



As of today, there were no drawdowns on the monies provided by DHHS for the our Batesburg-Leesville project as of yet. Our attorney, Ron Scott, is in negotiation with the Town of Batesburg-Leesville to do a land swap for where the facility will be constructed. We are looking to swap our property located at 120 W Church Street in Batesburg-Leesville with a property owned by the Town more suitable for construction of the facility. Once that process is finalized, construction - and subsequently funding drawdown - will begin. We have an architect, Craig Otto, in place with blueprints already drawn. Mr. Otto was hired using other organizational funds, per the Cooperative Health Finance Department. Here is a description of the project: Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center, Inc. (dba Cooperative Health) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) having served more than 57,000 patients across the Midlands region in 2022. We help all patients regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status. Approximately 96 percent of our patient population falls at least 200 percent (or below) the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The Batesburg-Leesville project would expand service offerings, provide access to quality, affordable health care, and improve health outcomes. Currently, Cooperative Health operates a pediatric facility, located at 120 West Church Street, and a women's health and internal medicine site, located at 338 E. Columbia Ave., in Batesburg-Leesville. The proposed new facility would consolidate these existing services while adding adult primary care, OB/GYN, dental, integrated behavioral health, and pharmacy to our scope of service for residents of Batesburg-Leesville and surrounding communities. The facility would house eight adult exam rooms, six pediatric exam rooms, three dental exam rooms and a pharmacy.

There is a dearth of primary care, dental and pharmacy providers in 29006 (Batesburg) and surrounding zip codes representing the communities of Gilbert, Monetta, Ward and Ridge Spring. According to the University of South Carolina, there is less than one primary and dental care provider per 1,000 people in these areas. There is no OB/GYN operating in these areas. Currently, only four pharmacies serve a population of more than 45,000 citizens within a 30-minute driving distance of Batesburg-Leesville. Additionally, Batesburg-Leesville and surrounding communities reside within a federally designated health performance shortage area (HPSA) and medically underserved area (MUA). The new center will serve primarily low income and uninsured families in the targeted service area. The low income underserved population groups in the Batesburg-Leesville service area are a mixture of Caucasian (50.6%), African American (41.6%), and Hispanic (9.2%).

Approximately 19.4% of the population is below 200% FPL with an estimated 17.2% uninsured in the proposed service area.

Lexington County ranks in the top quarter of health outcomes and health factors in South Carolina, according to the County Health Rankings from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. However, this is due to a heavy concentration of health care providers in and around the Columbia metropolitan area. Underserved and uninsured residents in the Batesburg-Leesville area face at least a 30-minute drive to access those services in either Aiken or Lexington County. Expanding services by constructing the proposed facility will ensure access to care for all citizens in the Batesburg-Leesville area. Simultaneously, the facility will result in improving population health using Cooperative Health's proven care model.