



Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center  
MINISTRY HEALTH CARE

*Sponsored by Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother*

February 17, 2010

Congressman Tim Walz  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressman Walz:

Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center in Wabasha, Minnesota is pleased to submit an appropriations request that will strengthen rural healthcare in our southeast region. Saint Elizabeth's proposes to advance and upgrade our aging infrastructure with critical equipment and technology that enables us to improve and enhance the care and safety of our patients and residents.

Access to high quality healthcare services and facilities is paramount in a rural community. Saint Elizabeth's has been meeting the healthcare needs of its service area for more than 111 years. Throughout our history we have established meaningful partnerships and gained extensive community support, which have enabled us to invest in our infrastructure so we can continue to be a viable community asset. Saint Elizabeth's remains on pace to transform how we deliver care to those in need. Not only do we provide a full continuum of acute care, aging, outreach, and prevention services, we are consistently ahead of the curve in delivering cutting edge medical care, offering community-based aging in place options, advancing electronic information systems, and offering wellness resources and expertise that reduce risk factors and decrease healthcare costs. Principles of healthcare reform are already taking place in the Wabasha area. Ensuring that our facilities remain up to date is vital to our ongoing success in impacting community health on a larger scale.

Saint Elizabeth's Quality and Safety Initiative advances critical equipment and technology to ensure patients and residents have access to progressive care, services, and facilities. Our project involves upgrading our aging infrastructure to include: three new elevators (\$300,000); a back-up generator for our long-term care facility (\$125,000); ceiling lifts in our long-term care patient rooms and bathrooms (\$500,000); and a wireless call/door alarm system in our assisted living facility (\$75,000). Capital improvements will be implemented under the direction and oversight of a safety team. Specific work plans, time lines, and outcomes measurements will be developed and monitored to ensure success. These necessary capital improvements far exceed our available financial resources. Federal and state funding through appropriations and grants is critical to our long-term sustainability.

Support for this initiative does strengthen our local economy. We expect to increase our capacity to care for an additional six to seven long-term care residents following the installation of mechanical ceiling lifts. The increase in sustained census will allow us to add three full-time equivalents to meet required staff-to-patient ratios. Continually advancing and upgrading our facilities, equipment, and technologies is a critical responsibility that helps us maintain our status as the provider and employer of choice in our service area.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

Tom Crowley, President  
Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center

Where caring makes the connection.<sup>SM</sup>

*Hospital and Nursing Home* 1200 Grant Boulevard West, Wabasha, MN 55981-1098 651-565-4531 Fax 651-565-2482  
*Health Care Center* 626 Shields Avenue, Wabasha, MN 55981-1199 651-565-4581 Fax 651-565-3414

[www.stelizabethswabsha.org](http://www.stelizabethswabsha.org)

# Congressman Walz Appropriations Project Request Form Fiscal Year 2011

Please return entire application packet via e-mail to Congressman Walz's office no later than Friday, February 19, 2010. Email all information to Congressman Walz's Outreach Director at [matthew.wohlman@mail.house.gov](mailto:matthew.wohlman@mail.house.gov)

Forms must be completed using Microsoft Word – no handwritten forms will be accepted.

In addition to this form, a signed request letter (on applicant's official letterhead) from the submitting government unit, company or organization must be included:

- For non-profit groups, the letter should be signed by the CEO or executive director.
- For municipalities, other local units of government and State agencies, the letter should be signed by the most senior elected official (i.e. Mayor, County Board Chair, Sheriff, County Attorney, and Governor).
- The letter and form should be scanned and e-mailed to [matthew.wohlman@mail.house.gov](mailto:matthew.wohlman@mail.house.gov). Due to delays in mail processing for Congressional offices, regular mail is regrettably not an option.
- The letter should discuss why the project would be a good use of taxpayer funds, what percentage of funding for the project would come from non-federal sources, how many jobs the project would create, the project's impact on southern Minnesota, the breadth of local support for the project and what the project's specific goals are and how the project's leaders measure progress toward those goals.
- **Project requests that are received after the February 19 deadline or that do not include a signed request letter will not be considered.**
- Any additional letters of support from local officials are also welcome.

**In addition, if you are requesting federal funding for multiple projects, you must attach a letter, from the same submitting agent as the letter above, listing all of the project names and funding amounts you are requesting. The projects should be listed in priority order; with the first project being your top priority, and so on.**

If you have supporting documentation, including project drawings, economic impact studies, governmental resolutions or other materials that show broad public or coalition support are welcome to be submitted with the application.

Congressman Walz believes that the federal appropriations process should be conducted with the maximum degree of transparency. **Applicants should be aware that our office will release to reporters and post on our website a public list of all requests submitted to the Appropriations Committee, the dollar amount of each request, and the name of the requesting organization.** In addition, our office reserves the right to contact you in the future

and request more information about your project should it receive federal funding, including tracking the project and its economic impact.

In addition, it is possible that public hearings will be held to give you an opportunity to testify on behalf of your project. If a public hearing is scheduled, you will be given notice at least seven business days before the hearing, to give you time to prepare.

**Please note the following:**

- The federal appropriations process is lengthy and is poorly suited for projects that require a specific amount of funding by a date certain. If you have such a project in Minnesota's First Congressional District, our office can help you find other funding options, such as federal grants. Please contact our office for assistance.
- Due to limitations enacted by the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Walz may not be able to request every project that is submitted. As a result, submitting this form does not guarantee that your project will be requested or that funding will be secured. In addition, Congressman Walz will review every application and look to secure funding for projects that have strong local support, create jobs in southern Minnesota and/or have a transformative impact on the region.
- Congressman Walz does not submit requests on behalf of for-profit companies.
- Congressman Walz does not consider requests that are not based in Minnesota's First Congressional District or that do not have a significant impact on the First District.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit an appropriations request to both Minnesota Senators, as well.
- After submitting this form, Congressman Walz's staff will likely need to contact you with time-sensitive questions about your project. Please be ready to respond quickly to any questions that may arise.

**PART 1 – ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

**1. Please initial to acknowledge the following:**

- **The appropriations process is lengthy and uncertain and is unsuitable for projects that require funding by a date certain.**
- **Submitting this project request does not guarantee that the request will be submitted to the Appropriations Committee or that it will receive funding.**
- **No requests on behalf of for-profit corporations will be submitted.**
- **Only projects based in Minnesota's First Congressional District or of clear benefit to Minnesota's First Congressional District will be submitted.**
- **None of the funds received through this appropriations request will be used to lobby federal officials.**

**PART 2 – GENERAL INFORMATION:**

<b>1. Name of Project:</b>
Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center Quality & Safety Initiative
<b>1b. Is the project located in Minnesota's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District?</b>
Yes. Saint Elizabeth's service area includes Wabasha County and surrounding communities.
<b>1c. Please indicate all other Members of Congress you are submitting this request to (NOTE: the more support for a project, the better). If you are not submitting this application to Minnesota's U.S. Senators, please explain why:</b>
Appropriations requests are being submitted to Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken.
<b>2. Summarize your project in 3-4 sentences. If you secure federal funds for this project, how long will it take for the project to be completed?</b>
Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center must upgrade and advance its aging infrastructure, facilities, and technologies to strengthen our capacity to better serve our patients and residents. Bolstering our infrastructure with progressive tools, technology, and equipment will provide improved access to high quality care; enhanced safety; and protection and growth of our workforce.
<b>3. How much are you requesting in federal earmark funds in FY2011?</b>
Saint Elizabeth's is requesting \$850,000 toward our quality and safety initiative.
<b>4. What is the total project cost? What is the exact percentage breakdown of funding for the project (i.e. what percentage of the total cost will come from the federal government, state government, local governments, private sector, etc.)? Has all non-federal funding already been allocated? If not, what is the likelihood that non-federal funds will not materialize?</b> <i>(note: some funding agencies require non-federal project funding matches)</i>
The total project cost is \$1,000,000. Saint Elizabeth's is committed to securing 15% of the project cost through local fundraising and other grant programs. Several additional proposals will be submitted in calendar year 2010 that will seek support for this initiative. We are confident that we can meet our goal of raising \$150,000 from outside funding sources, which includes Saint Elizabeth's Foundation.
<b>5. a) If you receive this funding, will the project be completed or self-sufficient? If not, why not? b) When do you anticipate that this project will be completed or self-sufficient? c) For how many additional years do you anticipate asking for funding?</b>
Saint Elizabeth's Quality and Safety Initiative involves the purchase and installation of four equipment/system upgrades: 1) elevators; 2) generator; 3) mechanical ceiling lifts; 4) wireless door alarm and call System. If funding is approved, we can achieve all project goals by the end of 2011.
<b>6. Have you received federal funding for this project in the past? Please list the fiscal year and funding level. a) was the funding received through a grant?</b>

**b) if the funding was received through an appropriations bill, please list which bill provided funding and at what level.**

**c) list the source of all non-earmark federal money the project has received (i.e. from the ARRA, formula funds, etc.).**

This initiative has not received previous federal appropriations or grant funding.

**7a. Which Appropriations bill should your project be funded within?**

- Agriculture
- Commerce, Justice, Science
- Defense
- Energy and Water
- Financial Services
- Homeland Security
- Interior and the Environment
- Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
- Legislative Branch
- Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs
- State and Foreign Operations
- Transportation and Housing and Urban Development

Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill

**7b. Which department, agency and account should your project be funded within?  
(For example: USDA's CSREES account; HUD's EDI account; FHWA's TCSP account.)**

HRSA HCOF Account

**8. Please confirm that your project is eligible to receive funds by contacting the relevant federal agency. Please list the name, title, agency and contact information of the person with whom you confirmed your project's eligibility below.**

**9. What specifically would this funding be used for? Please be specific: construction, environmental impact statement, staff salaries, etc.**

Saint Elizabeth's Quality and Safety Initiative advances critical equipment and technology to ensure patients and residents have access to progressive care, services, and facilities. Our project involves upgrading our aging infrastructure to include: three new elevators (\$300,000); a back-up generator for our long-term care facility (\$125,000); ceiling lifts in our long-term care patient rooms and bathrooms (\$500,000); and a wireless call/door alarm system in our assisted living facility (\$75,000).

**10. Has this project been authorized in federal law? If so, please provide authorization bill.**

Minnesota State law requires that elevators in healthcare facilities meet specific codes/regulations administrated by the Department of Labor and Industry. Currently, three of our elevators do not comply with state standards and must be replaced by 2012.

The State of Minnesota enforces a Safe Patient Handling Act that requires all healthcare facilities to abide by strict rules and regulations relating to the handling and transportation of nursing home residents. Every long-term care facility in Minnesota must have a plan to minimize manual lifting by direct care workers by January 2011. Best practice standards recommend the use of mechanical ceiling lifts to aid staff in safely transporting residents to and from their beds and other locations. Saint Elizabeth's has begun an aggressive plan to equip 65% of its resident rooms/bathrooms with mechanical ceiling lift systems.

**11. (Transportation requests only) Is this project in the STIP? Is it supported by MnDOT? Please attach a letter of support from MnDOT for the project.**

N/A

**12. (Transportation requests only) Matching funds of at least 20% of the total project cost are required for transportation projects. Matching funds cannot be federal funds. Please provide the source and amount of matching funds.**

N/A

**13. (Army Corps of Engineers requests only) Is funding requested for a study or construction? Please provide the Congressional Authorization for this project (Public Law# and Section).**

N/A

### **PART 3 – PROJECT INFORMATION:**

**1. What is the justification for the project? Why is it a good use of taxpayer funds? (ie: Why is the project needed? What problem will it solve? What gap will it fill?)**

Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center is the only hospital located in Wabasha County. In collaboration with healthcare organizations, local and regional agencies, businesses, government, and other key stakeholders, Saint Elizabeth's meets the healthcare needs of its service area by providing a broad scope of care, housing, outreach, and educational services. The aging infrastructure of our hospital and long-term care facilities threatens our ability to provide the highest level of care and safety to our patients, residents, and community. Necessary capital improvements far exceed our available financial resources. Federal and state funding through appropriations and grants is critical to our long-term sustainability. Our most critical needs include:

**Elevator Upgrade**

**\$300,000**

A recent safety inspection by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry identified a critical need to upgrade three elevators that transport patients, residents, visitors, and staff. Due to the age of the existing elevators, they lack the hydraulic jack and PVC-lined cylinders that protect against groundwater contamination should oil leak from the cylinders. Other deficiencies include:

a) elevators are not equipped with the required telephones to report emergencies; b) elevators are not connected to fire alarm and door safety sensors; c) elevators require upgraded oil pumps and controls.

Saint Elizabeth's must install three new elevators by 2012 to comply with these regulations.

### **Generator Replacement**

**\$125,000**

Saint Elizabeth's is continuously advancing its Emergency Preparedness Plan in an effort to respond to internal and external emergencies. Equipping our facilities with back-up power is a necessity that requires a significant financial investment. Saint Elizabeth's Health Care Center lacks a sufficient and dependable generator to power the facility in the event of a prolonged outage. Presently, the nursing home facility relies on a 35-year-old, 45 Kilowatt natural gas generator. It is capable of supplying critical power to only 30% of the building's electrical load, which doesn't include make-up air and air conditioning units. The installation of a larger, up-to-date generator assures that we comply with life safety standards, and enhances our ability to protect the safety and well-being of our most frail and vulnerable populations. Access to a back-up generator also provides Saint Elizabeth's the ability to provide critical services and shelter in the event of a community-wide disaster.

### **Ceiling Lifts**

**\$500,000**

Minnesota has enacted safety legislations that require healthcare facilities to implement new patient/resident safe handling practices. Best practice standards recommend the installation of ceiling lifts and other mechanical equipment to safely move and transport patients and residents. Over the past few years, Saint Elizabeth's has added these safety devices to a limited number of patient/resident rooms and bathrooms. The addition of these lifts has reduced staff injuries and promoted the safe handling of frail seniors and obese residents with limited mobility. Expanding access and use of these proven mechanical devices will reduce injuries, expand our capacity to care for more seniors; and increase our need to hire additional healthcare workers.

### **Wireless Call System/Door Alarms**

**\$ 75,000**

Saint Elizabeth's is considered a leader in providing our aging population with assisted living care and other community-based alternatives to nursing home placement. We are committed to providing cost-effective options that provide seniors with the care and services they need at the right time, in the right place. Offering a full continuum of care demands new technology and resources to meet the changing needs and higher acuity levels of our aging population. On average, about 10 percent of our assisted living residents are at risk for nursing home placement. To protect the safety of wander-prone residents who are experiencing early stages of dementia, Saint Elizabeth's wishes to install a wireless security system. Door alarms and emergency call systems will immediately alert staff that a resident has either left their apartment or is in need of urgent help. Systems such as this have proven to work successfully in our hospital and long-term care environments. As we continue to care for frailer, more vulnerable seniors in our assisted living program, we believe it is a critical priority to provide the same level of safety precautions to effectively care for residents at risk of nursing home placement. We have calculated that we can save \$3,270 per month per resident when we care for them in an assisted living environment.

## **2. How many jobs will this project create in southern Minnesota?**

Many of these upgrades will not impact our ability to hire additional healthcare workers. However, we do believe that it is our responsibility to continually advance and upgrade our facilities, equipment and technologies so we maintain our status as being the provider and employer of choice in our service area.

Saint Elizabeth's will increase its capacity to care for an additional 6-7 long-term care residents following the installation of mechanical ceiling lifts. The increase in sustained census will allow us to add three full-time equivalents to meet required staff-to-patient ratios.

**3. How will the project transform southern Minnesota?** (ie: Will it bring cutting edge technology to the state? Lead to new businesses or commercialization opportunities? Help Minnesota compete for government and industry contracts? BE SPECIFIC.)

Access to high quality healthcare services and facilities is paramount in a rural community. Saint Elizabeth's has been meeting the healthcare needs of its service area for more than 111 years. Throughout our history we have established meaningful partnerships and gained community support, which have enabled us to invest in our infrastructure so we can continue to be a viable community asset. Saint Elizabeth's remains on pace to transform how we deliver care to those in need. Not only do we provide a full continuum of acute care, aging, outreach, and prevention services, we are consistently ahead of the curve in providing cutting edge medical care, offering community-based aging in place options, advancing electronic information systems, and offering prevention and wellness resources and expertise that reduce risk factors and decrease healthcare costs. Principles of healthcare reform are already taking place in the Wabasha area. Ensuring that our facilities remain up-to-date is vital to our ongoing success in impacting community health on a larger scale.

**4. What are the primary project objectives? List your top 3-4 project objectives and describe your plans to achieve these objectives. In addition, please explain how you will measure progress toward these objectives and hold your organization accountable for meeting them.**

- 1) Upgrade three elevators by end of 2011 to meet MN Dep't Labor and Industry codes.
- 2) Install larger, updated generator by end of 2011 to provide sufficient back-up power for nursing home residents, staff, and community.
- 3) Install ceiling lift systems in resident rooms/bathrooms of Saint Elizabeth's long-term care facilities to reduce injuries, increase access, and promote resident safety by the end of 2011.
- 4) Equip Saint Elizabeth's assisted living facility with wireless call/door alarms by end of 2011 to protect the safety and promote the independence of all apartment residents.

These capital improvements will be planned and implemented under the direction and oversight of a safety team. Specific work plans, time lines, and outcomes measurements will be developed and monitored to ensure success.

**5. What other partners (universities, businesses, groups) are involved in this project?**

The capital expenditures needed for our quality and safety initiative does not require the collaboration of community partners. Yet, Saint Elizabeth's has always depended on the partnership of primary care providers, specialty physicians and clinicians, businesses, public health, donors, foundations, schools, and other groups and associations to fulfill its mission of continually improving the health and well being of all people, especially the poor, in the communities we serve. Collaboration is a necessity in our rural communities as we work together to leverage resources, share knowledge and expertise, and make change happen.

*Note: Please attach any additional information you think would be useful in describing your project.*

**PART 4 – CONTACT INFORMATION:**

<p><b>Requesting Organization (if this is different than the organization that should actually receive federal funds to execute the project, please also specify which organization should be</b></p>	<p>Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center</p>
---	---

<b>the recipient of federal funds):</b>					
<b>Address:</b>	1200 Grant Blvd. W.				
<b>City:</b>	Wabasha	<b>State:</b>	MN	<b>Zip</b>	55981
<b>Point of contact at organization for Rep. Walz's staff to contact with questions</b>		Tom Crowley		<b>Title:</b>	President
<b>Phone:</b>	651-565-5559	<b>Fax:</b>	651-565-2482	<b>Cell:</b>	651-380-9194
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Tom.crowley@ministryhealth.org">Tom.crowley@ministryhealth.org</a>				

<b>Contact information for head of organization for Rep. Walz to contact</b>		Same As Above		<b>Title:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Fax:</b>		<b>Cell:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>					

<b>Agency Sponsor: (Include the name and contact information of any federal agency representative who supports your project request)</b>					
<b>Agency:</b>					
<b>Contact Person:</b>				<b>Title:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>			<b>Email</b>		

**PART 5 – FOR DEFENSE REQUESTS ONLY:**

<b>If you are requesting funds from the Department of Defense, please provide the following information, in addition to the above.</b>	
<b>Budget Account and Service/Agency:</b> (ie: R&D, Army; O&M, Air Force; R&D, Air Force)	
<b>Program Element:*</b> (for R&D projects only)	

<b>Line Number:*</b> (for procurement and R&D accounts)	
<b>Line Item Title*</b>	
<b>Does this project fulfill a validated military requirement? If so, please cite the relevant DOD documents.</b>	

*\* These can be found in FY2008 P-1 and R-1 documents on the DOD comptroller website: [www.dod.mil/comptroller](http://www.dod.mil/comptroller)*

# Wabasha Clinic

*Mayo Health System*

February 17, 2010

Congressman Tim Walz  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Representative Walz:

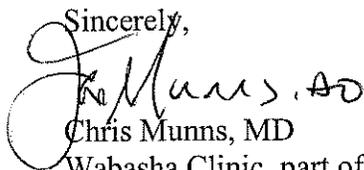
Please accept this letter as a show of support for Saint Elizabeth's Quality and Safety Initiative. Your support of this critical project will provide the financial capacity needed to update Saint Elizabeth's technologies, equipment, and facilities.

Capital improvements that require immediate attention include the replacement of three elevators, the installation of mechanical ceiling lifts, the upgrade of a new back-up generator, and the addition of a wireless call/door alarm system within our assisted living facilities. Every one of these improvements will greatly impact the quality of care and safety we provide to our residents.

Small rural facilities like Saint Elizabeth's depend on outside sources of funding to support the ongoing advancement and renovation of its aging facilities. Appropriations funding is an investment that strengthens local access to and long-term sustainability of high-quality primary care.

Please seriously consider funding this important proposal. Our communities have depended on the care and services of Saint Elizabeth's for over 111 years. Your financial support will ensure that we can continue to meet the needs of our residents well into the future. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Chris Munns, MD

Wabasha Clinic, part of Lake City Medical Center – Mayo Health System