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**Premier COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE NAMED RECIPIENT OF $1.4 million AWARD to COMBAT COVID-19**

**Dade City, Fla., Tuesday, April 21, 2020** – Premier Community HealthCare (Premier) has been named the recipient of a $1.4 million award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to combat COVID-19. The funding stems from the passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and is part of the $1.3 billion awarding of funds by HHS through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to nearly 1,400 health centers nationwide.

The $1.4 million award will be put to immediate use as Premier responds to emerging and evolving local needs, while continuing to deliver high-quality primary health care services to patients. Specifically, it will support the ability to detect, prevent, diagnose, and treat patients impacted by the virus, while also providing enhanced preparedness and response workflows. “This emergency federal funding is like an injection for our safety net providers at an undeniably critical time, and we’re grateful for the congressional support,” said Premier Community HealthCare CEO Joey Resnick.

The CARES Acts legislation, and subsequently the awarding of these funds, is supported by Congressman Gus Bilirakis. "Community health centers are an essential part of our healthcare system, especially during this crisis,” said Congressman Bilirakis in a prepared statement. “This increased federal funding will ensure centers, like Premier, can continue providing high quality care and critical front-line operations needed to keep our community safe.”

Community health centers, like Premier, are on the front lines combating COVID-19 and providing essential care to those in need. These centers serve the nation’s most vulnerable individuals and families, including people experiencing homelessness, agricultural workers, residents of public housing, and veterans. “Premier conducts more than ten thousand clinical services monthly for patients, many of them from our most vulnerable populations,” continued Resnick. “It is imperative that our patients receive affordable, quality care – especially in the midst of this pandemic.”

For a complete list of award recipients, visit: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-cares-FY2020-awards>. For more information about Premier and its mission, visit [www.premierhc.org](http://www.premierhc.org).

*Premier Community HealthCare Group is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that operates Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC’s) dedicated to providing accessible healthcare for all. With 10 conveniently located offices throughout Pasco and Hernando Counties to serve patients, Premier provides a full range of comprehensive primary care medical services that include Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Dental, Behavioral Health, Obstetrics and Gynecology. Premier has been committed to serving the medically underserved areas with its long-standing presence in Pasco County since 1979. Premier is one of more than 1,400 community health centers nationwide created by federal legislation that provides some funding for the facilities. The centers are required by law to cater to medically underserved populations.*

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