

May 20, 2021

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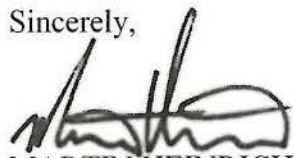
Jessica Rosenworcel
Acting Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Rosenworcel,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services', Round 2 COVID-19 Telehealth Program Grant Application (application number GRA0011681). The 60 bed nonprofit hospital in Gallup, New Mexico services a 120-mile radius. At one point during the pandemic, the New York Times ranked the city of 22,000 as having the highest COVID-19 positivity rate per capita. Last year, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham invoked the Riot Control Act to seal Gallup and curb the spread of the deadly virus. Nearly 500 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported in the immediate Gallup area.

Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services or RMCHCS, primarily serves a low-income community. Over half the population is Native American. With a high unemployment and poverty rate, most patients receive health care coverage from Medicare, Medicaid or are uninsured. Reimbursements do not cover costs and with the influx of patients, the hospital's debt far exceeds revenue. RMCHCS is seeking reimbursement for an IP telecommunications system and a patient connect module. These efficient, cost savings systems, along with other IT improvements have increased COVID-19 related healthy outcomes. Many of my constituents have to travel several hours to see a physician. Reliable transportation is often a barrier to health care and these investments will serve the community long after the pandemic. Gallup is in a unique situation, its staff has worked long past exhaustion and needs FCC support. I ask that you give careful consideration to their grant application.

Sincerely,



MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator