



CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEASURE Z EXPENDITURES

The Advisory Committee meets on each Wednesday in March to review applications and will make recommendations to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors in April.

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Agency Name: K'ima:w Medical Center

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1288, Hoopa, CA 95546

Contact Person: Stephen Stake

Title: Chief Operating Officer

Telephone: (530) 625-4261, EXT. 288

E-mail address: stephen.stake@kimaw.org

1. AMOUNT OF MEASURE Z FUNDING REQUESTED FOR FY 2020-2021: \$374,383.00

2. ENTITY TYPE -- Please check appropriate box.

- a. Humboldt County Department
- b. Contract Service Provider to Humboldt County
- c. Local Government Entity
- d. Private Service Provider
- e. Non-Profit Service Provider
- f. Other, Describe: Tribal Entity

3. Describe how the scope of your proposal fits the intent of Measure Z. Specifically, how will it maintain, and improve public safety and essential services, as described on the previous page?

K'ima:w Medical Center (KMC) is applying for Measure Z funds to help assist with maintaining rural ambulance services in Eastern Humboldt County. KMC, an entity of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, maintains an ambulance base in Willow Creek in addition to the ambulance base on the reservation. The Willow Creek base serves an estimated 1,710 residents of Willow Creek and surrounding areas (based on the 2010 Census). Additionally, the Willow Creek base serves an Average Annual Daily Traffic volume of 5,300 vehicles on Berry Summit to Humboldt/Trinity County Line segment of Highway 299 (per CalTrans Route 299 Transportation concept Report, December 2017). This segment experiences a collision rate of 99 annually, including 43 fatal and injury collisions. Actual fatal collision rate is 1.7 greater than the State average for similar areas. (Source: Traffic Accident Surveillance and Analysis System – TASAS for the period of July 2006 to January 2009)



4. Please provide a brief description of the proposal for which you are seeking funding?
We are seeking funding to staff and maintain the Willow Creek ambulance base and provide meaningful emergency services in a largely rural area. The largest component of cost is staffing 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Other costs include additional substantial levels of training and additional types of medical supplies and specialized equipment needed to sustain life for patients being transported to the nearest emergency room. The Willow Creek and Hoopa Bases are equipped the same so that the services can respond to separate, simultaneous incidents. The Hoopa base is more than 15 minutes from Willow Creek and if detour is necessary, 40 minutes from Hoopa.

5. How have you developed a plan for sustainability, including diversification of funding sources, for your proposal to carry on without reliance on future *Measure Z* funds?
KMC has a full-time dedicated biller for the program which has improved the amount of reimbursement for the program. The ambulance service will never be profitable on its own since the reimbursement is low for ambulance runs and the number of runs per day will not fully support this vital program. Each year, we request funding from the Indian Health Service for the ambulance service. We haven't received any funding for this service. Each year, we submit a cost report to the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program through DHCS for additional reimbursement from the State of California.

6. If this request is for the continuation or expansion of existing program/service, what is the current source of funding for that program/service?
KMC funds the Willow Creek Ambulance base from Medi-Cal, Medicare, and private insurance reimbursement from other medical and dental services offered at our facility. In addition, we receive some additional reimbursement from the State of California Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program for Medi-cal reimbursable services. Most of the GEMT funds are not generated in the Willow Creek Area, but the reimbursement improves our sustainability of the ambulance service as a whole.

7. If you are awarded *Measure Z* funds, how do you plan to leverage these funds to secure additional grants, contributions or community support?
The Measure Z funds are being used to develop baseline costs for operating an ambulance service out of the Willow Creek Area. The Tribe has provided this service for many years without any contributions from outside agencies. The Hoopa Tribe can no longer fully fund the ambulance service solely. The Measure Z funds provide a stop-gap (continuation of the service) to assess the viability and support of a Community Safety District or other funding is identified by the County of Humboldt.

8. Will this proposal require new or expanded activity on the part of another entity to be fully functional and effective?
No, this proposal will not require new or expanded activity on the part of another entity.

9. Are there recurring expenses associated with this application, such as personnel cost? Please check yes or no: Yes No

All expenses are necessary and should be considered recurring to keep the Willow Creek Base Operational

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS — Be sure to include the following with your application

Proposal Narrative: Brief description of your request for *Measure Z* funds – Please explain how it is an essential service or improves public safety. (one page maximum)

Prior Year Results: If your request is a continuation of a program funded with *Measure Z* in prior fiscal years, please provide the results of implementation. (one page maximum)

Program Budget: Please utilize the template provided on the following pages. This will need to be updated if your agency is approved for funding.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above statements and all attachments are true and correct

DATE: 2-14-2020

SIGNATURE: 

SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETE APPLICATION TO:

Humboldt County Citizens' Advisory Committee on *Measure Z* Expenditures
c/o County Administrative Office
825 Fifth Street, Suite 112
Eureka, CA 95501-1153

Attachment 1: Proposal Narrative

K'ima:w Medical Center, an entity of the Hoopa Valley Tribe respectfully requests financial assistance through Measure Z for continued operations of its Willow Creek Ambulance base. Our request is for \$374,383.00 for funding cycle 2020-2021. Annual recurring funding will be needed to maintain the Willow Creek Ambulance Base.

The need for this funding has been a high level of concern of the citizens of Eastern Humboldt County. An article in the Times-Standard demonstrates the importance of emergency ambulance services in this remote area of Humboldt County: "Kim Willis was alone when she nearly lost her life. While staying at a friend's cabin in the Willow Creek Area in July, Willis had a heart attack. She said the symptoms came on suddenly. "I was sitting on the bed, and it felt like somebody poured a bucket on me, and then I started blacking out," Willis said. Eventually, she was able to get to the phone and call a neighbor. The neighbor called the Willow Creek Ambulance Service, which arrived in about 15 minutes. Willis, 57, said the call saved her life. "I just wouldn't have made it," she said. "It's really important to have the Willow Creek Ambulance service right there." Even though Willis lives in Eureka, she often visits Willow Creek and is concerned about the service leaving the area."

In a letter dated Feb 16, 2016, Lieutenant B.M. Fabbri, Acting Command for the Department of California Highway Patrol for Humboldt Area wrote: "The Hoopa Valley Ambulance Service is a critical element in the goals and objectives of the CHP to reduce death and injuries on state routes and county maintained roadways. Our success is incumbent upon an ambulance service with advanced life-saving equipment, and reliable response times as low as possible. The CHP supports your efforts and are hopeful that the Hoopa Valley Ambulance service receives the funding they need to maintain services to the Hoopa Valley and beyond." (Copy of letter available upon request)

In addition to serving Willow Creek, the ambulance service responds to car accidents along State Route 299 (from Redwood Creek to portions of Trinity County), and covers Weitchpec and Orleans. There is an average daily traffic volume of 8,425 vehicles; and this particular segment of highway has been recognized by the State, that Highway 299 is a high fatal and injury collision area, resulting in approximately 1.7 times higher than the state average for similar areas.

The Hoopa/Willow Creek ambulances responded to 1,248 calls in FY 2019. Of the 1,248 calls, 331 of those calls generated from the Willow Creek, Burnt Ranch, and Salyer area. Of the 331 calls, 30 calls were Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA) and of the 30 MVA's, 4 were over-the-bank. Of the 30 MVA's, 3 people were taken by helicopter and there was 3 deaths resulting from MVA's. The result of losing the service that is based in Willow Creek could potentially be devastating; resulting in either a complete lack of coverage for the area or an increased wait time for an ambulance to arrive.

The Willow Creek satellite service, which has been in the area for about two decades, may come to an end if additional funding isn't secured since the Tribe can no longer financially support this area due to low reimbursement rates, increased expenses, low volume of runs, and other economic factors. In an effort to increase accessibility to the Community, the base moved to a more centralized location in downtown Willow Creek. Plans to sustain the project after Measure Z funding include more aggressive collection processes. We are available to work with County representatives to secure long-term funding for this service.

Attachment 2: Prior Year Results

The funding K'ima:w Medical Center receives from Measure Z has enabled us to keep the Willow Creek base operational while Humboldt County staff work on alternative funding. Our second ambulance (based in Willow Creek) is fully staffed with ALS coverage 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Last year the Willow Creek Base was moved to a central location in Willow Creek increasing accessibility and faster response times to MVA's west of Willow Creek on State Highway 299. The ambulances are equipped with the highly advanced ALS equipment, which includes 12-lead heart monitors, external pacing, auto blood pressure cuffs, and pulse oximeters, advanced intubation equipment, C-pap (advanced breathing equipment), and interosseous (advanced IV equipment). Our crews are trained in low angle rope rescue and the ambulance carries 800 foot of rope, hardware to descend/ascend with the patient, and equipment to extricate the patient when needed. We are also equipped with water rescue equipment.

Hoopa Ambulance has been based in the Willow Creek area for many years. The Measure Z monies are enabling us to maintain complete emergency ALS coverage in an area that is 50 minutes away from any advanced medical care. Hoopa is always looking into modern ways and new technology to improve care and meet the highest level of emergency care in a super rural area. Ambulance Paramedics maintain high skill levels and ongoing continuous education training consisting of 48 hours every 2 years. Field care audits are conducted every 2 months, and ongoing patient care auditing is performed internally.

The last five years of funding have kept the Willow Creek Base operational. Revenue recovery has improved with the service having its own full-time dedicated biller. The program also bills the State of California and recovers some funds through the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program. K'ima:w Medical Center hired a full-time grant writer that is researching additional funding opportunities. The calculation for the portion of the expenses for Trinity County decreased from the prior year to 7.5% based upon runs from that area, and this percentage has been applied to both revenue and expenses. Over the last few years, the funding unexpended by K'ima:w Medical Center has resulted in a savings to the County in excess of \$65,000.00.

For FY 2019

Hoopa/Willow Creek Ambulances responded to 1,248 calls. Of the 1,248 calls, 331 of those calls generated from the Willow Creek, Burnt Ranch, and Salyer area. Of the 331 calls, 30 calls were Motor Vehicle Accidents(MVA) and of the 30 MVA's, 4 were over the bank rescues. Of the 30 MVA's 3 people were taken by helicopter and there were 3 Motor Vehicle Accident deaths.

The average transport time is 4 hours round trip. When both the Willow Creek and Hoopa Ambulances are out of the response area due to transports to the hospital, K'ima:w Medical Center calls Arcata-Mad River Ambulance to provide ALS standby coverage. Hoopa does their best to provide necessary coverage to meet the community's needs for our super rural response area.

The Measure Z funds provide a stop-gap while the County of Humboldt identifies alternative funding to support this service for the Willow Creek and Highway 299 area.

FY 20/21 HOOPA AMBULANCE BUDGET
WILLOW CREEK BASE

Descriptions	Total Base Costs	Humboldt County Portion Only
A. Personnel Costs		
	Willow Creek	
Title: EMS DIRECTOR/PARAMEDIC Salary and Benefits Calculation: 1.90 FTE	\$51,324 \$	47,731
Duties Description: Manage day to day operations and paramedic		
Title: PARAMEDIC (7) /EMT (3) Salary and Benefits Calculation: 16.36 FTE	\$303,970 \$	282,692
Duties Description: Emergency medical care, standby time		
Title: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BILLER Salary and Benefits Calculation: 1.0 FTE	\$18,117 \$	16,849
Duties Description: Manages office/3rd party billing		
Title: FRINGE BENEFITS Description: FICA, State Unemployment Insurance, Group Health Insurance, Tero, Retirement, Worker's Compensation	\$142,852 \$	132,852
Total Personnel:		\$516,263 \$
		480,124
B. Operational Costs (Rent, Utilities, Phones, etc.)		
Title: VEHICLE LEASES Description: Monthly GSA Leases	\$43,000 \$	39,990
Title: LEASES Description: Monthly Eureka Oxygen Leases	\$1,250 \$	1,163
Title: RENT - FACILITY Description: Rent paid for base in Willow Creek	\$12,600 \$	11,718
Title: UTILITIES Description: Electricity, propane, water, waste removal	\$6,000 \$	5,580
Title: DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS Description: DirecTV	\$1,600 \$	1,488
Title: COMMUNICATIONS AND DISPATCH Description: Amount paid to Hoopa Tribal Police for dispatch services/Telephones	\$39,250 \$	36,503
Total Operating Costs:		\$103,700 \$
		96,441
C. Consumables/Supplies (Supplies and Consumables should be separate)		
Title: SUPPLIES - MEDICAL Description: Pharmaceuticals and other medical care materials and supplies	\$6,000 \$	5,580
Title: SUPPLIES - NON MEDICAL Description: Employee apparel, office and Administrative and cleaning supplies	\$5,125 \$	4,766
Title: OTHER CONTRACTED SERVICES Description: Arcata/Mad River Ambulance coverage	\$5,000 \$	4,650
Title: PURCHASED SERVICES		

FY 20/21 HOOPA AMBULANCE BUDGET
WILLOW CREEK BASE

Descriptions	Total Base Costs	Humboldt County Portion Only
Description: Mission Linen & Uniform Service	\$1,000	\$ 930
Title: AUTO EXPENSE		
Description: Fuel for Ambulances/Repairs and Maintenance	\$25,500	\$ 23,715
Total Consumable/Supplies:	\$42,825	\$ 39,641
D. Transportation/Travel (Local and Out-of-County should be separate)		
Title: TRAINING		
Description: Training	\$4,000	\$ 3,720
Title: TRAVEL		
Description: Travel expenses incurred	\$600	\$ 558
Total Transportation/Travel Costs:	\$4,600	\$ 4,278
E. Other		
Title: INSTRUMENTS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT		
Description: Medical instruments and other equipment as needed	\$1,500	\$ 1,395
Title: LICENSES/PERMITS		
Description: Licenses/Permits	\$1,250	\$ 1,163
Total Other Costs:	\$2,750	\$ 2,558
Total:	\$669,938	\$ 623,042
less 7% for Trinity County:	\$46,896	
Projected Revenue (less 7% Trinity County):	\$248,659	
Requested Amount:	\$374,383	