



6580 Valley Center Drive | Suite 124 | Radford, VA 24141 | 540-639-9313

NRVRC.ORG

April 16, 2020

Matthew Weaver
VA Department of Housing and Community Development
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Matt,

This letter of Intent is to seek support from the Community Development Block Grant program to provide resources to conduct community-based drive-through testing equipment, supplies and materials for COVID-19 testing through the extent of the crisis.

The Montgomery County Public Health Task Force convened in early March to begin determining appropriate steps to support the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since its initial meetings the group has expanded to include leadership from surrounding communities. The group is led by Dr. Noelle Bissell, New River Health District Director; Chief Wilson, Blacksburg Police Chief and Chief Sisson; Christiansburg Police Chief. Participation in the task force includes two hospital systems (Carilion Clinic, HCA), VA Department of Emergency Management, VA State Police, National Guard, County Emergency Managers, Local Government Managers, and the New River Valley Regional Commission.

In the third week of March the Task Force began drive-through COVID-19 testing for citizens of the New River Valley. Following four weeks of testing, over 700 tests have been conducted and approximately \$200,000 of local expenses have been incurred. The testing is strictly limited to those who meet testing guidelines established by public health officials and must have documentation from the New River Health District in order to be tested.

The New River Valley Public Health COVID-19 Drive-Through Testing is designed to accomplish the following:

- 1) Provide necessary COVID-19 testing to those with a demonstrated public health need
- 2) Deliver services through a safe, secure and expedient process
- 3) Available to all citizens meeting specific symptoms regardless of income
- 4) Ultimately yield community confidence during uncertain times by taking measures to identify positive cases and limit the spread of disease

Counties

Floyd | Giles
Montgomery | Pulaski

City

Radford

Towns

Blacksburg | Christiansburg
Floyd | Narrows | Pearisburg
Pembroke | Pulaski | Rich Creek

Higher Education

Virginia Tech | Radford University
New River Community College

Project operations are anticipated to be continued for the next several months. The testing may continue as a drive-through format which moves around the region to reach pockets of need. To date, the testing has been conducted in locations central within the region including Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Dublin. Dates are scheduled beginning next week in Floyd County.

The successful transition of the region back to pre-COVID-19 economic activities will necessitate continuous testing. The format for testing may change from the current regional drive-through approach to community-specific testing sites, depending on the course of positives identified.

The program is requesting \$117,046.03 in Community Development Block Grant Funds. Montgomery County has confirmed their willingness to serve as grant recipient with eligible beneficiaries being residents within the New River Health District which includes the counties of Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, Pulaski and the City of Radford. The New River Valley Regional Commission will serve as grant administrator and provide oversight of the funds supporting Montgomery County as the grant recipient. The acquisition of equipment, supplies and materials will be conducted by the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and the New River Health District.

The following contains a projected program budget. Some supply costs may be adjusted depending on their durability and need such as pop-up tents. The overall proposed program budget will not be exceeded with grant funds.

I look forward to discussing this Letter of Intent further, should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin R. Byrd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

Program Budget Request

Expenses	Total Requested from CDBG	Other Project Expenses	Description of CDBG Request
12'X12' Pop-up Tents	\$879.90		10 pop-up tents for testing sites. (\$87.99 per)
Bio-Hazard Liner (to match can)	\$85		2 boxes (\$42.50 per)
Surgical Masks	\$6,000		2,000 masks (\$3.00 per)
Dust Mask	\$918		200 masks (\$4.59 per)
Safety Goggles	\$1,988		200 goggles (\$9.99 per)
½" Rope for tent to anchors	\$207.90		10 lots (\$20.79 per)
Staple gun and staples	\$27.23		1 staple gun and staples for test site signs
Test Kits	\$50,470		2,660 of the IGM test & 820 of the IGG test kits
Test Kits	\$50,470		3,480 of the combination IGM & IGG test kits
Lunch at test sites		\$2,000	Meal costs, covered locally, range from \$250-\$540
Grant Management	\$6,000		
<i>Subtotals</i>	\$117,046.03	\$2,000	
Total Project Cost	\$117,046.03		