



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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Domestic Security, *Vice Chair*
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and General Government
Appropriations Committee on Transportation,
Tourism, and Economic Development
Banking and Insurance
Fiscal Policy
Transportation

SENATOR KEITH TRUENOW

13th District

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressman Webster,

As the Florida State Senator representing all of Lake County, I am pleased to offer my strong support for Community Health Centers, Inc.'s FY 2027 Community Project Funding request to establish a new health center in Clermont.

Clermont's rapid growth has increased demand for accessible, affordable primary care. Expanding healthcare infrastructure in this corridor supports working families, strengthens workforce participation, and promotes economic mobility.

The proposed health center will provide integrated primary care, pediatrics, behavioral health, dental, and pharmacy services bringing comprehensive care closer to where residents live and work. This investment will improve health outcomes, reduce unnecessary emergency department use, and strengthen overall system efficiency. The project will also create permanent, full-time healthcare and support positions with competitive wages and benefits, contributing to workforce development and long-term economic stability.

I respectfully encourage your support for this important investment in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Truenow".

Senator Keith Truenow

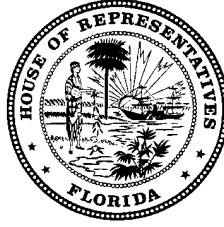
REPLY TO:

- Lake County Agricultural Center, 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, Florida 32778 (352) 750-3133
- 16207 State Road 50, Suite 401, Clermont, Florida 34711
- 306 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5013

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

BEN ALBRITTON
President of the Senate

JASON BRODEUR
President Pro Tempore



Representative Taylor Yarkosky

Florida House of Representatives

District 25

District Office:
16207 SR 50
Suite 402
Clermont, FL 34711
(352) 995-0130

Tallahassee Office:
319 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5025

Taylor.Yarkosky@MyFloridaHouse.Gov

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressman Webster,

As the Florida State Representative serving Clermont and the surrounding Lake County communities, I am pleased to offer my strong support for Community Health Centers, Inc.'s (CHC) FY 2027 Community Project Funding request to establish a new health center in Clermont. Clermont's rapid growth has created increased demand for accessible, affordable primary health care services. Expanding health care infrastructure in this corridor aligns with our shared commitment to supporting working families, strengthening workforce participation, and promoting economic mobility.

My office has co-sponsored a Florida Legislative Budget Funding Request to provide partial state support for the development of this new health center site. If funded, this state-level commitment underscores the strong, bipartisan recognition of the urgent need for expanded health care access in our growing community and reflects a coordinated approach to leveraging both federal and state resources. The proposed health center will deliver integrated primary care, pediatrics, behavioral health, dental, and pharmacy services—bringing comprehensive care closer to where residents live and work. This investment will improve health outcomes, reduce unnecessary emergency department utilization, and enhance overall system efficiency. Additionally, the project will create permanent, full-time healthcare and support positions with competitive wages and benefits, reinforcing workforce development efforts and contributing to long-term economic stability within the district.

This request represents a strategic partnership between federal and state priorities to strengthen healthcare access in growing communities. I respectfully encourage your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Taylor Yarkosky".

Representative Yarkosky
Florida State Representative, District 25

Proudly Serving Lake County



Tim Murry
Mayor

352-241-7358
Tmurry@clermontfl.org

March 9, 2026

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressman Webster,

As Mayor of the City of Clermont, I am proud to express my strong support for Community Health Centers, Inc.'s (CHC) FY 2027 Community Project Funding request to establish a new health center in our community.

Clermont is one of the fastest-growing areas in Lake County. With rapid residential development and continued economic expansion, access to timely and affordable primary health care has not kept pace with population growth. Many working families face long wait times, transportation challenges, and limited options for preventive and chronic disease care.

The proposed CHC health center will expand access to comprehensive services—including primary care, pediatrics, behavioral health, dental, and pharmacy—within close proximity to where residents live and work. This investment will strengthen preventive care capacity, reduce avoidable emergency department utilization, and improve overall community health outcomes.

In addition, the project will create permanent, full-time healthcare and support positions with competitive wages and benefits, contributing to workforce development and sustainable economic growth in Clermont.

This federal investment will directly benefit our residents, support our workforce, and enhance the long-term vitality of our community. I respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,


Tim Murry
Mayor, City of Clermont



Sean M. Parks, AICP, QEP
Commissioner, District 2

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Webster,

As a Commissioner serving Lake County, I am pleased to offer my strong support for Community Health Centers, Inc.'s (CHC) FY 2027 Community Project Funding request to develop a new health center in Clermont.

Lake County continues to experience significant population growth, placing increased demand on healthcare infrastructure. Expanding access to community-based primary health care is essential to managing growth responsibly and ensuring residents can access care in the most appropriate and cost-effective setting.

The proposed center will provide integrated services including family medicine, pediatrics, behavioral health, dental care, and pharmacy services. By strengthening local primary care capacity, this project will reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments and improve chronic disease management across the region.

Equally important, the project will generate permanent, full-time employment opportunities with competitive wages and benefits, contributing to economic stability and workforce development within Lake County.

I strongly support this strategic federal investment and respectfully request your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Parks

P.O. Box 7800 • 315 W. Main St., Suite 316 • Tavares, FL 32778
P 352-343-9850 • F 352-343-9495

Board of County Commissioners • www.lakecountyfl.gov



March 4, 2024

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressman Webster,

On behalf of the Live Well Foundation of South Lake, I am proud to offer our strong support for Community Health Centers, Inc. (CHC) and its FY 2027 Community Project Funding request to establish a new health center in Clermont.

South Lake County continues to experience rapid population growth, increasing demand for accessible, affordable healthcare services. Many residents—particularly working families, seniors, and individuals managing chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease—face significant barriers to timely primary and preventive care. Without local access to comprehensive services, preventable conditions worsen, leading to avoidable emergency department utilization and higher long-term healthcare costs.

Recognizing this urgent need, the Live Well Foundation of South Lake has awarded CHC a \$2 million matching grant to support the development of this new health center. Our investment reflects our strong confidence in CHC's proven model of delivering high-quality, integrated primary care, behavioral health, and dental services to underserved communities. The federal funding request is essential to leverage this local philanthropic commitment and bring the project fully to fruition.

This new center will not only improve health outcomes and expand access to care in South Lake County, but will also create permanent, full-time healthcare and support positions with competitive wages and benefits—strengthening the economic vitality of our growing community.

The Live Well Foundation of South Lake is fully committed to this transformative project and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this critical investment in the health and well-being of our residents.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Linda J. Smith'.

Linda J. Smith
Vice Chair

Orlando Health, Inc.: External Affairs and Strategic Communications
1414 Kuhl Ave., MP56 | Orlando, FL 32806

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Congressman Webster,

As Vice President, External Affairs and Community Benefit of Orlando Health, I write to express strong support for Community Health Centers, Inc.'s (CHC) FY 2027 Community Project Funding request to establish a new health center in Clermont.

The addition of a comprehensive CHC health center in Clermont will strengthen the continuum of care by expanding access to preventive services, chronic disease management, and integrated behavioral health. This approach will improve patient outcomes while reducing avoidable emergency department utilization and hospital admissions.

Furthermore, this project will create permanent, full-time healthcare and support positions with competitive wages and benefits, helping address regional workforce shortages and strengthen the healthcare delivery system.

Investment in primary care infrastructure is one of the most effective strategies for improving system-wide efficiency and community health. We respectfully urge your support for this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Lainie Fox Ackerman
Vice President, External Affairs and Community Benefit
Orlando Health



March 13, 2026

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressman Webster,

As AdventHealth's Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, I write to express strong support for Community Health Centers, Inc.'s (CHC) FY 2027 Community Project Funding request to establish a new health center in Clermont.

Our health system has experienced increasing demand for emergency and inpatient services driven in part by gaps in access to primary and preventive health care. When patients lack timely access to community-based providers, manageable conditions often escalate into costly hospital visits.

The addition of a comprehensive CHC health center in Clermont will strengthen the continuum of care by expanding access to preventive services, chronic disease management, and integrated behavioral health. This approach will improve patient outcomes while reducing avoidable emergency department utilization and hospital admissions.

Furthermore, this project will create permanent, full-time healthcare and support positions with competitive wages and benefits, helping address regional workforce shortages and strengthen the healthcare delivery system.

Investment in primary care infrastructure is one of the most effective strategies for improving system-wide efficiency and community health. We respectfully urge your support for this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Gravitte".

Shannon Gravitte
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs
AdventHealth



415 Citrus Tower Blvd | Clermont, FL 34711
352-404-6946 | nbcfl.org

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressman Webster,

On behalf of New Beginnings of Clermont, I am pleased to offer our strong support for Community Health Centers, Inc. (CHC) and its FY 2027 Community Project Funding request to establish a new health center in Clermont.

As an organization serving individuals and families experiencing housing instability and financial hardship in the greater Clermont area, we see firsthand how limited access to affordable health care compounds existing challenges. Many of the households we assist are working families, seniors, and individuals living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. Without accessible primary care within the community, preventable and manageable conditions often escalate—resulting in emergency room visits, missed workdays, and deeper financial strain.

The establishment of a new health center in Clermont will significantly expand access to preventive, primary, behavioral health, and dental services. By reducing barriers related to transportation, cost, and appointment availability, this project will help stabilize vulnerable households and improve long-term health outcomes. Integrated care is especially critical for the populations we serve, who often face multiple, overlapping challenges.

In addition to its health impact, this project will strengthen the local economy by creating permanent, full-time healthcare and support positions with competitive wages and benefits—an important contribution to a rapidly growing community.

New Beginnings of Clermont strongly supports this vital investment in the health, stability, and economic resilience of Lake County residents. We respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this request.

Steve Smith

Executive Director



March 5, 2026

The Honorable Maxwell Frost
U.S. House of Representatives
1105 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Frost,

As President of the Florida Association of Community Health Centers (FACHC), I am pleased to offer my strong support for Community Health Centers, Inc.'s (CHC) FY 2027 Community Project Funding request to establish a new health center site in Clermont. The Association appreciates that CHC is an active, engaged member in good standing and endorses this appropriations request.

Florida's community health centers serve as the backbone of the state's primary care safety net, delivering high-quality, cost-effective care to working families, seniors, and children regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Clermont's rapid growth has significantly increased demand for accessible, affordable primary health care services, making expansion of health care infrastructure in this corridor both timely and necessary.

This project has already demonstrated strong community and philanthropic support. CHC has secured a \$2 million matching grant award from the Live Well Foundation of South Lake, reflecting meaningful local investment in expanding access to care.

The proposed health center will provide integrated primary care, pediatrics, behavioral health, dental, and pharmacy services—bringing comprehensive, coordinated care closer to where residents live and work. By expanding access to preventive and routine services, the center will improve health outcomes, reduce avoidable emergency department utilization, and strengthen overall health system efficiency in Lake County.

Beyond its health impact, the new center will create permanent, full-time healthcare and support positions with competitive wages and benefits, contributing to workforce development and long-term economic stability in the region.

On behalf of Florida's community health centers and the patients they serve, I respectfully encourage your support of this important investment in expanding access to care in Clermont and the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Chapman", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Jonathan Chapman
President and CEO



Date: 3/10/2026

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressman Webster,

On behalf of Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, I enthusiastically support Community Health Centers, Inc.'s (CHC) FY 2027 Community Project Funding request to establish a new health center site in Clermont.

Lake County's population growth has heightened the intersection of food insecurity and poor health outcomes. Many families in our service area struggle to afford nutritious food while also managing chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. Without accessible primary health care within the community, treatable conditions often worsen—leading to unnecessary emergency room visits and increased healthcare costs for families and the system.

Bringing a new health center site to Clermont will expand access to preventive and chronic care services, reduce barriers such as transportation and cost, and improve overall health outcomes for the community. Integrated care models that include primary care, behavioral health, and dental services have been shown to reduce complications associated with food insecurity and chronic disease.

Moreover, this project will create permanent, full-time healthcare and support positions with competitive wages and benefits, contributing to economic resilience in a community where workforce development is essential to sustaining growth.

I respectfully urge your support for this critical investment in health and economic well-being.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Koffarnus".

Dawn Koffarnus
Chief Health Systems and Financial Officer
Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida



Heart of Florida United Way

Fighting hunger. Feeding hope.

