

Print

Measure Z Application for Funding 2026 - Submission #45196

Date Submitted: 2/26/2026

MEASURE Z APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Agency Name*

Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District

Mailing Address*

733 Cedar Street

City*

Garberville

Zip*

95542

Contact Person*

Nick Vogel

Title*

Grant Writer

Phone Number*

(707) 923-3921, extension 1316

Email*

nivogel@shchd.org

Project Title*

Helistop for Emergency Medical Evacuations

Funding Available

The estimated amount of Measure Z funding available for FY 2026-27 is \$1.65 million.

1. Amount of Measure Z Funding Requested For FY 26-27*

\$29,000

Agency Priority

-- Select One --

Agencies are encourage to submit one project per application. If your agency is submitting more than one application, please rank this application in terms of your agency's priority here.

SUMMARY OF REQUESTED EXPENSES

Item	\$ Amount	% of Total
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Salaries (wages)		
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Salaries Amount*

0

Salaries %*

0

Benefits

Benefits Amount*

0

Benefits %*

0

Overhead and Occupancy

(Administrative, Rent, Utilities,
Phones, etc.)

Overhead/Occupancy Amount*

0

Overhead/Occupancy %*

0

Equipment/Supplies/Services

Equip./Services/Supplies Amount*

0

Equipment/Services/Supplies %*

0

Transportation/Travel

Transportation/Travel Amount*

0

Transportation/Travel %*

0

Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets Amount*

\$30,000

Fixed Assets %*

100

TOTAL

Total Amount of Application*

\$29,000

TOTAL 100%

2. ENTITY TYPE*

- ☐ Humboldt County Department
- ☐ Contract Service Provider to Humboldt County
- ☒ Local Government Entity
- ☐ Private Service Provider
- ☐ Non-Profit Service Provider
- ☒ Other (please describe)

ENTITY TYPE

We are a Special Hospital District

If you selected other, please briefly describe the entity you represent.

3. Is this application a renewal or related to a project that has been funded by Measure Z in the past? *

No

If you checked "yes" please include the following:

1. a report detailing results from the most recent year the project was funded, and:
2. a completed Staffing Report detailing when the funded positions were filled during the most recent year you received funding for this project.

These documents must be uploaded in the "Required Attachments" section of this application.

4. Please provide a brief description of the proposal for which you are seeking funding.*

We have an emergent need in Southern Humboldt County and if this need is fulfilled, it would transform our system of care here and save lives well into the future.

The Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District operates the only Emergency Department from Willits to Fortuna. Every year, we treat over 125 patients that require transfer to other medical facilities. All of our medical transports are coordinated through City Ambulance. Patients are stabilized at our hospital and City Ambulance transports them down to the Garberville airstrip to be medevacked via helicopter. The airstrip is three miles away from the hospital.

However, there is only one ambulance that serves the entire 600 square mile area where our patients live. If any patient in our area requires emergency medical services and they do not have the ability to have someone drive them to our Emergency Department, they all have to undergo the same process of waiting for a single ambulance to make it out to their property to pick them up and transport them to the hospital. Once there, our staff will work to stabilize them, but if that single ambulance has another call in its queue, it leaves to transport another patient. Meanwhile, if the patient in our Emergency Department requires immediate transfer to another medical facility in Northern California, they must now wait for that same ambulance to pick them up and drive them down to the Garberville airstrip, to be transported to another facility. It is often a stressful and traumatic experience for patients and their loved ones to be medevacked to another hospital. There simply must be a better way for us to provide this critical service in Southern Humboldt.

In order to improve essential services for Southern Humboldt residents, we need to provide efficient medical transfers. Our patients need access to the specialized or trauma-based care they require as soon as possible. While our inefficient process is no one's fault, it is a glaring and potentially dangerous process due to lack of resources that must be resolved. Building an emergency medical helistop at the new hospital scheduled to break ground in early 2027 will resolve this inefficiency and increase both patient safety and health outcomes in our community. Building a medical helistop will allow our hospital staff to quickly locate a hospital that can accept a patient transfer, schedule the air transfer, and simply wheel patients out to the helistop located on the south end of the hospital.

We have already obtained engineering blueprints and design renderings of the emergency helistop, along with a cost estimate rundown. It will cost approximately \$1.5 million to make this critical piece of infrastructure a reality. We humbly request \$29,000 from the Humboldt County Citizens' Advisory Committee to help us gather the necessary funding for this project.

5. Describe how the scope of your proposal fits the intent of Measure Z. Specifically, how will it maintain and improve public safety and essential services?*

An emergency medical helistop aligns perfectly with Measure Z's funding criteria:

- This is an infrastructural improvement to an essential service that will make a significant community-wide impact for decades.
- Resolving one of Southern Humboldt's myriad transportation problems provides significant upstream benefits. At its core, this is a safety and transportation problem that prevents our doctors and nurses from providing early intervention treatment. Early intervention is key to positive health outcomes. The faster we can get a patient transported for specialized or trauma-based care, it raises their chances of survival and achieving the median life expectancy. This also takes immense pressure off of Sprowel Creek Road and the Garberville airstrip. Sprowel Creek runs through an intense and wet microclimate during the winter and spring and often floods. We cannot take the chance of a road closure and we cannot continue to use the aging Garberville airstrip, three miles away from the hospital.
- This project brings together multiple organizations to analyze and resolve a longstanding issue that compromises community health outcomes. SoHum Health and Redwoods Rural Health Center are the only medical providers in the area. We are excited to bring Redwoods Rural and City Ambulance together to discuss a new, fresh, and safe emergency medevac system of care for patients in Southern Humboldt.
- This project has a deep connection to the community. The new hospital and helistop projects provide a lot of hope to older adults, caretakers, and persons with disabilities, who worry about their ability to quickly access specialized care. The public meetings we have held to give updates on these two projects have been uplifting and well attended. We are determined to make these infrastructural improvements in Southern Humboldt and we would be grateful to receive Measure Z funding in 2026.

6. What geographic area(s) and population(s) will be served by this project? Please indicate whether services will be provided countywide or in specific communities.*

Approximately 70 percent of our patients live in Southern Humboldt towns and villages, stretching from Blocksburg to Shelter Cove and from Richardson Grove to Pepperwood. 30 percent of our patients live outside of Southern Humboldt, as many of our patients travel from Fortuna, Eureka, and Arcata since we have shorter waits for primary care, radiology, and laboratory services.

80 percent of our patients are enrolled in Medi-Cal or Medicare insurance.

We average 125 patients per year that require medical transfer to another hospital. We expect the emergency helistop to be used for medical evacuations for several decades to come, potentially affecting thousands of lives in Southern Humboldt.

7. How have you developed a plan for sustainability, including diversification of funding sources, for your proposal to carry on without reliance on future Measure Z funds? Please provide detail of your plan for sustainability here.*

The cost to build an emergency helistop in Garberville is approximately \$1.5 million. We are working with USDA Rural Development in Santa Rosa to secure financing via the USDA Community Facilities Loan Program. However, this financing will only cover design and construction of the hospital and clinic in Garberville, and we will be required to provide a 10% match in order to be approved for a loan by the USDA.

To build an emergency medical helistop, we will need to rely mostly on local funding streams. To date, we have raised 10 percent of the total needed and we have several more funding inquiries to make. Inquiries have already been sent to eight different foundations from Southern Oregon to Fort Bragg, asking for grant funding for the emergency helistop project. \$29,000 in funding from Measure Z will push us to 12 percent of our goal, which would be a significant boost.

After construction of the helistop and use of it begins, SoHum Health will sustain and maintain the helistop with general operating funds.

8. If this request is for the continuation or expansion of an existing program/service, what is the current source of funding for that program/service?*

An emergency helistop for medevacs would be a new service provided at SoHum Health in Garberville.

9. If you are awarded Measure Z funds, how do you plan to leverage these funds to secure additional grants, contributions or community support? *

If we are fortunate enough to secure Measure Z funding, this will be well-publicized positive news in the SoHum community. Word will travel fast. We are certain that not only will Measure Z funding spur support from community members, it will also help us tremendously in our requests to local foundations for funding. Local foundations hold Measure Z funding in high regard and being awarded Measure Z funding will be a game-changer in Southern Humboldt.

10. Will this proposal require new or expanded activity on the part of another entity to be fully functional and effective? If so, name that entity and describe what that participation would look like. *

No.

11. Are there recurring expenses associated with this application, such as personnel cost? *

If you checked yes, please detail those expenses here.

Please note, the Citizens' Advisory Committee in May, 2023, adopted a stance that it would not recommend funding for new, ongoing county positions.

No

12. If awarded less than the full amount requested, could the proposed project still be implemented? If yes, please identify the minimum funding amount required for the project to remain feasible and describe any changes to scope or outcomes.*

This funding request is scalable and we can make adjustments to our fiscal projections for this project, if we are awarded less than the full amount requested.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Be sure to include the following with your application.

Prior Year Results

If your request is a continuation of a program funded with Measure Z in prior fiscal years, please provide the results of implementation. (one page maximum)

Upload Prior Year Results Attachment

Choose File No file chosen

Program Budget

[Download the budget narrative](#), then upload using the button at right.

Upload Program Budget Attachment*

Measure Z Proposed Budget - SoHum Health.xlsx

Staffing Report

If your request was previously funded, please [download and complete the staffing report](#), then upload it using the option provided here.

Upload Staffing Report Attachment

Choose File No file chosen

Letters of Support

If you have letters of support from members of the community you can upload them here.

Upload Letters of Support

Letter of Support Supervisor Bushnell.pdf

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above statements and all attachments are true and correct.

Date*

2/26/2026

01:15 PM

Signature*

Nick Vogel

Type Approving Official's Name

Measure Z Agenda Notifications

[Sign up on our website](#) to be notified when Measure Z agendas are posted. The applications are discussed in open session and it is often valuable for applicants to attend in person or virtually to address the committee.

Exhibit E - Proposed Budget

Agency Name:	Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District	Address:	733 Cedar Street, Garberville, CA 95542
Coordinator/Contact:	Nick Vogel, Grant Writer	Phone:	(707) 923-3921, ext. 1316

Descriptions	Requested Budget	Current Quarter Costs	Total of Prior Quarter Costs	Remaining Balance
A. Personnel Costs				
Title:				
Salary (separate from benefits cost)				0.00
Benefits				0.00
Duties Description:				
Title:				
Salary (separate from benefits cost)				0.00
Benefits				0.00
Duties Description:				
Title:				
Salary (separate from benefits cost)				0.00
Benefits				0.00
Duties Description:				
Salaries Subtotal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Benefits Subtotal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Personnel:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B. Overhead and Occupancy Costs (Rent, Utilities, Phones, Administrative etc.)				
Title:				
Description:				
Title:				
Description:				
Total Overhead and Occupancy Costs:	0.00	0	0	0
C. Equipment/Supplies/Services (Equipment, Supplies and Services should be separate)				
Title: Equipment				
(Please be detailed regarding the equipment you plan to .				
Description: These expenses are generally over \$200, longer useful life)				
Title:				
Description:				
Equipment Subtotal:	0.00	0	0	0
Title: Supplies				
(Please be detailed. These expenses are generally under				
Description: \$200, depleted or consumed within 1 year)				
Title:				
Description:				
Supplies Subtotal:	0.00	0	0	0
Title: Services/Other Operational Costs				
(Please be detailed. These expenses are generally professional or				
Description: contracted services, or other expenses that are not equipment or				
Title:				
Description:				
Services/Other Subtotal:	0.00	0	0	0
Total Equipment/Supplies/Services:	0.00	0	0	0
D. Transportation/Travel (Local and Out-of-County should be separate)				
Title: Local Travel				
Description: Describe local travel and connection to your project				
Title: Out of County Travel				
Description: Describe out of county travel and connection to your project				
Total Transportation/Travel Costs:	0.00	0	0	0
E. Fixed Assets (According to your agency's definition of a fixed asset)				
Title: Helistop Electrical, Lighting, and Controls				
Description: Estimate from Cumming Group Inc. for all electrical and lighting.	29,000.00			
Title:				
Description:				
Total Fixed Asset Costs:	29000	0	0	29000

Totals	29,000.00	0.00	0.00	29,000.00
Requested Budget		Current Quarter Costs	Prior Quarter Costs	Remaining Balance



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

February 26, 2026

Measure Z Citizens' Advisory Committee
825 5th Street
Eureka, California 95501

Re: Letter of Support for SoHum Health's Emergency Helistop Project

Dear Measure Z Citizens' Advisory Committee:

I am writing in strong support of SoHum Health's proposal for 2026 Measure Z funding. An emergency helistop is a critical need in Southern Humboldt. It is important for local foundations to demonstrate significant support of this imperative undertaking. It would be enormously uplifting to this community to receive a grant of \$30,000 to help with the design and constructions costs of the helistop.

As a community member, business owner, and 2nd District Supervisor, I cannot stress enough the importance of building an emergency helistop at the new hospital scheduled to open in 2030 in Garberville. We have extremely limited first responder and emergency services in Southern Humboldt. It is vital to this community's future and the health of its residents to develop this helistop. Doing so will eliminate costly delays that critical patients have to endure while waiting for ambulance transport down to the Garberville airstrip. Simply put, this project will save lives.

On a personal note, I am grateful that my own grandmother was able to live the remaining two years of her life as a resident at SoHum Health's skilled nursing facility. My family was comforted knowing that SoHum Health took such good care of her locally. It underscored the importance of SoHum Health in this community. Improving their infrastructure keeps SoHum healthy and safe.

I enthusiastically endorse this endeavor and I look forward to continuing our collective efforts in addressing the health needs of our beloved community.

Sincerely,

Michelle Bushnell, 2nd District Supervisor
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors