Sample Letter

Dear (Legislator’s Official Name),

The March tornados prevented Tennessee Charitable Care Network (TCCN) members from meeting with you last year and this year, the pandemic is keeping us at bay. But nothing can stop us from expressing our tremendous gratitude for your generous support of last year’s (FY 2021) Safety Net Fund Budget. In partnership with Governor Lee, you made it possible for the Tennessee Department of Health’s (TDH), Office of Rural Health to add 12 Dental, 5 Primary Care, and 1 Project Access Grantees to the Safety Net Grant Network, an outstanding advance in access to care for low-income uninsured Tennesseans.

We ask you to maintain your Legislative momentum in addressing the needs of Tennessee’s uninsured, underinsured, and underserved by supporting Speaker Lambeth, Senator Briggs, and Senator Jackson’s Supplemental Appropriation Budget Amendments to add $10 million to the $22 million budgeted by the Department of Health and the Governor’s Office.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc with Tennesseans’ employment, mental and physical health, and family stability, forcing more people to turn to safety net providers for care. Free and Charitable Clinics, along with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), local Health Departments, and Project Access specialty care networks meet and serve your uninsured and underserved constituents in the health care access gap.

We are including some details about the Safety Net Grant Program for your review. The fact sheet includes information on the entire Safety Net mission, as well as the work of TCCN members whose missions lead them to depend on the support of their communities, neighbors, foundations, gubernatorial and legislative leadership to continue their operations.

Please let me know if you have questions or need more information. You can reach me at xxx-xxx-xxxx or xxx@xxxxx.com

Thank you for your consideration,

Sample Letter Two

Dear «Prefix» «Last\_Name»:

On behalf of the YOUR ORGANIZATION Board of Directors, we urge you to support a supplemental appropriation to at least maintain the current funding levels for the FY 2022 Tennessee Department of Health Safety Net Grant program.

The Safety Net Grant Program provides funding assistance to nine programs in YOUR County and a total of 171 health programs and locations statewide. YOUR County initiatives include LIST THE NAMES OF PROGRAMS RECEIVING FUNDING IN YOUR AREA.

The Department of Health has requested $20 million in FY 2021-22 funding and Governor Bill Lee is requesting an additional $2 million for a total recurring request of $22 million. The Safety Net Grant Program received $29.4 million in FY 2020-21 so this would result in a $7.4 million decrease over current year spending. This would negatively impact all programs, especially in the current fund-raising climate when many traditional funders have redirected grants to COVID-related interventions.

We hope you can support supplemental appropriation amendments introduced by Senators Richard Briggs ($10 million) and Jack Johnson ($3 million) and Speaker William Lamberth ($10 million and $3 million).

Each of the Safety Net Grant programs assist low-income patients who do not qualify for any other form of assistance. For these people, the charitable health centers, dental programs, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Project Access programs, funded in part through the Safety Net Grant Program, often are their only option for care. These programs are a cornerstone of the Governor’s access to care strategy.

I am including a fact sheet about Safety Net programs statewide, as well DETAILS ABOUT OUR LOCAL PROGRAM(S). If you have questions or need more information, please contact XXXXX at XXXXXXXXXX (office) or by email at xxx@xxxxxxx.org.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,