

April 10, 2019

Re: Project LAUNCH

To Whom It May Concern:

As Borough President of Staten Island, I am pleased to commit to Richmond University Medical Center my support of its application for the Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health Grant Program (Project LAUNCH) that is being funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Health and wellness has been a cornerstone of my administration – and I recognize a particular need for young children from birth to eight years of age in the borough's North Shore communities. The social, emotional, cognitive, physical and behavioral health aspects of children's development and support are critical, and RUMC's proposal to establish fully integrated, specialized team-based care for at-risk pregnant women and their infants, and children from birth to age eight, would go a long way toward filling this need.

The proposed mobile clinic to provide screenings and assessments, along with the recruitment of local community health workers to provide care coordination and wraparound services, will offer much-needed targeted attention to the social, emotional, cognitive, physical and behavioral aspects of development required by this population.

I, therefore, urge SAMHSA to fund this important project.

Sincerely,



James S. Oddo  
President, Borough of Staten Island

