

# CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



**COLLEEN HAMPSEY,**  
**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**  
(904) 255-5151

117 West Duval Street  
City Hall, Suite 425  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
FAX (904) 630-3403

**Bill Type and Number:** 2020-22

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Boylan

**Date of Introduction:** January 12, 2021

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, F, R

**Date of Analysis:** January 11, 2021

**Type of Action:** Appropriation, agreement authorization and designation of oversight agency

**Bill Summary:** This bill is an appropriation of \$200,000 to provide funds for the JaxCareConnect program, a collaborative system of health care for uninsured residents of Jacksonville. The agreements between the City of Jacksonville and We Care Jacksonville, Inc., and the City of Jacksonville and six clinics (Agape Community Health Center, Inc., WestJax Outreach dba Community Health Outreach, Muslim American Social Services (MASS), Mission House, I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, Inc., and Volunteers in Medicine) are authorized. The exception to Section 126.107(g), *Ordinance Code* is invoked to procure the use of the professional services of We Care Jacksonville, Inc. and the professional services of six clinics to provide services for the JaxCareConnect program. The Office of Grants and Contract Compliance will oversee the project.

**Background Information:** The JaxCareConnect initiative will enable Jacksonville's free and charitable health clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers to formalize their collaborative operations as a system of health care for uninsured residents of Jacksonville. JaxCareConnect will provide primary health care for an additional 2,000 uninsured residents of Duval County between 2021 through 2024, resulting in an estimated cost savings of \$4.4 million in unnecessary emergency room visits. Not being able to access medical care, especially with limited resources, contributes to poor health outcomes, and exacerbates economic hardship. Economic hardship is one of the biggest drivers of health disparities in Duval County where 16.6% of adults live below the poverty level, and 75% of those lacking health insurance work full- or part-time. The funds will be allocated to the following: \$30,000 to membership in Electronic Health Records System; \$50,000 salary, benefits and equipment for a 3<sup>rd</sup> patient health advocate; \$120,000 to support capacity at the six clinic sites (\$20,000/clinic).

**Policy Impact Area:** Health care for uninsured residents of Jacksonville

**Fiscal Impact:** Appropriation of \$200,000 from the Social Justice and Community Investment Special Committee Contingency

**Analyst:** Hampsey