

**F. M. KIRBY FOUNDATION SOLICITATION EVALUATION FORM**

**DATE:** October 31, 2024  
**Program Area:** Human Services  
**Grant Type:** Board Grant

**REQUEST DATE:** September 25, 2024

**APPLICANT:**  
Planned Parenthood of Northern, Central, and Southern New Jersey  
196 Speedwell Avenue  
Morristown, NJ 07960-3889

**CONTACT:** Mr. Cory Neering, Co-Executive Director

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$100,000  
**BUDGETED AMOUNT:** \$100,000

**NATURE OF REQUEST:** General Operating Support for the Morristown Health Center

**GRANT HISTORY**

**SUPPORT:** 1967-2023

**# OF APPROVED GRANTS:** 58

**TOTAL DOLLARS:** \$3,470,200

**LAST GRANT DATE:** 12/08/2023

**LAST GRANT AMOUNT:** \$100,000

**FYE DATE:** 09/30

**AFS DATE:** 03/27/2024

<b>Year Approved</b>	<b>Approved Amount</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Grant Purpose</b>
2023	\$100,000	12/08/2023	General operating support in Morris County only
2022	\$100,000	12/12/2022	General operating support in Morris County only
2021	\$100,000	12/20/2021	General operating support in Morris County only
2020	\$100,000	12/14/2020	General operating support in Morris County only
2019	\$100,000	12/16/2019	General operating support in Morris County only

**LAST SITE VISIT DATE:** February 12, 2024

**ENDORSEE:** N/A

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**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS COMMENTS:** The audit is for FY2023 (September to September) and was completed on March 27, 2024. Total assets increased by 52%, mostly due to a 59% increase in cash and cash equivalents. Liabilities tripled due to an increase in long-term liabilities. The increase in liabilities is due to the organization recording \$5,699,541 in forgivable loans issued by the New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority to facilitate upgrades to family planning facilities. The loans are provided at zero interest, and as long as the funds are used solely for the outlined projects and the facilities continue to provide services for at least one year after project completion, the loans will be forgiven. As of September 30, 2023, the organization had already met some conditions, with \$650,000 forgiven shortly after the fiscal year closed. Additional increases are due to the adoption of new accounting standards that recognize lease liabilities. Combined, these two items account for the bulk of the increase in liabilities, transforming what was a relatively low liability total in 2022 into a much larger figure in 2023. Total support and revenue increased by 12% over the PFY largely due to a 36% (\$4.67M) increase in government grants. The organization received 95% of its government grants from one source, which is 50% of its total revenue and support, during the year ending September 30, 2023. The organization received \$4,128,090 from the federal Employee Retention Credit (ERC), which was recorded as non-operating revenue in 2023. Total expenses for FY23 came to \$35.5M, reflecting a 13.4% increase over the previous fiscal year. Program Services comprised 81.3% of total expenses in FY23. At the time of the audit, the organization held \$4.6M in pooled investments and \$2.5M in beneficial interests. The endowment stood at \$3.5M. There were no red flags as a result of my review of the audited financials and budget.

The projected FY24 organizational budget estimates \$33.2M in both revenue and expenses. The budgeted FMKF grant of \$100K would comprise approximately 2% of total fundraising revenue and less than 1% of total expenses. The projected budget and actuals for FY24 for the Morristown branch show that Morristown operations comprise of approximately 3% of the organization's revenues and expenditures. Notably, the FMKF grant of \$100K represents about 70-80% of fundraising and development revenue for Morristown and about 8% of the branch's total \$1.15M budget.

**ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION:** Planned Parenthood of Northern, Central and Southern New Jersey (PPNCSNJ) is a leading provider of reproductive health care services, comprehensive sexuality education, and information in New Jersey. We serve 18 counties - Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren. PPNCSNJ addresses a wide range of issues primarily related to sexual and reproductive health, providing essential services and advocacy to improve health outcomes and support individuals' rights. Our efforts are aimed at ensuring everyone, regardless of their background, has the knowledge, and resources, and access to health care to make informed decisions about their bodies and their futures.

**LIZ CROWLEY COMMENTS:** While the PPNCSNJ branch of Planned Parenthood houses sixteen branches, the FMKF grant supports the Morris County operations headquartered at the Morristown Health Center on Speedwell Avenue. This office provides a full range of health services, including abortion, birth control, HIV services, men's healthcare, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing and services, STI testing and treatment, and women's healthcare. PP of Morristown does not provide prenatal care and refers pregnant patients without insurance to

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the local health department or utilizes insurance navigators to help them apply for Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare (undocumented women can be assisted with an application for the NJ Supplemental Prenatal and Contraceptive Program which falls under NJ FamilyCare). It is worthwhile to note that 89% of Morristown Health Center patients fall at or below 150% of the federally qualified poverty level and 38% reported being uninsured.

The comparison data for the Planned Parenthood Morristown Health Center in 2021, 2022, and 2023 is as follows:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Unduplicated Patients</b>	4,909	5,400	5,451
<b>Total Visits</b>	6,496	7,200	8,746
<b>Cancer Screenings</b>	1,935	1,833	1,401
<b>STI Screenings</b>	7,041	8,178	8,550
<b>HIV Tests</b>	871	958	904
<b>Education/Counseling on BC</b>	4,054	4,468	4,324

The numbers show relative consistency since 2022, though there have been noticeable increases in total visits (+35%) and STI screenings (+64%) since 2021. While overall growth has been less meteoric since 2022, the growth in total visits in comparison to the level of unduplicated patients indicates that more patients are seeking multiple appointments, specifically for STI screenings. Additionally, the second year of the Patient Navigation program has brought more out-of-state patients seeking abortion services, contributing to the rise in Morristown visits over 2021 and 2022. The Morris County education team delivered 40 workshops, reaching 360 individuals.

The physical structure of the Morristown facility continues to see upgrades and renovations; 2024 saw the near completion of the HVAC system replacement, window upgrades, and additional facility enhancements. Outside of Morris County, PPNCSNJ opened a new healthcare center in Absecon, a city in Atlantic County. Atlantic County is located on the border of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, making it a convenient access point for individuals seeking out-of-state healthcare services. Additionally, while Atlantic County does not have the same level of poverty that we see in Essex County (13% compared to 15% of folks live below the poverty line in Atlantic and Essex, respectively), the city of Atlantic City is currently the most economically depressed city in New Jersey with a poverty rate of 32.4%.

In terms of organizational administration, the grant report notes that the organization has fully transitioned to a new electronic health records system (EHR). The transition to this new technology inspired the appointment of a Senior VP dedicated to overseeing partnerships between IT and medical Administration that will focus on improving health center processes, the patient portal, and the Call Center to enhance patient experience. PPNCSNJG also hired a new Director of Development, Cassie Jaeger (a classmate of mine from Rutgers), though our grant contact will still be Maria Kulp.

PPNCSNJG currently has a co-Executive Director model, with long-time ED Triste Brooks sharing the helm with Cory Neering since 2021. On my February site visit, I had an in-depth conversation

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with Cory and Triste about this setup. I thoroughly explained this in site visit write up, but, in summary, the transition to the co-ED model was a strategic response to the challenges that PP was facing on a policy level with both the reversal of Roe vs. Wade and the increased awareness of the need for resources that specifically address sexual and reproductive health disparities experienced by black women in the United States. Triste recruited Cory personally after working with him for many years in their home state of Florida and she stated that she would not share this role with anyone other than Cory. Additionally, both EDs were clear that this was not a permanent organizational structure and that, if one of them were to leave, the other would not seek out a replacement co-director. At the time of this application, it appears that both EDs are still in place, though Cory is listed as the primary contact for the grant.

Overall, New Jersey's Planned Parenthood branches have been left largely unscathed by the overturning of Roe v. Wade in terms of their ability to provide abortion services. There are concerns, however, about whether PPNCNJ employees are completely safe from prosecution by states that have an abortion ban (if they provide an abortion to a traveling resident of another state, for example). The upcoming presidential and gubernatorial elections are a major concern for PP, despite the seeming security that NJ law provides. Government funding for PP affiliates is inseparable from state and federal policy. An excellent summary of the effects of recent policy changes on reproductive healthcare access in NJ can be found on the Guttmacher Institute website. I highly recommend reading this summary and I will not attempt to rewrite it here, but notably:

*“In response to the domestic gag rule, New Jersey’s two Planned Parenthood affiliates joined affiliates all over the country in leaving the Title X network in summer 2019. Prior to this exit, nearly 70% of New Jersey patients served through Title X received care at a Planned Parenthood clinic. After leaving the network, these clinics continued to offer comprehensive family planning services using emergency funds.”*

In summary, the affiliate is incredibly affected by who is in office in the state and in the White House. In turn, this affects the ability of New Jersey residents (particularly low-income residents) to access reproductive healthcare services and birth control (not just abortion). Title X patients in New Jersey have decreased by 73% since 2018 (though 37% of this is attributed to the pandemic). As of 2021, the Biden administration restored Title X to its former state, but the effort to rebuild the Title X network is slow and 30% of PP affiliates who left the network have not yet rejoined, PPNCNJ being one of them. Currently, NJ Title X funding goes to the New Jersey Family Planning League. PPNCNJ does receive funds from the state of NJ and from Medicaid reimbursements.

In other related policy updates, July 2024 saw the U.S. Supreme Court's rejection of the attempt to limit access to Mifepristone (the main medication used for chemical abortion). As chemical abortions before the tenth week account for approximately 62% of all abortions, the potential for Mifepristone to be blocked would have had major implications for all PP affiliates and the general state of reproductive health in the U.S., including in protected states like New Jersey. While it is more than likely that this is not the end of challenges to Mifepristone and access can still be challenged on a state-level, New Jersey residents will not lose access to this option. It is worthwhile to note that the opinion in the united ruling from the Supreme Court was written by Brett Kavanaugh, with a concurring opinion written by Clarence Thomas, who states that doctors

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with moral, ideological, and professional concerns about prescribing the medication are in fact protected from being forced to participate in the prescribing process for this drug, and have been since the drug was introduced in 2000.

As stated in my financial analysis, the grant that we make to the Morris County branch of PPNCNJ represents ~9% of the budget for this location and our designation is completely flexible within the geographic boundaries. In terms of our grant designation, Cory stated on the site visit that our designation to Morris County is not limiting, because it allows them to free up other funds for areas that receive less unrestricted funding. Considering our strong interest in Morris County, community health, and sex education, I strongly feel that, from a community standpoint, this grant represents one of our more impactful human services expenditures. I recommend that we continue with the \$100K allocation with the same designation we have used in prior years.

**RECOMMENDATION:** I recommend a grant of \$100,000, payable over 1 year, designated in support of general operating support in Morris County.

**JUSTIN J. KICZEK COMMENTS:** One can only try to imagine what it is like to run health centers serving almost all of New Jersey, having to make constant adjustments to political turns of events and budgeting decisions at both a state and federal level. Of course, Planned Parenthoods also do this under the specter of potential violence and other security threats. Yet, amidst all of this change and turmoil, the organization has an undeniably clear mission of serving (largely) low-income women's health. While PP can be polarizing, I don't think anyone could disagree that they are a "household" name nonprofit that remains steadfastly loyal to its mission to the extent it can legally carry it out. Our consistent general operating support funding allows PPNCNJ to be nimble, pivoting when needed, while providing essential health care to people who may not otherwise have a medical home.

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**DISPOSITION:**

- Declination
- Hold for review on/about:
- Approval for: **\$100,000**
- Recommended Grant Payment(s):  
**2024:**  
**2025:**  
**2026:**
- Hold for Board Review: **December 13, 2024**
- Payee Other Than Addressee:
- Other:

Initials:     JJK    

Date: September 25, 2024

Check #                     

Date: