New York State Department of Health

Health Equity Impact Assessment Conflict-of-Interest

This Conflict-of-Interest form must be completed in full, signed by the Independent Entity, and submitted with the Health Equity Impact Assessment.

Section 1 – Definitions

Independent Entity means individual or organization with demonstrated expertise and experience in the study of health equity, anti-racism, and community and stakeholder engagement, and with preferred expertise and experience in the study of health care access or delivery of health care services, able to produce an objective written assessment using a standard format of whether, and if so how, the facility's proposed project will impact access to and delivery of health care services, particularly for members of medically underserved groups.

Conflict of Interest shall mean having a financial interest in the approval of an application or assisting in drafting any part of the application on behalf of the facility, other than the health equity assessment.

Section 2 – Independent Entity

What does it mean for the Independent Entity to have a conflict of interest? For the purpose of the Health Equity Impact Assessment, if one or a combination of the following apply to the Independent Entity, the Independent Entity **HAS** a conflict of interest and must **NOT** perform the Health Equity Impact Assessment:

- The Independent Entity helped compile or write any part of the Certificate of Need (CON) application being submitted for this specific project, other than the Health Equity Impact Assessment (for example, individual(s) hired to compile the Certificate of Need application for the facility's project cannot be the same individual(s) conducting the Health Equity Impact Assessment);
- The Independent Entity has a financial interest in the outcome of this specific project's Certificate of Need application (i.e. individual is a member of the facility's Board of Directors or advisory board); or
- The Independent Entity has accepted or will accept a financial gift or incentive from the Applicant above fair market value for the cost of performing the Health Equity Impact Assessment.

Section 3 – General Information

A. About the Independent Entity

1. Name of Independent Entity: *Rural Health Redesign Center Organization, Inc. (RHRC)*
2. Is the Independent Entity a division/unit/branch/associate of an organization (Y/N)? *No*
   - ❑ If yes, indicate the name of the organization: _____

3. Is the Independent Entity able to produce an objective written Health Equity Impact Assessment on the facility's proposed project (Y/N)? *Yes*
4. Briefly describe the Independent Entity's previous experience working with the Applicant. Has the Independent Entity performed any work for the Applicant in the last 5 years?
   The RHRC has engaged with the applicant since February of 2023 through its work as the Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) Technical Assistance Center. This work included providing technical assistance to the applicant to facilitate a process by which the applicant could determine if the REH conversion is in the best interest of its community. This included education, financial assessments and general planning support. The RHRC was in no way an advocate of pursing the designation, and focused only on facilitating a process to help the applicant come to an informed decision. The RHRC receives no financial benefit from the applicant's decision to either convert to a REH, or remain its current designation.

Section 4 – Attestation

I, *Janice Walters* (individual name), having personal knowledge and the authority to execute this Conflict of Interest form on behalf of *Rural Health Redesign Center Organization, Inc. (RHRC)* (INDEPENDENT ENTITY), do hereby attest that the Health Equity Impact Assessment for project *Rural Emergency Hospital Conversion* (PROJECT NAME) provided for *Clifton-Fine Health Care Corporation and Subsidiary* (APPLICANT) has been conducted in an independent manner and without a conflict of interest as defined in Title 10 NYCRR § 400.26.

I further attest that the information provided by the INDEPENDENT ENTITY in the Health Equity Impact Assessment is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and fulfills the intent of the Health Equity Impact Assessment requirement.

Signature of Independent Entity: JWalters

Date: 11/30/2023