

Muenster Hospital Receives Grant For Immediate Release

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Muenster Memorial Hospital received word last week that its application for a grant through the Texas State Office for Rural Health was accepted.

The grant, in the amount of just over \$24,000, was received as part of the Rural Health Facility Capital Improvement Program.

The Rural Health Facility Capital Improvement Program (CIP) utilizes funds from the Permanent Fund for Rural Health Facility Capital Improvement, which was established from the tobacco settlement for the State of Texas. This endowment sets aside \$50 million to be used specifically for hospitals in rural counties as defined by Texas Government Code, Section 487.301. The interest from this endowment can be used for various projects aimed at improving health services and healthcare infrastructure in Texas' rural hospitals.

Muenster Memorial's grant will be used to develop the MMH Specialty Clinic.

MMH CEO Brian Roland applied for the grant in February, providing a detailed plan and estimated cost/benefit as part of the application. The grant is a matching grant, with 25% of the total provided by the recipient.

"We are excited about using this grant to transition one of our older properties into a space that will attract, and better serve, the specialists we are trying to recruit into the community," said Roland. "Our goal with the Specialty Clinic is to broaden the base of services available locally, to better serve the residents of the district."

Currently, the Specialty Clinic houses cardiologists from Texas Cardiovascular Specialists two days a week.

The Texas State Office of Rural Health (SORH) joined the Texas Department of Agriculture in October 2011. Dedicated to serving the health needs of rural Texas, SORH staff work with local health care providers, county leaders and state partners to support access to quality health care for rural Texans. SORH works to assist rural health providers through a variety of programs including information and referral, assistance with medical license applications, grants and educational awards that are available to individual clinicians, health care institutions and other organizations.

