

TOM COLE

4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RANKING REPUBLICAN

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
VICE RANKING REPUBLICAN

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES –
RANKING REPUBLICAN
DEFENSE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 28, 2021

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- 2207 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6165
- 2424 SPRINGER DRIVE
SUITE 201
NORMAN, OK 73069
(405) 329-6500
- 711 SW D AVENUE
SUITE 201
LAWTON, OK 73501
(580) 357-2131
- SUGG CLINIC OFFICE BUILDING
100 EAST 13TH STREET, SUITE 213
ADA, OK 74820
(580) 436-5375

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the installation of a hospital medical gas system and mechanical infrastructure in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Norman Regional Hospital Authority, located 901 at N. Porter Ave, Norman, OK 73071. The funding would be used to add additional medical gases to 64 adult and 12 pediatric rooms, enabling their conversion into intensive or critical care rooms.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Cole".

TOM COLE
Member of Congress

Recipient:

Norman Regional Hospital Authority

Project Name:

Hospital Medical Gas System and Mechanical Infrastructure

Address:

901 N. Porter Ave, Norman, OK 73071

Amount Requested:

\$622,760

Project Explanation:

The Community Project Funding supports Norman Regional Hospital Authority's addition to its medical gas systems and mechanical infrastructure, which will increase the number of operating rooms and available critical care rooms for both adult and pediatric inpatients. It will support emergency preparedness in the event of a mass casualty incident or surge of infectious patients. The community project funding will be utilized to support "pandemic preparedness" and three key areas of hospital patient care: (1) triage and treatment of trauma and critically ill patients; (2) acute and intensive adult critical care and acute pediatric care in the inpatient setting, and (3) acute surgical care intervention.

With this grant, Norman Regional can add additional medical gases to 64 adult critical care and 12 pediatric acute care rooms. In addition, Norman Regional would also add mechanical infrastructure and medical gas systems to its future ER treatment rooms and acute surgical care intervention areas. These funds will ensure the hospital can serve the critically ill in times of a disaster. From mass casualty situations such as tornadoes to pandemics like the coronavirus, this project will provide doctors and nurses with the critical infrastructure they need to save lives.

The coronavirus pandemic brought to light the threat and deleterious impact a health crisis can have on national interests. One could reasonably characterize COVID-19 as a national health threat and conceivably a national security issue. As such, Norman Regional's pandemic preparedness initiative is a valid expenditure of taxpayer funds. It is a local solution to a (potential) national problem.

Norman Regional has served citizens from all 77 counties in Oklahoma and residents from more than 30 states and is considered a gateway to health – especially for south central Oklahomans. These funds will be used to provide ongoing critical patient care and meet emergency preparedness needs in the event of another viral outbreak or large-scale natural disaster that causes an intense and sudden surge of patients. Norman Regional has extensive experience in the rapid influx of critically ill patients from violent tornadoes, one of which destroyed its Moore Medical Center in 2013, and most recently, the hospitalization of COVID-19 patients.