



DEPARTMENT OF HEAD & NECK SURGERY
DAVID GEFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT UCLA
10833 LE CONTE AVENUE, 62-132 CHS
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095

Feb 14, 2025

Dear American Head & Neck Society,

Our team is kindly requesting funding for a two-day head & neck cancer screening event that our department, UCLA Department of Head & Neck Surgery, will be hosting in partnership with the UCLA Homeless Healthcare Collaborative (HHC). This initiative aims to provide vital cancer screenings and preventive education to individuals experiencing homelessness, a population disproportionately affected by health disparities, including those related to head and neck cancers. Our team is well suited to lead this initiative due to our previously established partnership with HHC, as well as experience with a successful screening event last year at UCLA.

Our proposed two-day event in Fall 2025 will serve individuals experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County, specifically those seeking care or refuge at the Union Rescue Mission. This population remains at high risk for head & neck cancer due to increased rates of tobacco and alcohol use, limited access to healthcare, and inadequate preventive care (including decreased access to HPV education and vaccination). Our screening event will help bridge this gap by providing free, high-quality assessments, as well as providing educational resources. We aim to improve patient outcomes through timely referrals to Otolaryngology clinics at our local county hospitals (which are covered by our team of UCLA faculty and residents), with the appropriate resources to seek that specialty care. Furthermore, our educational efforts will empower individuals with knowledge to reduce their risk factors and hopefully seek preventive care in the future. This initiative will also enhance our understanding of the prevalence of suspicious lesions among individuals experiencing homelessness in our community and will guide our continued efforts to serve them.

Methods

Our team, consisting of faculty and resident volunteers from our department, will conduct full head & neck cancer screenings using proper lighting and examination tools. Staffing will be bolstered by medical student volunteers for intake and distribution of materials. The screenings will be held by residents, overseen by faculty, in the established clinic space with HHC at the Union Rescue Mission – ensuring a structured and efficient process. The patient will complete an intake form with demographic information, and the resident will fill out a standardized form for all areas of the head & neck that were examined, along with any abnormalities. After each screening, team members will distribute toothbrushes, toothpaste, small sunscreens, and educational pamphlets covering head & neck cancer risks, smoking and alcohol cessation, and the benefits of HPV vaccination for individuals up to age 45. The materials will be placed into a small bag with the educational pamphlet stapled to the front and given to the patient. Our resident and faculty volunteers will then be available to answer any questions the patients may have regarding cancer prevention and screenings. Patients with suspicious findings will be referred to one of our local county hospitals (including Harbor-UCLA, Los

Angeles General, Olive view-UCLA), for further evaluation and management. Bus passes will be provided to patients who have suspicious findings for either of these county hospital sites. The UCLA HHC already has a streamlined process in place for referrals and transportation to specialty care at the county hospitals and will simultaneously provide resources on insurance and public aid. Our team is also able to assist with scheduling at the Harbor-UCLA and Olive view-UCLA Otolaryngology clinics, as we are the sole providers at those clinics and can control the clinic schedule at these sites. We anticipate screening 50 individuals over the two-day event (which will be held on a Tuesday and Thursday of the same week). After the event, data will be examined via demographic intake sheets and head & neck examination findings/referrals, successful follow-ups, as well as interviews with the residents and faculty, to further guide our team's future interventions and screening efforts.

Budget

We are requesting \$1,000 in funding to cover the cost of screening-related supplies and educational materials. The budget breakdown for anticipated 50 participants is as follows:

- Toothbrushes (50 @ \$1.00 each) = \$50
- Toothpaste (50 @ \$1.50 each) = \$75
- Small Sunscreens (50 @ \$3.00 each) = \$150
- Printing of Color Pamphlets (50 sets @ \$5.00 per set) = \$250
- Printing of intake & provider screening sheets (100 pages of B&W @ \$0.10 per page) = \$10
- Staples (pack of 100 staples for \$7) = \$7
- Bags for toothbrush, toothpaste, small sunscreens (50 bags in a set for \$7) = \$8
- Bus voucher (20 round trip vouchers @ \$15 each for LA Metro) = \$300
- Gloves, tongue depressors, hand sanitizer, pens = Approx \$150
- **Total: \$1,000**

No additional funding is being utilized for this specific project. However, the HHC and Union Rescue Mission will provide the clinic space, chairs, stapler, resources on insurance and public aid, and lighting at no cost, significantly reducing logistical expenses. The HHC also already has pens, clipboards, gloves, tongue depressors, hand sanitizer, and tissues; but to offset our use of their materials, we would like to purchase gloves, tongue depressors, hand sanitizer, pens, and staples as able, with the remaining grant budget as above.

We deeply appreciate your consideration of this request to come together and impact our local community. Your support would allow us to extend essential healthcare services to one of Los Angeles' most vulnerable populations, improving early detection and awareness of head & neck cancer. Please let us know if any additional information is needed to support this application.

Sincerely,



Lauran Evans, MD, MPH
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UCLA Department of Head & Neck Surgery