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February 28th, 2026

2026 AHNS Cancer Prevention Service Community Service Awards Committee
American Head and Neck Society
11300 W. Olympic Blvd, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Dear Committee,

This letter is to serve as an application for the 2026 AHNS Cancer Prevention Service Community Service Award. The aim of the proposed project is to create, produce, and distribute an educational pamphlet that highlights risk factors, cancer prevention strategies, and early signs/symptoms of head and neck cancer to our community. Our health system is based out of Camden New Jersey and serves as the primary tertiary care medical center for Southern New Jersey. The health system serves a diverse patient population, including many communities with poor health literacy and non-English speakers who may have limited access to resources or awareness of risk factors and/or symptoms or signs of head and neck cancer.

Our institution, in partnership with MD Anderson Cancer Center, currently provides regularly scheduled community outreach events which include head and neck cancer screening to members of the community in Southern New Jersey. Between July of 2024 and November 2025, the program conducted 29 screening events where free head and neck cancer screening was provided to 318 patients in the community. The goal of the proposed project is to create an educational pamphlet highlighting the following elements, to be distributed at all future community outreach events:

- Risk factors for head and neck cancer such as tobacco use, alcohol use, occupational exposures, poor dental hygiene, et cetera.
- Head and neck cancer prevention strategies such as tobacco cessation, limiting alcohol consumption, maintaining good dental hygiene.
- Tobacco cessation resources.
- Association of Human Papillomavirus with head and neck cancer.
- Role of vaccination for Human Papillomavirus with phone numbers to schedule an appointment with a primary care provider.
- Early signs and symptoms of head and neck cancer.
- Images depicting early oral cavity tumors, neck mass, and other visuals to increase awareness of the physical appearance of head and neck cancers.
- Phone numbers to schedule an appointment through the cancer center.

The educational pamphlet will be printed both in English and in Spanish, in order to reach a larger proportion of our target population.

Our goal is to improve knowledge of head and neck cancer prevention and early detection within our community by spreading awareness of risk factors and early signs and symptoms of head and neck cancer which may be further disseminated within the community. This may result in higher rates of self-referrals for formal screenings but would be difficult or impossible to measure objectively. Our hope is that this educational resource also increases engagement and interest at community outreach events, leading to a higher rate of head and neck cancer screenings at said events. There are existing systems that track the number of screenings provided at each community outreach event. We will retrospectively compare the number of patients screened per event before and after initiation of the project to determine whether this educational resource improved the head and neck cancer screening rate.

The costs to support this project will include printing charges for pamphlet production and translation services to produce the Spanish pamphlet. The estimated cost will be \$940 to print 2,000 pamphlets (1,000 pamphlets in English and 1,000 in Spanish) as quoted by Staples Printing Services. Translation services to produce the Spanish pamphlet are estimated to cost \$50. The budget above is expected to cover costs to produce sufficient pamphlets for the next 3-5 years. Existing funding is in place to support the coordination of community outreach events, provided through MD Anderson Cancer Center, but does not include extra funds to allocate towards printing charges for this new resource. There is no additional funding available that this project will receive. If selected for the 2026 AHNS Cancer Prevention Service Community Service Award, 100% of funds would be directed towards production costs for the educational pamphlet described.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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