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By Appointment



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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April 25, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: CentraState Healthcare System  
901 W Main St  
Freehold, NJ 07728  
[centrastate.com](http://centrastate.com)

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

I write to respectfully request Community Project Funding for CentraState Medical Center in my Congressional District (NJ-04), to acquire the Elekta Linear Accelerator to deliver state of the art Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS).

By way of background, CentraState Healthcare System, an Atlantic Health System partner, is a private, not-for-profit health organization located in Freehold, New Jersey. Established in 1971, the system includes an acute care hospital, an ambulatory campus, three senior living communities and a charitable foundation. CentraState Medical Center has been awarded its fourth Magnet® designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, placing CentraState in an elite group of less than 2% of hospitals in the nation to have earned Magnet recognition four consecutive times.

In working to make health care services more accessible and affordable for people throughout the region, Family Practice of CentraState has six offices. These locations offer patients a range of services—from primary and urgent care to rehabilitation and laboratory services—right in their own communities, and OB/GYN services are available at two Women's Health Specialists locations. CentraState also offers a residency training program for family practice physicians and geriatric fellows in affiliation with the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Following an analysis of the identified health needs and in consultation with the public health officers of the western Monmouth County, New Jersey communities, CentraState Medical Center's 2020-2022 Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan identified

and prioritized the community's most pressing health issues, ranking them based on the magnitude of the problem, the seriousness of the consequences and potential burden to the community, and the feasibility of addressing or correcting the problem. The result was the identification of significant health needs of which is cancer is number two.

As you may be aware, cancer is the second leading cause of death in New Jersey, and the age-adjusted death rate due to cancer has been slowly declining for several years. In New Jersey, over 16,000 deaths each year are due to cancer. In the total population and among each racial/ethnic group, males have higher death rates than females. The age-adjusted death rate due to cancer is highest among Blacks in New Jersey but the gap is narrowing. Lung cancer death rates among Whites and Blacks are more than double those of Hispanics and Asians.

This Community Project Funding request will support the purchase of hardware and software that will enable CentraState Medical Center's existing Elekta Linear Accelerator to deliver state of the art Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS). SRS allows for the delivery of high dose radiation to a very small, focused area. It is a precise form of therapeutic radiation that is used to treat primary and metastatic brain and spine cancers, as well as epilepsy and other neurological conditions. The targeted focus of the radiation in radiosurgery techniques results in less damage to healthy surrounding tissues and less risk of infection, making it safer for those who have just had surgery. This upgraded equipment will benefit the people of Central New Jersey by enabling those with cancer and other serious diseases to access state-of-the-art treatment options that are close to home. Per the attached budget, the project cost is \$616,000.

This project is widely supported in the community, including by medical professionals, State legislators and county commissioners.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. I appreciate the Committee's due consideration of this project.

Thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of my request for Community Project Funding for the CentraState Medical Center. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me should you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress