an EM/FM resident physician serving as Resident Director. Board Positions include: MeSCO Clinic Co-Directors, Director of Finance, Director of Public Media Communications, Director of Community Outreach, MeSCO Clinical Historian, Director of Advocacy and Case Management, Director of Special Events, Director of Volunteer Services, Director of Community Health Education Programs, Director of Fundraising and Philanthropy, Associate Director of Research and Development, Director of Education and Curriculum Development, Director of Administration, Director of Inclusion, Diversity, and Engagement, Director of Pediatric Outreach and K-12 Program, Director of SRFC Operations, and LSUHS Chapter Chair for NSRFC.



Board members serve in clinics, attend monthly board meetings, and complete delegated tasks within their service area. BOD meetings maintain organization and appropriate planning for clinics, general maintenance, and discussions on community and student involvement, fundraising, inventory, and current progress. Furthermore, Co-Directors are responsible for coordinating smaller groups of Directors to ensure an effective, cohesive approach to advancing goals and the overall service mission.

Our clinical leadership can also be broken down by role: team leader, check-in, triage, student providers, care coordinators, volunteer residents, and physicians. Each role is outlined in our SOP and included in orientation prior to each clinic. We also provide education and training both before and during clinical shifts. Shifts are managed by attending and resident physicians along with a student team leader, appointed on the basis of experience. Further roles include the following: check-in, whose responsibilities are obtaining HIPAA authorization, consent to treatment, and intake forms; screening, who obtain vitals and provide education; triage, who assesses vitals, acuity, complete POC testing, and direct clinic flow; student scribe and provider, who in addition to the resident physicians are responsible for obtaining a history, physical exam, and thorough documentation of the visit; and care coordinators, who weekly check emails, referral trackers, and contact patients to ensure adequate follow up.

Organizational Chart

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c. Sustainability Plan

As an independent student organization within the LSUHS School of Medicine, MeSCO is solely responsible for the sustainability of the clinic. We currently rely on the strategic financial planning of our BOD, support from Ochsner Health, the LSUHS Department of Family Medicine, and community donations. Support from the AAFP Foundation will allow us to fully realize our diagnostic and laboratory capabilities to best address disparities dually identified by 1) LDH and Community Needs Assessments data for our area and 2) first-hand need observations from our first few months of clinic operations.

We are grateful to be partnered with Ochsner Health, who has provided substantial in-kind support, including our mobile unit with two exam rooms, a front desk, an air-conditioned waiting area, gas, a driver and security guard, and insurance for the unit. Additionally, they provide administrative support, clinical oversight, equipment, overage supplies from Ochsner clinics, and optional nursing support if needed.

One of our great strengths is proximity to family physicians and the donation of their time. Although we are a teaching hospital and our clinic is endorsed by Ochsner-LSUHS, our physicians participate on a volunteer basis serving as both provider and teacher. Access to mentorship without the stress of grading serves as further incentive for trainee involvement and creates a positive learning environment focused on patient care and education for the sake of enhancing bedside practice.

The MeSCO BOD pursues multiple income streams to purchase clinic supplies. Last fall, the BOD raised over \$2,000 in one t-shirt fundraiser and they plan at least two major fundraisers yearly, with several minor fundraisers sprinkled throughout the academic year. Past fundraisers have included giveback nights, t-shirt sales, and other events that promote community engagement while providing an opportunity for MeSCO to receive donations. We are also grateful to have a network of over 3,000 LSUHS physician alumni who support student driven service projects. We also plan to continue to seek external funding through grant opportunities.

As medical students, community service is integral to our education. We are driven to inform our approach to patient care by learning from those with different backgrounds, for which our clinic provides this unique opportunity. We always have a supply of highly motivated students and resident physicians seeking opportunities for service, leadership, and research. We can safely estimate we will have sufficient clinic and board volunteers for as long as the medical school is open.

Finally, our community service sites are organizations who support Shreveport's most underserved. Partnerships allow easy access to our clinic, the reliability of a consistent service location that is both accessible and integrated within the daily routines of community members, and helps reduce our operating costs by allowing us to park the mobile unit on the campuses of well-known facilities. Several of these sites also offer ample opportunities for fellowship, including community dinners and Area Health Education Center programs that allow our volunteers to get to know those we serve, spurring authentic support-based relationships and deepening our ties to the community.

Abbreviated Business Plan

Download File (<https://aafp.secure-platform.com/file/19215/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWVpYUlkIjoxOTIxNSwiYXsb3dOb3RtaWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSIsImInbm9yMeSCO%20Abbreviated%20Business%20Plan.pdf>)

d. Partnerships and/ or Collaborations.

Community Organizations, Hospitals, Medical Schools

Partnerships and/or Collaboration Description



Partnerships with community organizations, hospitals, and medical schools allow The MeSCO Clinic expand its community recognition, access to resources, and ensure its sustainability to provide to the public. MeSCO's partnerships with community organizations help us understand the needs of our community on a grassroots level while establishing access to healthcare.

The MLK Clinic provides primary care and pharmacy services at no cost to uninsured patients who have chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and asthma. Their services place a high importance on Women's Health and maternal care, which aligns with MeSCO's initiative to improve female reproductive care in this region. According to the MLK Clinic's website, they provide services valued over \$14 million to over 1,500 patients annually. This demonstrates the need for primary care in our community, and how MeSCO can support with the addition of more neighborhood resources. Our partnership with the MLK Clinic helps patients who visit the MeSCO Clinic establish continuity of care for the homeless and uninsured, through an interdisciplinary community referral network, which is also being established at Bayou Grande.

Providence House is a residential treatment facility for homeless families with children. They provide life coaching to help remove people from the street, leave abusive relationships, and break free from addiction. MeSCO pop-up clinics at this facility help provide free healthcare to families and medical services are integral to The Providence House service mission. We are grateful to support them.

The City of Shreveport provides MeSCO with spaces to participate in community wide pop-up clinics and public relations support, allowing MeSCO to reach larger areas of our community. Past partnerships include Second Saturday downtown health screenings, Arts in Medicine events, and a Pop-Up Shelter at Hirsch Coliseum. Collaborations with the City of Shreveport will continue throughout the year and help improve the clinic's visibility in the community.

MeSCO's collaboration with Ochsner Health has provided the clinic a location to dispose of biohazard waste and compliant document shredding services. Ochsner also supports a free mobile mammogram bus, which can serve as an expansion of our services for providing free well women's exams. We are honored to partner with Ochsner in their 40x30 healthy State project, an initiative committed to raising the overall health ranking of Louisiana by improving health equity and health outcomes by 2030.

The LSUHS School of Medicine provides our academic infrastructure, medical malpractice and general liability insurance, physicians, and other critical resources, such as our AED, HIPAA compliant storage space, REDCap software for outcomes measurement and reporting, advisory from the Institutional Review Board for research projects, and access to the hospital's EHR (Epic) for research purposes. LSUHS resources and advisory faculty members allow MeSCO to operate in a professional and efficient manner in concordance with industry standards.

e. Possible Family Medicine volunteers

Medical Students, Residents, Active FP(s)

Number of Family Medicine Volunteers

Clinic structure was informed by the Harvard/Boston Children's Hospital SRFC, where students check-in and triage patients, complete visits in pairs, and make the appropriate referrals. A first- or second- year medical student collaborates with an upperclassman and/or resident physician, overseen by an onsite faculty preceptor. An additional student may scribe. After interviewing and evaluating the patient, the team collaborates to discuss potential treatment and management options. Then, they return to the patient to provide the plan and answer any questions.

State law and insurance policies currently require the supervising physician to be an active faculty member. Any LSUHS Medical Student or Resident Physician who has undergone MeSCO clinic specific orientation is eligible to volunteer in the clinic.

MeSCO Clinics each host up to 2 faculty attendings, 2 resident physicians, and 8-15 medical students, depending on needs and location. Monthly, opportunities exist for 10 attending physicians, 10 Resident physicians, and 75 medical students to volunteer at one of our free community clinics. As we continue to meet our fundraising goals and expand our services in accordance with our financial planning, we will continue to grow until we are operating 5 days/week, providing additional volunteer opportunities.

4. Budget

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Budget Description

The items requested on our budget worksheet have been selected in accordance with our stated objectives to fully launch our primary care clinic, which includes 1) providing free well-women's exams, pregnancy, STI, and Papanicolaou tests, 2) free POC Infectious Disease (ID) testing, and 3) Launch of our Formulary.

The current exam tables in our mobile unit will not accommodate well-women's exams and an appropriate table and stool are required to achieve this goal. The biohazard trash bin is necessary to expand our services to include basic labs and POC ID testing. Various sized blood pressure cuffs are critical items, as vitals are taken at every visit and an appropriately sized cuff ensures accurate measurements.

Students and residents use personal oto- and ophthalmoscopes, each with varying degrees of sensitivity. The Welsh-Allen set that will improve visualization of tissues and pertinent physical exam findings.

The CLIA-exempt laboratory equipment will allow us to properly identify organisms prior to providing prescriptions for antimicrobial agents, trends in blood chemistries, as well as kidney and liver function. Establishing our formulary requires the capability of monitoring physiologic trends in serum with basic, but powerful tools like CBC and CMP, for which the portable Piccolo Xpress will immediately facilitate with ample room to grow.

The Urine Analyzer will allow evaluation kidney function, hCG, screening for UTIs and STIs, while also providing diagnostic capability.

The Diabetes Management Analyzer will allow us to measure hemoglobin A1C levels, a required tool for the management and confirmatory diagnosis of diabetes.

The CardioChek Plus machine provides rapid, comprehensive assessment of lipids, essential in the management of patients who are at risk for or suffering with hyperlipidemia, the leading cause for heart disease and the 4th leading cause of stroke. It will also be a useful adjunct to our appropriate differentials and manage associated conditions, such as metabolic syndrome, while assisting us in identifying risk factors for which we can intervene early to prevent disease and improve health outcomes for our patients.

The ID Now Molecular machine will allow testing for common viral and bacterial illnesses, such as influenza, RSV, SARS-CoV2, and group A strep.

The continuous ECG monitoring system will be used for patients in the clinic who have heart disease or associated risk factors, but who have never had any kind of basic cardiology workup. ECG is a simple modality that can help rule out cardiac involvement, spur a formal referral process to cardiology, and help us monitor patients in the event of an emergency while we wait for EMS to arrive.

The portable oxygen tank will provide us with the ability to place a patient on oxygen, should they require it. It will also be beneficial in the event of an emergency.

In the fall, we plan to serve a number of back to school events, and 1 out of 5 pediatric patients are lost to follow up in Ochsner's peds allergy clinics. Free, basic spirometry may allow us to make an impact on these rates when providing care at pediatric events.

The Vscan point-of-care ultrasound can be used to assess a myriad of conditions in multiple body systems and remains an essential diagnostic tool in primary care, in addition to helping us provide high quality care for women.

HIPAA compliant, long-term storage of a large volume of paper-based medical records is not feasible for MeSCO, as our clinic operates on wheels with limited storage space. We currently pay \$149 monthly for access to Practice Fusion, and support for EHR software would remove a financial burden, allowing us to redistribute those funds toward supplies for direct patient care.

We have identified \$491 in start-up supplies, including ID cartridges, control strips, and test kits for our requested laboratory equipment and well-woman exams. It also includes additional sharps containers and biohazard bags to safely dispose of laboratory waste.

While the disparity in our area is substantial and the statistics are compelling, it is difficult to fully represent the critical need for medical services in Caddo Parish. Families in poverty, unemployed and homeless persons, those with untreated hypertension, diabetes and HIV, and those who want care but cannot get it due to insurance restrictions or lack thereof, they are all in desperate need of access from empathetic and consistent providers. MeSCO is committed to delivering high quality primary care to our community and support from the AAFP Foundation will help us solidify our service capacity and fulfill the heart of our mission.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our proposal.

Applicant is to provide two letters of support. One letter of support from community or medical partners and one letter of support from the clinic's physician champion. Support letters are to be dated, addressed to the AAFP Foundation, written on an organization's or community partner's letterhead and signed.

LOS Community or Medical Partner

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LOS Physician Champion


Download File (<https://aafp.secure-platform.com/file/19208/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWVpYUlkIjoxOTIwOCwiYWxsYXN0b3RtaWduZWVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSIsImlnbm9AAFP%20Grant%20Request%20for%20MESCO-signed%20Trujillo.pdf>)

In the event a grant is awarded, the applicant, on behalf of the clinic agrees to adhere to all award conditions specified by the AAFP Foundation as outlined in the guidelines, which accompany this application.

Physician Champion Signature



Authorized Clinic Representative Signature



EXAMPLE

How did you hear about the FMC USA program?

Board of Directors - Internet Searching



American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation

NEW CLINIC BUDGET (Please note: This grant is intended to be used to purchase **durable, sustainable equipment and instruments** necessary for primary care diagnosis and treatment).

NOTE: Estimated costs rounded to the nearest dollar not to exceed \$25,000

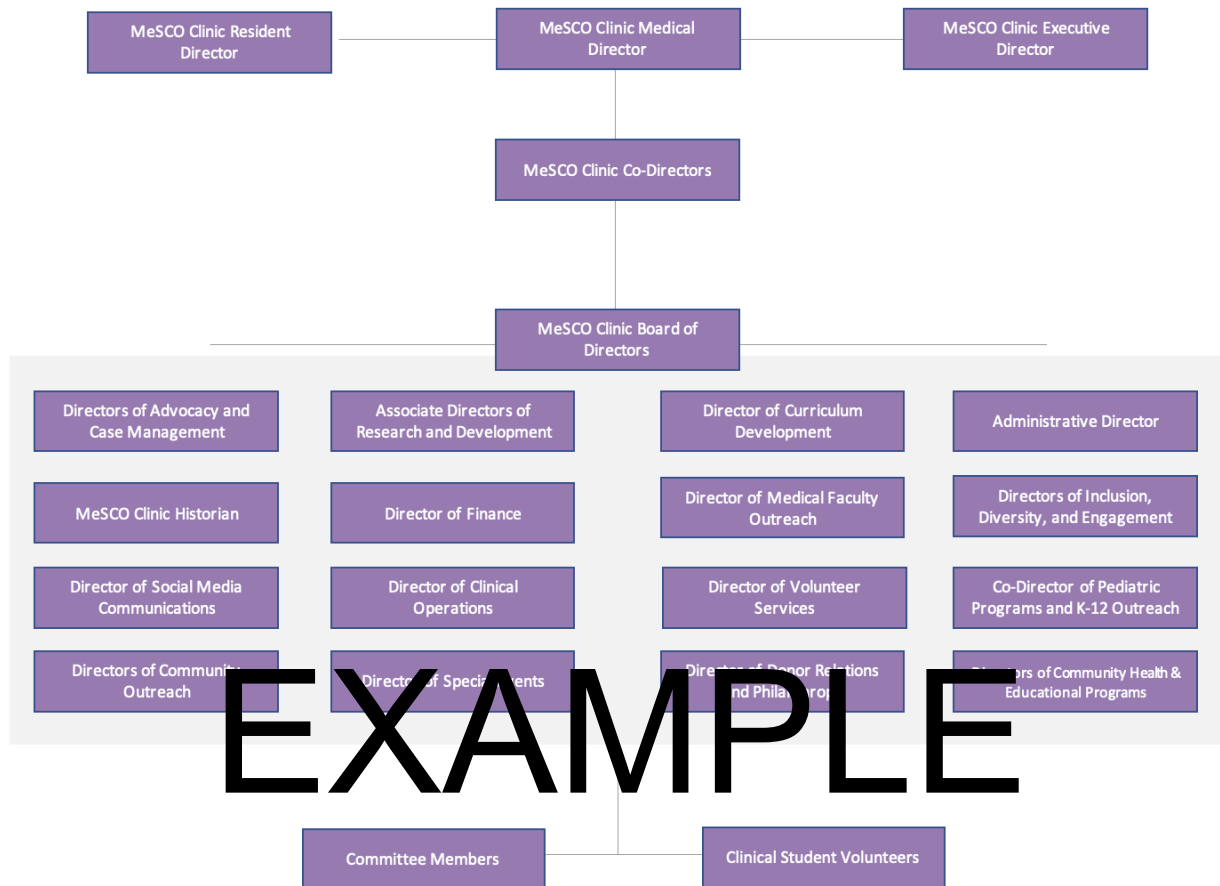
	Items (Example: Item @ estimated cost x number needed)	Estimated Cost	Sub-total
1	Exam Room (e.g., exam table, exam lamp, revolving stool, scales, etc.)		
	TIGER#: TM55538 Clinton Industries 8870 8870 / 8890 Family Practice Exam Table for well woman's exams @ \$957 x 1	\$957	
	Pneumatic Height Adjustable Lux Exam Stool – Black @ \$99 x 1	\$99	
	BowTie Biohazard Bin with Hands-Free Foot Pedal 50 ct @ \$60 x 1	\$60	
	Sub-total		\$1,116
2	Instruments & Equipment (e.g., stethoscope, otoscope, thermometer, penlight, etc.)		
	WELCH ALCOHOL-RESISTANT Disposable Reusable Blood Pressure Cuff various sizes @ 39 x 1	\$39	
	Ophthalmoscope/Otoscope Exam Kit @ 1,122 x 1	\$1,122	
	Sub-total		\$1,161
3	Laboratory Equipment (e.g., microscope, centrifuge, timers, HbA1c machine, etc.)		
	McKesson 1212139: Ultrasound Vscan Extend™ with Sector Probe @ \$3,233 x 1	\$3,233	
	McKesson #1065909: Urine Analysis Machine @ \$157 x 1	\$157	
	McKesson #866833: CardioChek Plus Cholesterol Analyzer @ \$833 x 1	\$833	
	McKesson #1139091: Diabetes Management Analyzer Afinion™ 2 CLIA Waived @ \$3,791 x 1	\$3,791	
	McKesson #928584: ID Now Molecular @ \$4,646 x 1	\$4,646	
	McKesson # 1055600 Spirometer System, Easyone Air @ 2,121 x 1	\$2,121	
	McKesson # 734097: Blood Chemistry Analyzer, Piccolo Xpress D/s @ \$3,600 x 1	\$3,600	



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	Sub-total		\$18,381
4	Start-up Supplies for Equipment – <u>Limit \$500</u> (e.g., accu check strips, lancets, otoscope speculums, gloves, disposable probe covers etc.)		
	McKesson # 986110 Cardiocheck plus strips @ 188 x 1	\$188	
	McKesson # 951311 Pregnancy HcG Dipstick (25/kt) @ 10 x 2	\$20	
	McKesson # 951316: Strep A Dipstick CLIA Waived @ \$26 x 1	\$26	
	McKesson # 551568: Speculum, Vag Illum Disp Med (25/bx 4bx/cs) @ 22 x 2	\$,44	
	Control, Urine Dipper Lev1&2 12ml (4/bx 10bx/cs) @ \$58 x 1	\$58	
	Paper, Non Sticky F/urine Analyzer (4/bx 50bx/cs) @ \$16 x 1	\$ 16	
	McKesson: 917174 Collection Kit, Pap Smear Thinprep (25/bx 20bx/cs) @ 18 x 2	\$36	
	McKesson: 832497 Panel, Comprehensive Metabolic(10/bx) Abbtpt @ 103 x 1	\$103	
	Sub-total		\$491
5	Software/equipment for EHR: Specify		
	Practice Fusion EHR Software @ \$3,600 x 1	\$3,600	
	Sub-total		\$3600
6	Other durable items not listed above. Specify		
	McKesson #855063: Sharps container @ \$3 x 2	\$6	
	McKesson #914203 - First-In Oxygen Resuscitator Kit @ \$187 x 1	\$187	
	Sub-total		\$193
	TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$24,942	

The MeSCO Clinic Organizational Chart



EXAMPLE

MeSCO Clinic Board of Director Responsibilities Updated May 4th, 2023

Maria Kerrigan - MS3, Executive Director

- Responsible for the strategic and long term planning of The MeSCO Clinic
- Interfaces with Ochsner Health, LSU Health Shreveport Administration, Academic Affairs, The Office of Risk Management, and other associated entities required to ensure the MeSCO Clinic maintains approval and sufficient regulatory oversight
- Oversees the Research, Clinical Operations, and Care Coordination Teams
- Creates and implements policies and procedures
- Serves as site leadership during community clinics

- Assists in advising, planning, and reporting activities pertaining to all aspects of the MeSCO Clinic and associated events or endeavors
- Responsible for ensuring all programming complies with federal, state, and institutional regulations
- Establishes performance goals and measures to evaluate success of various service areas
- Directs and plans the writing and submission of grants and other financial support to ensure the sustainability of clinic operations
- Performs any and all duties delegated to the board members below

Sarah Martin, MS3 - Co-Director

- Responsible for the strategic and long term planning of The MeSCO Clinic
- Assists the Executive Director in interfacing with Ochsner Health, LSU Health Shreveport Administration, Academic Affairs, The Office of Risk Management, and other associated entities required to ensure the MeSCO Clinic maintains approval and sufficient regulatory oversight
- Assists in advising, planning, and reporting activities pertaining to all aspects of the MeSCO Clinic and associated events or endeavors
- Assists in the development of formulating policies and procedures
- Oversees the Administrative and Fundraising Teams
- Serves on the management team with the Executive Director
- Serves as site leadership during community clinics
- Performs any and all duties delegated to the board members below

EXAMPLE

Caroline Kirk, MS3 - Co-Director

- Responsible for the strategic and long term planning of The MeSCO Clinic
- Assists the Executive Director in interfacing with Ochsner Health, LSU Health Shreveport Administration, Academic Affairs, The Office of Risk Management, and other associated entities required to ensure the MeSCO Clinic maintains approval and sufficient regulatory oversight
- Assists in advising, planning, and reporting activities pertaining to all aspects of the MeSCO Clinic and associated events or endeavors
- Assists in the development of formulating policies and procedures
- Serves on the management team with the Executive Director
- Oversees the Training and Supplies & Inventory Teams
- Serves as site leadership during community clinics
- Performs any and all duties delegated to the board members below

Mason Favre, MS3 - Director of Finance

- Responsible for T-shirt orders and distribution to purchasers

- Work with Fundraising and Events Teams and/or any collaborating student groups for yearly donations through community events
- Responsible for helping ensure all donations to the organization are deposited into the Campus Federal or Foundation accounts
- Intermediate between other members/officers/items/checks/reimbursement request
- Responsible for making check deposits and receiving monetary donations
- Responsible for working with the Foundation and MeSCO Director on creating budget for semester/year
- Maintain an updated balance of the Foundation account and Campus Federal Credit Union account
- Give account updates at the monthly BOD meetings

Abigail Poe, MS3 -Director of Social Media Communications

- Plan, coordinate, and organize media-based promotional campaigns for the clinic
- Ensure outreach events related to the clinic are advertised in a timely fashion
- Maintain all MESCO social media accounts
- Support the team through ensuring all flyers, brochures, online content, or social media posts follow LSUHS and Ochsner Communications rules and regulations
- Get all flyers, brochures, online content, or social media posts approved by Student Affairs and Med College personnel
- Plan ways to get the word out to the community where the clinic will be set up
- Plan ways to reach out to community for donations
- Work with Director of Community Outreach to promote MESCO clinic days, fundraisers, giveback nights, etc. to the community

Camila Carrera, MS2 and Jay Manuel, MS3 - Director of Community Outreach (2 positions)

- Compile a “resource list” of community businesses that will work with our patients for needs beyond our clinic (ex: therapists who are willing to offer no-cost services, or pharmacies willing to offer low-cost products, etc)
- Create a brochure for the active “resource list” with the Director of Social Media Communications to hand out to patients after their visit.
- Help the Director of Educational Programs and Community Health with the data collection for an ongoing research project that measures the improvement in knowledge and utilization of community resources before and after using the guides
- Reach out to the community and find places for our bus to be located.
- If the business requests a contract for the MESCO bus to be on their property, please present it to student affairs for approval and correct signatures.
- Reach out to community businesses for donations for the clinic

- Work with the Director of Social Media Communication to promote MESCO clinic days, fundraisers, giveback nights, etc to the community
- Reach out to community clinics for donations of un-used products

Adelaide Schultz, MS3 - MeSCO Historian

- Maintain record of clinic dates and student shifts (work with Volunteer Coordinator).
- Reports upcoming clinic dates and events to the Office of Student Affairs at the start of every month
- Supplies a list of participating students to the Office of Student Affairs for every clinic shift and event
- Maintain clinic rosters and contact lists for available students/faculty
- Take notes and attendance at Board Meetings, using the historian template
- Responsible for keeping record of MeSCO’s accomplishments and activities throughout the year
- Collecting photographs, news articles, and other memorabilia important to the organization and distributes that to the team as needed

Kamryn Jones, MS3, Breonna Arvie, MS3, and Hiba Soorya, MS3 - Directors of Advocacy and Case Management

- Performs once weekly checks of referrals (Referral Tracker in TEAM) and communicates to the team for support as needed to ensure those referrals are met
- Calls and emails patients to identify barriers to follow up
- Schedules follow up appointments with MeSCO in Practice Fusion for the next site visit in that patient’s neighborhood
- Have an accessible database of resources available to patients that can be accessed to meet the unique needs of the patients who come to the clinic.
- Work with research team to maintain a system for tracking patients, follow up with them about their care, and assess how the clinic can better serve them
- Work with the Director of Curriculum Development to develop a basic training module for students who will volunteer at the clinic as a case manager
- Ensures student case managers are performing duties adequately and making correct referrals
- Work with Dir. of Diversity and clinic volunteers to promote advocacy means
- Create a brochure for the active “resource list” with the Director of Community Outreach to hand out to patients after their visit.

Aaron Fernandez, MS3 - Director of Special Events

- Work with the Director of Donor Relations to plan special fundraising events
- Work with the treasurer to plan budgets for events

- Plan at least one large event in the fall and one in the spring to raise money for MeSCO and/or as a way to reach out to the community and teach them about MeSCO
- Be responsible for contacting venues for these events and finding one to fit within a predetermined budget based on the type of event chosen.
- Recruit volunteers to help set up, conduct, and clean up the events; or oversees clear delegation of this duty and ensures coordination team is meeting milestones
- If special fundraising is needed to pay for the event, work with the treasurer and fundraising committee to plan small fundraisers to secure funding

Taylor Powell, MS4 - Director of Volunteer Services

- Coordinate student application distribution and selection processes including:
 - Receiving and anonymizing all applications
 - Distributing applications to executive board members for review
 - Tallying application scores
 - Booking rooms for and scheduling applicant interviews
 - Coordinating multiple days of interviews (only one MeSCO director needs to be present)
 - Tallying final application/interview scores to determine eligibility
 - Working with Director of Education to ensure all volunteers are trained prior to their first clinic day and assists Dir of Ed in any training needs
- Serves as a resource for student education (1st year learning 3rd year skills etc)
- Scheduling volunteers for clinic shifts
 - Three pre-clinical for check-in, registration, and triage
 - Student/faculty providers: One pre-clinical one clinical for every OLHS attending physician scheduled for the shift
 - (If there are two attendings available, we can schedule up to two provider teams because we have 2 exam rooms!)

Thaksin Kongchum, MS4 - Director of Community Health Education Programs

- Interact with both LSUHS and Ochsner staff for the planning and scope of outreach events, conferences, etc.
- Interface with Student Affairs regarding planning and scheduling community events.
- Coordinate with the Community Outreach Director to create and maintain relationships with community organizations for further educational events.
- Work with the Director of Advocacy and Case Management to create, organize, and/or update educational materials to be distributed in clinical activities.
- Interface with educational advisors through LSUHS, Student Affairs, as well as the Medical and Strategic Communications for brand and content approval on educational resources such as pamphlets, flyers, etc. to be used in the clinic or for clinical events.

Nicholas Jones, MS3 - Director of Donor Relations and Philanthropy

- Work with the Director of Finance to develop and maintain a relationship with LSUHS Foundation members as well as represent MeSCO in Foundation meetings or communications
- Interface with Foundation personnel and MeSCO advisors for coordination of funding and work on ways to get donations from alumni through Foundations.
- Coordinate with the Director of Finance and Board of Directors to organize and distribute donations in appropriate accounts (Campus Federal versus Foundation accounts)
- Assist in the organization, coordination, and execution of philanthropic events

Isaac Hudson, MS3, Stephanie Provenzano, MS1, Jolie Boullion, MS1 - Associate Directors of Research and Development

- Work with MeSCO leadership to coordinate Public Health research activities
- Work with MeSCO Faculty Board Members overseeing Research Projects
- Help ensure all students are trained and have all approvals for research activity
- Oversee ongoing data capture of outcomes measures that document clinic impact on community health as well as fiscal savings for the hospital
- Encourage development of community health research projects
- Interface with regulatory authorities under the guidance of the study PI
- Work closely with the Director of Contracts and Grants for possible study grants
- Work closely with the Director of Advocacy and Case Management for patient resources, visit information, etc. to identify research opportunities and aid in further quality improvement of the student run free clinic's operation

Jordan Bringedahl, MS3 - Director of Education and Curriculum Development

- Leads and oversees semesterly training and orientation for new clinic volunteers, which includes scheduling doctors, room reservations, agendas, practice fusion, etc
- Oversees curriculum development for MeSCO trainings and clinic volunteer activities (ie Health Screens, etc)
- Leads clinical skills and associated trainings teaching sessions
- Serves as a resource for student education (ie 1st years learning 3rd year skills etc)
- Helps coordinate AHA BLS trainings through Stephani Jenkins (full service, clinic specific training, \$25 based on her availability she is a Certified AHA BLS Instructor and RN at Ochsner Health) or the Ochsner hybrid module (online + check off session, \$35)
- Supports planning and execution of fundraising initiatives and leads management of volunteers during these activities

Hannah Meyer, MS3 - Director of Administration

- Maintains Service Calendar
- Communicates with Board Members and Volunteers any important updates relevant to MeSCO Activities
- Maintain clinic rosters and contact lists
- Maintain Training Lists and documentation (work with Director of Volunteer Services)
- Help make clinic schedules for Fall and Spring semesters
- Help acquire volunteer availability
- Keep track of any scheduling changes that occur after the final schedule is sent out, send changes to the clinic directors and preceptor, and update service schedule as needed
- Provide any administrative support to the planning of MeSCO events, fundraisers, and clinics (communications, emails, documentation, setting meetings, tracking administrative follow ups, etc)
- Ensure google drive and TEAMS are updated and maintained, that any new documents are filed appropriately and accessible
- Maintains the MeSCO Service calendar (google cal)
- Supports the administrative needs of clinic scheduling, including emailing physicians and students for availability, or other internal requirements needed to coordinate clinic days
- Informs Student Affairs when MeSCO is planning a community event or fundraiser so they are aware of student activities
- Ensure Director of Student Run Free Clinic Ops have communicated monthly inventory requirements to the Director of Finance prior to the monthly BOD.

Chantel Lee, MS - Director of Inclusion, Diversity, and Engagement

- Ensure MeSCO's organizational and clinic policies ensure fairness, inclusivity, equity, and diversity for physicians, students, and patients
- Assist in the development of curriculum and training, helping to ensure institutional or structural biases that may be present in the practice of medicine are updated and not carried into MeSCO's policies and procedures in the clinical environment
- Advocacy for patient rights and well being
- Work with the Office for Diversity Affairs to promote MeSCO's community outreach efforts (many of our patients will be under-served, facing desperate social or housing systems, may be struggling with substance abuse, or may be a new immigrant into the country; all factors that may promote bias.
- Ensures clinical teams are educated on cultural competency
- Help identify needs in the community that MeSCO can help address

Emily Pendarvis, MS3 - Director of Pediatric Outreach and K-12 Programs

- Assist in the development of expanding asthma services to our mobile outreach
- Help coordinate school visits/wellness days
 - Checking with schools to get permission to come on certain days/ also checking with Oschner and legal team as to what would need to be in place in order to do a site visit to the school.

- Help coordinate annual backpack drives or other peds-specific events that promote childhood wellness (MeSCO will do two general events every semester, one can be peds specific, or we can add a peds specific event. It is at the discretion of this role.)
- Strengthen the relationship between MeSCO and the community regarding child and adolescent health, to increase MeSCO's presence and advocacy.. This may include communicating information to the public or community partners, organizing outreach campaigns, coordinating events, and working with the Director of Finance and MeSCO Clinic Directors to set budgets.
- Oversee and execute any community outreach pediatric activity (like at our 1st health screening we had coloring available for children to do while parents got health screening)
 - We collaborated with Arts in Medicine for this activity – so we can reach out to them again.
- Possible partnership with pediatric interest group for events/fundraising/getting their members to be volunteers for clinics (would have to make sure their people were trained)

Camille Robichaux, MS3, Director of SRFC Operations

- Works closely with the MeSCO Directors and SRFC Clinical Partners to ensure the SRFC is running smoothly on site visits by supplying inventory lists once monthly
- Identifies new supplies that need to be purchased and ensures all clinics are staffed with enough resources to serve patients reliably
- Helps identify and address opportunities for quality improvement
- Works with Director of Community Outreach to create relationships with community partners and assess a site's potential as a future mobile clinic site
- Works with the BOD to coordinate and support clinic day activities (multiple people including the MeSCO Directors also fulfill this role, but the Dir. of SRFC Ops will also play a large leadership role)
- Checks the LSUHS Clinic e-mail to receive patient appointment requests and schedule them in Practice Fusion
- Sends appointment confirmation emails to patients using the approved template

Emily Dantes, MS3 - LSUHS Chapter Chair, Society of Student Run Free Clinics

- Keeps LSUHS chapter informed of Society-wide events (Annual SRFC conference, publication opportunities, Q/A sessions, etc)
- Interfaces with the SSRFC leadership and fields questions
- Arranges meetings with other chapter mentors or external partners through the society when our chapter is in need of specific guidance
- Works with the Directors of R&D to encourage and coordinate dynamic student-member abstract and poster submissions
- Encourages and equips LSUHS members to run for national leadership positions in the SSRFC studentrunfreeclinics.org

- Communicates with Bonnie Hughes, Ochsner Director of Community Development to coordinate use of the medical bus

EXAMPLE

MeSCO Student Run Free Community Clinic - Abbreviated Business Plan

W H A T + H O W + W H O	WHAT do we do?	We provide basic primary and preventative care to those in the Shreveport/Bossier community in partnership with Ochsner Health, LSU Health Shreveport, and other local community initiatives.
	HOW do we do it?	With our mobile unit, we provide pop-up clinics and community health screenings to improve the health and wellness of our patients, meeting them where they are.. We can prescribe medications and offer resources to patients when applicable.
	WHO do we serve?	We serve any and all individuals who face barriers to care and improve the health equity of our workers, neighbors, families, and friends. Our aim is to serve the severely underprivileged, the under-insured, and those facing unknown disparity or socioeconomic challenges that prevent them from seeking care under traditional means.
W H Y	DEFINE PATIENT PROBLEM	Louisiana residents, particularly in Caddo Parish, are among the most underserved medical communities in the United States, due to several factors identified by multiple CHNA reports and data from the Louisiana Department of Health. Identified barriers include: 1) lack of sufficient numbers of primary care providers 2) lack of transportation or unreliable transportation blocking access to care 3) high rates of uninsured 4) high rates of STI's and their long term complications 5) low maternal and child health
	DEFINE SOLUTION PROVIDED	We plan to bring our mobile health clinic to areas where patients are otherwise unreachable. We will "meet them where they are" and offer accessible means to some of the most common problems. If we cannot serve them due to complex issues or multiple comorbidities, as a subsidiary of Ochsner/LSU Health Shreveport (OLHS), we will utilize our algorithms for referral, based on payer status, to refer to them to the most appropriate primary care provider or specialty provider, that will offer them high quality care within their means. Referrals will include other community health programs and clinics within the Ochsner LSUHS network.
R E V E N U E	PRICING + BILLING STRATEGIES	We are a no-fee-for-service clinic, which is the cornerstone of our mission. Our vision is to provide health care to any who lack access, for whatever reason, regardless of payer status. Securing funding and planning for long-term sustainability are paramount to our success. We will utilize monthly progress reports to measure our growth utilizing the RED app platform, for which we have created several quality indicators for outcomes tracking. We will also launch our Community Health Research Database Project (CRDP) in September of 2023 that will be a volunteer research project patients may participate (as desired) to help us track outcomes in care between patients who receive care in our clinic, vs those who utilize the LSU/Ochsner Emergency Department. The CRDP seeks to measure our impact on cost savings for the OLHS institution and the overall quality of care in our clinic. Our long term goal is to grow to 5 days weekly of operation, providing primary care to patients at zero cost to them.
	INCOME STREAMS	As a new student run free clinic just beginning our outreach, we currently provide limited primary care service with an annual operating budget of \$3,156.96 and will expand our services as we progress through our fundraising goals to provide the full spectrum of primary care services. In-kind donations from LSU Health Shreveport Department of Family Medicine and Ochsner Health, as well as fundraisers, local, state, and federal grants, community donations, The LSUHS Foundation, and the LSUHS alumni association.
M A R K E T I N G	CUSTOMER REACH STRATEGY	Through our LSUHS communications department, flyers for our clinic are pre-approved to meet guidelines and disseminated to our community partners. Physical copies are distributed through the site weeks prior to clinic day. Closer to the date of clinic, we and our partners share announcements through social media to spread the word. As we continue to grow, we will likewise expand our media outreach. We are currently moving at turtle pace so that we are not promising services to the community that we cannot provide; ie, reaching too large of an audience before the clinic can safely accommodate a high volume of patients. As our growth is measured, so also is our media outreach.

EXAMPLE

REFERRAL
GENERATION
STRATEGY

Referral Team Protocols abstracted from the MeSCO SOP:

Referral Procedure for a low-income patient with Medicaid:

1. Call Ochsner scheduling and request an appointment for your patient with the correct subspecialty.
2. Fill out two copies of the referral form, one for your patient and one for our records.
3. Write down where the patient needs to go, and how to get there. Ask if they have transportation. If the answer is no, identify a bus route for them.

Referral Procedure for a low-income patient with no insurance:

1. Ask if they are interested in enrolling in Medicare. If they are interested, record that in the Patient Referral Tracker. A Care Coordinator will call and assist them during the week. Make sure we have good contact information.
2. See if the patient qualifies for OLHS Financial Assistance <https://www.ochsner.org/patients-visitors/billing-and-financial-services/financial-assistance>. Ask them if they would like you to fill out the forms for them. Do it on site if the answer is yes.
3. If they qualify for aid under Ochsner, call Ochsner's primary scheduling line to get them set up with an appointment .
4. Fill out the referral forms, one for the patient as an appointment reminder, and another to be sent to the OLHS clinic. If Dr. Trujillo is the attending physician and the patient needs an FM referral, try to get them scheduled with her. There is a \$150 fee associated with Spring Lake Clinics which is OOP for uninsured patients. Ask the patient if they want to pay this fee to stay with Dr. Trujillo. If they decline, get them an appointment at Ochsner St Vincents or Third floor King's Hlghway Family Med Clinic.
 1. Dr. Trujillo's Clinic at Spring Lake: [\(318\) 626-4242](tel:3186264242)
 2. St Vincent's and 3rd floor King's Highway/Family Med Clinic - specify which one you want with the operator - [\(318\) 626-0050](tel:3186260050)
 3. If struggling a lot call Maria 352-219-1374
 4. Ryan Smith is administrative on Ochsner side. If there are many issues, you can try to get a hold of him and see if he can help. Otherwise, tell one of the clinic directors and they will sort it out. 318-415-9767
5. Advise the patient to go to address at date and time of their appointment. Write down information on the MeSCO referral form and send it home with the patient.
6. If fax is requested, use the LSU Health Ochsner fax form located in TEAMS..
7. Add their appointment and name to the Patient Referral Tracker in Teams.
8. If they do not qualify for CFAA, refer to MLK (see below).

EXAMPLE

Patients who do not Qualify for OLHS Financial Assistance

1. Assist the patient in filling out the MLK eligibility requirements form.
2. Call MLK and set the appointment for your patient. MLK will require a functional phone number so get the shelter number if they are a resident.
3. Fill out the MeSCO referral forms, one for the patient as an appointment reminder, and another to be sent to the MLK clinic.
4. If they do not meet eligibility requirements for MLK, refer to David Raines (318) 507-3140
5. Advise the patient to go to address, at date and time of their appointment. Make sure they have transportation/get them a bus route.
6. Add their appointment and name to the Patient Referral Tracker in Teams.

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SUCCESS MILESTONE
MARKERS

1. Being able to provide a full spectrum of primary care clinic services, including basic serum testing, POC ID testing for common viral and bacterial illnesses, comprehensive well-woman's exams, asthma care for children, and free pharmaceuticals to patients who need them. As a new clinic with a small operating budget, we currently are limited to histories, physical exams, writing prescriptions, and referring to larger, more established clinics. When we are equipped with the tools to provide the full spectrum of care ourselves at no cost to our patients, the MeSCO Clinic will have achieved its mission.
2. Successfully meeting our fundraising goal of \$25,000 in funds to provide supplies for comprehensive primary care services.

INTERNAL FACTORS

STRENGTHS (+)

- Utilization of an evidenced-based, best-practices framework to create our operating procedures and guide our growth in measured increments, providing a reliable method for clinic launch and development.
- A completed manual of clinic standard operating procedures and an education team who ensures volunteers are equipped for clinics
- Access to HIPAA compliant communications platforms, storage spaces, and utilization of an easy to use EHR that MeSCO provides out of its monthly budget.
- A very large pool of dedicated volunteers
- An accessible mobile unit that is paid for, with gas, an appropriately licensed driver, insurance, and ongoing maintenance costs all provided at no additional expense.
- Support from a major state hospital network and state medical school

WEAKNESSES (-)

- Limited primary care services for low income patients. As we catch medical problems, migrant workers and those without employment may fail to meet eligibility requirements for many area programs. Although our referral process may connect them to care services, a substantial financial barrier remains and access to care will continue to be limited.
- Lack of late afternoon- evening clinic hours. Many of our service areas have high rates of crime, leading to primarily daytime clinic operations. We are working with LSU PD to troubleshoot this and provide more accessibility.

EXTERNAL FACTORS

OPPORTUNITIES (+)

- Launch of our Community Health Research Database Project to measure needs in the area that have yet to be assessed because of researchers who are not able to gather grassroots data at locations external to brick and mortar LSU Health locations
- Integrate MeSCO Clinic rotations into LSUHS curriculum for as a formal community health elective
- Create a continuum of care network among community organizations to help care for those most at risk
- Develop a formal partnership with Feist Weiller Mammogram bus for joint representation at clinics

THREATS (-)

- Failing to meet fundraising goals, leading to a shortage of programming. To address this, our board tracks expenditures monthly and clinic services are planned based on inventory. We always return to site to ensure follow up but lack of funding and limited resources. For issues we cannot address in these cases, we refer.

EXAMPLE

LSU Health School of Medicine
Ochsner LSU Health System
1501 Kings Highway
Shreveport, LA 71103

Re: AAFP Grant Request for New Free Clinic

July 15, 2023

Dear Members of the AAFP Foundation,

It is my great pleasure to write this letter in strong support of the application of MeSCO (Medical Student Charity Outreach Organization) in Shreveport, LA for the AAFP New Free Clinic Grant Request. MeSCO is a student run free community clinic that was developed out of the passion of our medical students at LSU Health Shreveport, to positively impact our patients' health by meeting their needs where they are. MeSCO exists to improve the healthcare and well-being of the City of Shreveport and surrounding areas in Northwest Louisiana. The goal of MeSCO is to serve the underserved, and those facing disparities or socioeconomic challenges that prevent them from seeking care under traditional means.

The MeSCO mobile clinic functions by going out into the community and offering services that include both health promotion and disease prevention. This is accomplished through health screenings, patient visits with point-of-care testing, and education on nutrition for chronic diseases. Regardless of a patient's reason for visit, they are provided care with managing of their acute and or chronic conditions. If identified as needing specialty care or a higher level of care, they are appropriately referred. Additionally, MeSCO provides financial assistance enrollment for patients who qualify for local or state programs.

I have had the privilege of working with MeSCO as the Medical Director and Champion Physician. I am also an Assistant Professor in Family Medicine and the Director of Clinical Skills with LSU Health School of Medicine in Shreveport, LA. I have been actively volunteering with the MeSCO mobile clinic where we have gone out into the community as a stand-alone mobile clinic and as participants in community events to provide basic primary care services. My overall goal for MeSCO's new student run free mobile clinic, is to expand our current capability of health screenings, education, and basic primary services to assist with its development into a fully functioning primary care clinic that is capable of providing comprehensive primary care to improve the health equity of our local patient population; many who lack access to services. We are only able to provide the utmost care through the selfless service of motivated volunteer medical students, resident physicians and attending physicians.

MeSCO is under the guidance of the Family Medicine Department at LSU Health Shreveport. A unique collaboration exists between Ochsner and LSU who have made the commitment to support MeSCO with its goal of caring for the underserved. Furthermore, this collaboration allows for continual participation by volunteers at every stage of their medical career development. The role of the Family Medicine Clinical Faculty is to provide oversight and mentorship of the volunteer medical students and residents and ensure that patients receive excellent care. Additionally, being part of an academic institution provides MeSCO with direct access to advanced tools to assist in research with the planned launch of our Community Health Research Database project in September 2023.

Our application for the grant request is to assist with obtaining additional items that would expand our current capability for health screenings and assist us with our future goal of providing comprehensive primary care services. The mobile clinic has 2 patient areas that are currently used as a triage room and exam room. Obtaining additional exam tables will allow us to set up additional exam areas to care for more patients and limit wait times. These exam tables will also provide for the proper set-up of future pap smears to be performed. Our current ophthalmoscope and otoscope are outdated, having additional fully serviceable equipment will allow us to evaluate more patients simultaneously. Additionally, having several stations set up for triage of patients has increased our need for additional vital signs equipment. Our current point of care testing is limited. We are requesting additional analyzers and supplies to broaden our health screening capabilities. As medical technology continues to advance, the use of point of care ultrasound has been found to be of benefit in primary care settings. By purchasing a portable point of care ultrasound, this tool can assist with identifying pathology in earlier stages of disease in an underserved population, as these patients may not have sought medical care until later in a disease process where treatment may then be limited. This tool would also function as an additional source for instruction to medical students and residents for the development of proficiency in the use of POCUS.

In 2022, The United Census Bureau ranked Louisiana as one of the top 3 states with the highest rates of poverty, affecting minority ethnic groups with lower levels of education. Notably, Shreveport, located in Northwest Louisiana, is estimated to have about 25% of the population facing the difficulties of living in poverty. Additionally, many of these individuals are also without health care dealing with various chronic health conditions, ranked amongst the worst in the nation. For this reason, MeSCO exists to serve as a bridge to health care for the underserved. We appreciate the consideration of the AAFP for grant approval so that we can continue to provide access to care to individuals most in need in our community.

Very Respectfully,



Natalie Trujillo-Aguirre, MD

Assistant Professor | Department of Family Medicine

Director of Clinical Skills

LSU Health School of Medicine

MAJ, MC | USAR | 355th MCAS

Email: natalie.trujilloaguirre@lsuhs.edu

EXAMPLE



AAFP Foundation
Family Medicine Cares USA
11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway
Leawood, KS 66211

July 12, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation and support for the MeSCO Student Run Free Community Clinic. I have had the privilege of witnessing The MeSCO Clinic's work firsthand, and the lives it has positively influenced. MeSCO is entirely operated by dedicated medical student and physician volunteers and has demonstrated exceptional dedication, compassion, and professionalism in delivering high-quality healthcare services to our community members.

Our vision at the Highland Center is to be at the heart of our community, providing avenues to celebrate diversity and create safe, sustainable futures for all. We host an array of free community services, including educational, financial, and computer literacy courses, as well as meals and clothing programs. We also run an emergency food and shelter program for legal asylum seekers who have traveled from and through unimaginable conditions. Our site is often the first welcoming place in the United States for over 4,500 people each year.

One of the goals of our work at The Highland Center is to ensure health equity for all who come through our doors. Access to comprehensive healthcare services is an important component of this mission. The Highland Neighborhood and much of the surrounding Caddo Parish is home to abject poverty, where individuals struggle to meet basic needs. Caddo Parish is among the lowest-ranked areas in the nation for health outcomes. For maternal and child health we are among the lowest in the nation and Shreveport alone carries the highest number of premature births in our state. We are a primary care desert, and we must seek creative solutions to remove barriers to medical care. The MeSCO Clinic's mission has been a welcome adjuvant to our programming, as their commitment to treating both uninsured and underinsured patients has already made a substantial impact in only a short time.

So many in our community are driven to use the Emergency Room as their sole form of medical care. In Shreveport-Bossier, 9% of Black or African American people and 22% of Hispanic or Latino people are under or uninsured. The MeSCO Clinic offers its services completely free of charge, which has been undoubtedly life-changing not only to community members but also to those seeking refuge at our center. Some simply require someone to listen and help them navigate

the healthcare landscape, a service the MeSCO medical students and physicians prioritize. For our community members, the MeSCO Clinic truly is an irreplaceable lifeline to preventative, quality care.

The impact of the work done by these medical students has been evident in the stories of those whose lives have been positively transformed by the care they have received at The MeSCO Clinic. One recent clinic visitor, a Hispanic American man in his 50's, said, "I've been a blue-collar guy my whole life and never really saw a doctor." His visit with the MeSCO clinic jump-started his recent health journey. He continued, "Now, I'm working hard to get out of the danger zone for diabetes," and has made significant changes in his daily meals and exercise since his clinic visit. Another client recently remarked, "This has been the most positive experience I have ever had with a healthcare establishment."

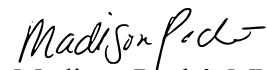
With many more encounters like this, the MeSCO Clinic and its dedicated volunteers truly represent the best of our community and carry a heart of service for our people. The continued success and sustainability of The MeSCO Clinic relies heavily on securing external funding. An award from the AAFP will provide the necessary funds required to address the unique needs in our neighborhood. With support to purchase additional medical supplies and diagnostic equipment, this clinic can expand their range of services to better serve the disparities of this area, reaching more individuals, and improving positive health outcomes in our community.

I wholeheartedly support that the Family Medicine Cares USA grant provided by the AAFP to be awarded to The MeSCO Clinic.

EXAMPLE

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to bolstering initiatives that make a real difference.

Sincerely,


Madison Poché, MNPA
Executive Director
The Highland Center



AAFP Foundation
Family Medicine Cares USA
11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway
Leawood, KS 66211

July 13, 2023

Dear AAFP grant committee,

I am pleased to be writing a letter in support of the Medical Student Community Outreach (MeSCO) Free Community Clinic. This clinic has been designed and established by a passionate group of students and residents to serve those with inadequate access to healthcare in the Shreveport community. I am currently completing my fellowship at the University of Alabama Birmingham in Social Emergency Medicine and Population Health; I am a graduate of the Emergency Medicine residency program at LSU Health Shreveport, and one of the founding members of the MeSCO program. From 2021 to June of this year, I served as the Resident Director.

EXAMPLE

My passion started with serving people experiencing homelessness, which I have served in some capacity throughout my life; first volunteering in soup kitchens and habitat for humanity, then volunteering at free clinics. According to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, an estimated eighteen per ten-thousand people experience homelessness. This is certainly a realistic estimation in Shreveport, LA.

The homeless population often is denied access to basic medical care which, among other factors, contributes to increased rates of chronic and preventable diseases in addition to overall morbidity of disease. While in some cases, free clinics may be available to homeless individuals, the lack of availability of transportation is often prohibitive. Additionally, the availability of clinic access may compete with their ability to access the other basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter.

As I have continued in my medical education and clinical practice, I found my passion for addressing health equity within the community by recognizing that these barriers applied to more than just people experiencing homelessness, but also many marginalized and impoverished populations of our community. While I had this dream, it was through the hard work of the medical student team that I was



Department of Emergency Medicine | Office of the Chair



able to develop and start this clinic by partnering with the LSU School of Medicine and working with future doctor Maria Kerrigan. She developed the MeSCO Organization and with it, our plan for this clinic. The advantage of this mobile clinic is that it minimizes as many of the barriers to care as possible, meeting people where they are, in order to provide free healthcare.

The Board of Directors of the MeSCO Clinic is medical student led and driven, with resident and faculty advisors and mentors. Not only do we aim to improve the health of our community, but we also want to engage students in experiential medical education, increasing awareness for the needs in our local community and how social determinants affect one's health. With Ochsner Health and the LSU Health School of Medicine Department of Family Medicine as clinical partners, this clinic is a member of the national Society of Student Run Free Clinics (StudentRunFreeClinics.org) and follows the model for graduated responsibility and learning through the clinical experience. As a resident board member and senior Emergency Medicine resident, I was able to serve clinically and work with the students to provide appropriate medical care, teach good history taking, and physical exam skills directly.

The MeSCO Clinic exists to improve the healthcare and well-being of the City of Shreveport and surrounding areas in Northwest Louisiana. Its existence is filling a desperate need in the community that doesn't otherwise exist in the Shreveport area. It furthermore is a teaching and leadership opportunity for students and residents at the LSU Health Shreveport location and will provide hands-on experience with addressing social determinants of health and building compassionate physicians for years to come. This funding will be instrumental in helping the MeSCO free clinic increase its presence in the community and scope of care.

EXAMPLE

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Shaw, MD
UAB Emergency Medicine
Global/Social EM Fellow



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