

HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES
8TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS,
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE INTERNET
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM,
HOMELAND SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIONS
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DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Expanding Access to Specialty Services Through eConsults, Brooklyn, NY 11219 in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Brooklyn Communities Collaborative, Inc. located at 4802 10th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

The funding would be used to expand on early success with telemedicine with an eConsult program to provide efficient, asynchronous consultations to scarce specialties that are most appropriate for eConsults, thereby improving access and efficiency while decreasing wait times for patients most in need of in-person consultations. The program will license and configure a shared platform for referral access across a network of community providers and Federally Qualified Health Centers throughout Brooklyn, including the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center, Maimonides Medical Center, One Brooklyn Health and SUNY Downstate. Telehealth has been linked to numerous benefits, including cost savings and improved health outcomes, and has removed known barriers to care such as transportation and comfort. In particular, eConsults have been linked to reduced wait times for specialty care and shown to encourage greater interaction between referring and consulting providers, improving patient preparedness for consultations and, by educating the referring providers, reducing the net number of requested consultations over time. This request aligns with existing federal efforts to invest in digital infrastructure, build on existing successes and further expand efficient access to health care in a rapidly changing landscape.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hakeem Jeffries". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress