**Project Title:** TWEET Care Project; **Applicant Organization Name:** Community Healthcare Network; **Address:** 60 Madison Avenue, 5th floor, New York, NY 10010; **Project Director Name:** Luis Freddy Molano; **Contact Name and Phone Numbers:** Elizabeth Howell, p:212-545-2404, f:646-312-0481; **Email Address:** ehowell@chnnyc.org; **Website:** www.chnnyc.org

Community Healthcare Network (CHN) proposes to implement the Transgender Women Engagement and Entry to Care Project (TWEET Care Project) at the Family Health Center in Jamaica, Queens. The proposed TWEET Care Project is a peer-based model of outreach and engagement designed to increase access to and retention in quality HIV primary care for transgender women of color in New York City. Drawing on the Social Cognitive Theory, Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change, and Motivational Interviewing method, the TWEET Care Project utilizes Peer Leaders that represent the target community to outreach, engage, and link HIV-positive, transgender women who are newly diagnosed or lost to care. Members of the transgender community often encounter a variety of challenges, stigmas, and prejudices when attempting to access health care services, and research highlights the complexities and challenges that can occur within the provider and transgender client relationship that can contribute to a reluctance to engage in or the disengagement in care. By empowering transgender individuals to become advocates and educators for their peers that are not currently receiving care, the TWEET Care Project aims to reduce or eliminate the individual- and system-level barriers that transgender women of color often encounter in accessing healthcare and HIV treatment. Over the five-year contract period, Community Healthcare Network aims to receive 792 program referrals to the TWEET Care Project and enroll 198 HIV-positive, transgender women of color clients into HIV care.

The goals of the TWEET Care Project are to promote access to quality care among HIV positive transgender women of color in New York City, to increase retention in care and promote re-engagement in care, to improve the quality of life of the enrolled clients through access to comprehensive care and educational opportunities, and to evaluate program activities and facilitate program replication. The proposed TWEET Care Project will be implemented at CHN’s Family Health Center (90-04 161st Street, 11432) which serves the medically-underserved community of Jamaica, Queens. The project will target transgender women (MTF) of color that have been newly diagnosed as HIV-positive or have been lost to care. Based on lessons learned from CHN’s prior experience outreaching to the transgender community, the project will not only conduct outreach throughout the area surrounding the Family Health Center, but will expand the reach of the project to target HIV-positive, transgender women of color throughout New York City.

CHN is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide access to comprehensive community-based primary care, mental health care, and social services for diverse populations in underserved communities throughout New York City. Comprised of eleven community health centers and a medical mobile unit, CHN services federally-designated, medically-underserved areas in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens.