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February 14, 2022

Titus County Commissioner's Court 100 West First Street Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455

Titus County Hospital District d/b/a Titus Regional Medical Center (TRMC) is currently in our fifth surge of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past twenty-two months, TRMC has led the fight in Northeast Texas to mitigate the impact of this virus in OUR community. <u>The purpose of this letter is to officially request \$169,744 from American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds received by Titus county.</u>

TRMC has used all resources available during this pandemic to ensure the safety of this community. Our physicians have led the way with the latest research and evidence-based practices, providing the best care for our patients. While many health systems in Northeast Texas have gone on divert or closed their doors, TRMC has remained open every day of this public emergency to provide for the safety of Titus county. The efforts of TRMC and the Titus County Emergency Disaster Team can be seen with Titus county having 2nd highest COVID positive cases per 100,000 in Northeast Texas with the 2nd lowest mortality in these twenty-seven counties (see backside of document).

Staffing of both physicians and clinical team members have been the two of the toughest obstacles during this pandemic. TRMC has received help from the State with "strike team" nurses throughout this pandemic with eighty (80) nurses assigned to our campus at our highest mark during the third surge (November 2020 - February 2021). In August 2021, TRMC made a STAR request to the State of Texas for "strike team" nurses to assist with the fourth surge and was told by the State Emergency Team to seek access to the local funds designated for this purpose. After receipt of this direction, TRMC reached out to Judge Brian Lee for assistance.

The local assistance referred to by the state was the funds received from The American Rescue Plan (ARP). Treasury guidelines allow broad actions by local governments including the use of these funds for the support of the public health response to the coronavirus pandemic. Several hospital districts in Northeast Texas received a distribution from their county funds. For example, Hunt Regional received 5% of the monies distributed to their county. TRMC is requesting a distribution of 5.66% of the county's \$3,000,000 funds received.

TRMC's request is calculated based on the average amount of Contract Agency expenses incurred to fight COVID-19 in July and August 2021 (the months instructed by the State to seek local funds) for Titus county residents. At the end of August 2021, the State authorized additional staff to deployed to assist all hospitals with the surge of COVID patients. The average monthly costs for these two months were \$308,626. TRMC's patient base is approximately 55% from Titus county.

Our health system is committed to the protection of OUR community, and these funds are critical to our ongoing ability to do so. Thank you for your consideration of TRMC's request for funds.

Terry Scoggin, CEO



Your health system of choice, dedicated to healing & well-being through a culture of excellence & compassion.

| RHP 1 County | COVID/100K Population | County Fatality Rate |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Titus | 25,961 | 1.49 |
| Franklin | 19,809 | 1.85 |
| Red River | 18,849 | 2.88 |
| Morris | 20,354 | 2.67 |
| Camp | 21,686 | 2.63 |
| Hopkins | 19,132 | 2.36 |
| Delta | 33,633 | 1.36 |
| Lamar | 18,601 | 2.60 |
| Bowie | 20,443 | 2.01 |
| Cass | 23,701 | 2.68 |
| Upshur | 18,114 | 2.30 |
| Gregg | 18,369 | 2.75 |
| Smith | 19,128 | 1.99 |
| Van Zandt | 16,972 | 2.54 |

| RHP 1 County | COVID/100K Population | County Fatality Rate |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Wood | 17,595 | 3.32 |
| Rains | 14,748 | 3.07 |
| Hunt | 15,539 | 2.21 |
| Fannin | 18,465 | 2.55 |
| Marion | 16,422 | 3.51 |
| Harrison | 18,311 | 1.65 |
| Panola | 19,283 | 2.72 |
| Rusk | 19,845 | 2.03 |
| Cherokee | 15,580 | 3.07 |
| Trinity | 17,630 | 2.92 |
| Houston | 17,507 | 2.59 |
| Anderson | 16,279 | 2.38 |
| Henderson | 18,409 | 2.57 |
| Texas | 22,475 | 1.26 |

Per John Hopkins COVID-19 Status Report as of 2/14/22

