
Houston, July 22, 2020

Siemens Foundation Provides \$75K to Bee Busy Wellness Center in Houston to Support COVID-19 Recovery and Social Equity

- **Bee Busy Wellness Center is one of eight additional community health centers receiving financial support from the non-profit organization, raising the total to more than \$2M to 20 providers since April.**
- **Locations chosen to address the needs of the medically underserved, underrepresented and uninsured, advancing the Foundation's long-term commitment to social equity and justice.**

The [Siemens Foundation](#) today announced it is providing \$75,000 to the Bee Busy Wellness Center in Houston, TX to help in the COVID-19 crisis recovery and address racial disparities in accessing quality, affordable healthcare. This community health center is one of eight receiving financial support from the non-profit organization established by Siemens USA. These grants complement the \$1.5 million in grants provided by the Siemens Foundation in April to 12 community health centers across the country.

The Bee Busy Wellness Center (BBWC) has four locations serving the greater Houston area. BBWC partners with the local hospitals to offer treatment to patients who test positive for COVID-19 in an effort to prevent or deter hospitalization. BBWC is a nurse practitioner-led practice, serving more than 10,000 patients annually, with over 90% minority patients (43% African American, 37% Hispanic, 10% Asian). BBWC will utilize the funds to support uncompensated patient care and support the staff and patients for continuous quality and safety improvement activities.

“Much of the focus of COVID-19 has been on physiological symptoms of the disease and not the psychological impact COVID-19 has on communities of color. As we continue to increase the confirmed number of positive cases, a concentrated effort

must be placed on the integration of mental health to promote a holistic approach during this pandemic,” **said Debrisha Johnson, Chief Medical Officer at the Bee Busy Wellness Center.**

“Black and brown people are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. They are on the front lines in the grocery stores, restaurants, collecting trash, cleaning up our facilities, and responding to emergencies. Many people of color don’t have the luxury of staying home and working remotely. We need to provide these communities with educational materials, services, support, and assist them in every way possible as we go through this pandemic. The Siemens Foundation grant to the Bee Busy Wellness Center for \$75,000 will allow the community centers to do the critical work of helping the uninsured and those already on the margins of life,” **said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.**

The Siemens Foundation has made a commitment to support these critical healthcare providers so they can recover and rebuild from the repercussions of the pandemic. The grants reinforce the Foundation’s continued resolve to promote diversity, equity and inclusion amid national efforts to address racism and promote racial justice.

“Six months into the pandemic, COVID-19 continues to disproportionately affect people of color, particularly Black people,” **said David Etzwiler, CEO, Siemens Foundation.** “Our commitment to eliminating health, education, and social justice disparities experienced by Black people is stronger than ever.”

The community health centers were identified using equity criteria developed by the Siemens Foundation in consultation with the National Association of Community Health Centers and the Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers.

The centers will receive funds over the next few weeks and are free to allocate it where it is needed most.

For more information on the Siemens Foundation, follow @SFoundation on Twitter or visit [siemens-foundation.org](https://www.siemens-foundation.org).

Contact for journalists

Charlie DiPasquale

Phone: (240) 481-6632; E-mail: charlie.dipasquale@siemens.com

About the Siemens Foundation

The Siemens Foundation has invested more than \$122 million in the United States to advance workforce development and education initiatives in science, technology, engineering and math. Our mission is inspired by the culture of innovation, research and continuous learning that is the hallmark of Siemens' companies. Together, the programs at the Siemens Foundation are narrowing the opportunity gap for young people in the U.S. in STEM careers and igniting and sustaining today's STEM workforce and tomorrow's scientists and engineers.