



Missouri Effective Practices Project (MEPP)

Innovative Funding Mechanisms for PH Infrastructure

County: Lincoln

Name of Practice: Innovative Funding Mechanisms for PH Infrastructure

Overall Description of Program: In 2000 we were in a political subdivision under the county commission. We were in a building owned by the county and it was not working for us. There just wasn't enough room. I have served on a Community Coalition with a member of the USDA staff. He was a rural development specialist and attended meetings in our facility and he knew we needed this. He approached me with a funding opportunity to build a new health department with 100% financing.

Essential Skill: Assurance

Essential Service: Assure a Competent Workforce

Knowledge Domain: Health Services Administration

NACCHO Oper Defin: Help people receive health services

Planning Time: 3 or more years

Experience/Imp of Program: 1 to 2 years

Number of staff: Part-time staff

Department of Program: 501c3 Board

Basis for Need of Program: We were in a rapidly growing county and our present building severely limited what we could do. By getting more space we drastically improved program delivery. We had a 5 member board of members of were very progressive and innovative. They knew this because we met at lunch time during one of the busiest times of the day and they could see how the space limited us. Boards shouldn't meet at night. They need to see the function of the health department.

On the advice of the Rural Development specialist, we became a 501c3. The application process was length (6 to 10 months) and this includes setting up the 501c3. This has been a wonderful avenue for us. The USDA representative was wonderful and encouraged an "inter-locking" board (i.e., same 5 board members are all the directors of our corporation, Public Health Fund, Inc.). The beauty of this is that you can work together and create change when you aren't under the confines of a political subdivision.

PHF, Inc now owns the building, insures the building, and leases the building to the health department. The title to the land is in the corporation.

Characteristics of the Program: The process for completing this and getting a new building was as follows:

1. Contact USDA rural development and ask for rural development specialist.
2. Form a not for profit 501c3 with by-laws, "inter-locking" board.
3. Apply for funds from USDA.
4. Select an architect
5. Buy property
6. Obtain bids
7. Build the facility.

The USDA walks you through these steps and is very helpful.

Barriers to Implementation: Very complicated process. Some people would not want to go through the hoops and the long-drawn out process. You have to be very organized and not be scared of the hard work that will pay off later. Some may not want to do the 501c3. This opens up many funding opportunities for health departments; some they aren't eligible for because they are a political subdivision.

Evaluations: We know this it's already too small, but we built it to be able to expand. Our goal is to hire a dentist and go back and get funding more funding. We receive a lot of good publicity because of this. We had federal personnel come from Washington to see what we've done. Our county has no planning and zoning board and no animal control or shelters. We are looking into funding to do a shelter, maybe on our own property.

Geographical Description: 25,000 to 49,999 **Target Population:** General Population

Describe Necessary Funding: Our building is a \$1.9 million facility, funded 100%. We purchased the land of 6.9 acres that we found and negotiated the sale over the phone. We purchased the property with our own money. Once the loan came through, we were reimbursed by USDA. These funds are available nationwide.

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