



News Release

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NCHS Awarded \$10,000 Grant to Address Community Needs

Grant from Medline will Fund Free Transportation for Patients

San Marcos, Ca. July 26, 2019 - North County Health Services (NCHS) has been awarded \$10,000 from Medline and the Medline Foundation to implement free transportation for medical, dental, and behavioral health appointments for patients through “Roundtrip,” a digital transportation marketplace. Through July 2020, NCHS anticipates that over 250 additional completed medical, dental, and behavioral health visits will occur that may have otherwise been missed due to transportation limitations. NCHS is proud to be one of only five Community Health Centers across the country that have been selected to receive this funding.

NCHS Director of Planning & Grants, Hector Orozco, shares, “With our patient population, many of whom have chronic medical conditions, missing even one medical appointment could turn in to a medical emergency that could in turn result in a visit to the emergency room.”

This additional funding from Medline will complement the existing transportation services provided by NCHS. Roundtrip will connect patients with non-emergency medical transportation, including rideshare vehicles, medical sedans, and wheelchair vans.

Lack of transportation is one of the most common barriers for patients seeking care at NCHS and they will oftentimes delay or avoid seeking much needed healthcare due to limited access to affordable or reliable transportation. Recognizing an opportunity to improve the transportation experience for patients, NCHS began piloting the “Roundtrip” program in January 2019, resulting in over 200 additional appointments occurring. Benefits of this program include increasing hours that transportation is available, as well as access to easy and convenient scheduling with an NCHS staff member.

“NCHS is deeply committed to finding solutions to ensure our patients do not experience any barriers in accessing the healthcare they need and deserve,” states NCHS President & CEO, Barbara S. Kennedy.

For more information go to <https://www.nchs-health.org/health-services/transportation-services> .

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About NCHS

NCHS is a private not-for-profit organization that serves over 67,000 patients annually at 12 community health centers in Carlsbad, Encinitas, Oceanside, San Marcos, Ramona, Perris, and through two mobile clinics. NCHS has provided affordable, comprehensive, and culturally sensitive health care to uninsured



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and underinsured communities in North County San Diego and Riverside County for over 45 years. NCHS offers the following health care services to its patient's pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, dental care, pharmacy, and transportation services, as well as, community health outreach, prevention, and disease management programs. For more information visit: nchs-health.org