

Recipient:

Oklahoma Children's Hospital

Project Name:

Oklahoma Children's Behavioral Health

Address:

1200 Children's Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Amount Requested:

\$1,000,000

Project Explanation:

As Oklahoma's only comprehensive, free-standing children's hospital, Oklahoma Children's Hospital is at the front lines of dealing with the majority of pediatric behavioral health issues in the state. Due to strict regulatory guidelines and limited space, pediatric patients with behavioral health needs often go untreated or under treated. Oklahoma Children's Hospital and the OU College of Medicine are uniquely prepared to serve this population because of their specialized care teams which include psychiatry, psychology, nursing, childlife specialists, social workers and therapists.

Services that could be provided would be:

- Explanation of medical procedures in language children can understand.
- Teaching of relaxation, distraction and coping skills before, during and after medical procedures or surgeries.
- Coping skills education for children facing chronic illness, injury and/or death.
- Emotional support for patients, families and siblings during stressful experiences.
- Therapeutic play to help children express emotion, resolve distress and facilitate coping during hospitalization.
- Opportunities for play designed to encourage development in activity areas and/or at a child's bedside.
- Parent education regarding child development and response to hospitalization.
- Normalization of the hospital environment through coordination of community events, parties and seasonal celebrations designed for patients and families.

This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because pediatric behavioral health is becoming a crisis in our country, and unfortunately, the pandemic has only exacerbated this phenomenon. To compound the difficulty, the nation runs a severe shortage of *inpatient care and treatment* for children who need urgent attention. Oklahoma is no exception.

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 child life services in a behavioral health unit in Oklahoma City, OK in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Oklahoma Children's Hospital, located at 1200 Children's Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73104. The funding would be used to provide supportive services to parents and patients, including therapeutic play, coping skills, education, and explanation of medical procedures.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Cole', written over a horizontal line.

TOM COLE
Member of Congress