

[Organization Name]
[Organization Email]

Dear [Recipient Name],

This letter has been composed by [Organization Name] to announce our application for a federal grant for the Charles County Department of Health (CCDoH) of LaPlata, Maryland in order to fund an outpatient opioid addiction treatment program for persons 18 years and older.

Substance use disorders remain an ongoing and increasing problem in the United States; many of us know the pain of losing loved ones to addiction. Oftentimes, we find that there may be a shortage of treatment centers and programs to help those struggling to overcome addiction, and Charles County is no exception. The semi-rural community of Charles County has been declared a shortage area for mental health services by the HRSA, with a ratio of only 1 mental health provider for every 640 county residents. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that deaths related to substance use in Charles County have tripled in the past 10 years, with the number of deaths related to drug and alcohol intoxication increasing 70% from 2019 to 2020 alone. Likewise, we have also witnessed a 62% rise in opioid-related deaths within this same one-year time period.

The CCDoH's opioid addiction treatment program aims to continue in the alleviation of opioid addiction through the use of evidence-based practices to deliver a wide array of effective treatment options to its patients. With 200-300 patients served each year, the Substance Use Services program of CCDoH averages a 6 month completion time and costs roughly \$2000 per patient. It should also be noted that the majority of patients use either state Medicaid or have no health insurance at all. Given this information, we are shown the vital importance that the funding of this program would have in continuing to provide accessible treatment to those in need. The aforementioned rise in opioid-related deaths within Charles County works to further demonstrate the importance of a program that intends to reduce the rate of opioid-related deaths as much as possible and improve the health, safety, and environment of its residents.

Additionally, we are shown that black residents benefit greatly from the program. While Charles County is 50% black and 37% white, program patients are 60% black and 38% white, meaning the program works to provide assistance to a historically marginalized community.

Your support would be greatly appreciated, and would allow residents of Charles County to continue to seek the necessary services to combat substance use issues and lead healthier lives. Your generous funding of the CCDoH's program will provide this opportunity to its county's residents, and will foster an overall stronger and healthier community.

Sincerely,

Harrison Kotik
Grant Writer