

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023/2024 – \_\_\_\_**

**AN ASSESSMENT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND ADOPTING A NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENT WITHIN THE COUNTY LIMITS FOR THE PURPOSE OF BENEFITING ASSESSED PROPERTIES THROUGH ENHANCED MEDICAID PAYMENTS FOR LOCAL SERVICES; ACKNOWLEDGING AND DETERMINING THAT CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IS SPECIALLY BENEFITED BY THE ASSESSMENT; ESTABLISHING THE ASSESSMENT AMOUNT AND THE METHOD OF ITS COLLECTION; COLLECTING THE ASSESSMENT; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS AND DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY AS NECESSARY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the hospitals in Clay County’s jurisdiction (the “Hospitals”) annually provide millions of dollars of uncompensated care to uninsured persons and those who qualify for Medicaid because Medicaid, on average, covers only 60% of the costs of the health care services actually provided by Hospitals to Medicaid-eligible persons, leaving hospitals with significant uncompensated costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida (the “State”) received federal authority to establish the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care hospital directed payment program to offset hospitals’ uncompensated Medicaid costs and improve quality of care provided to Florida’s Medicaid population; and

**WHEREAS**, impacted Hospitals have asked Clay County (the “County”) to impose a non-ad valorem special assessment upon certain real property owned by the Hospitals to help finance the non-federal share of the State’s Medicaid program; and

**WHEREAS**, the only real properties that will be subject to the non-ad valorem assessments are the real property sites of such Hospitals; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding raised by the County assessment will, through intergovernmental transfers (“IGTs”) provided consistent with federal guidelines, support additional funding for Medicaid payments to Hospitals; and

**WHEREAS**, the County acknowledges that the Hospital properties assessed will benefit directly and especially from the assessment as a result of the above-described additional funding provided to said Hospitals; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has determined that a logical relationship exists between the services provided by the Hospitals, which will be supported by the assessment, and the special and particular benefit to the real property of the Hospitals; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has an interest in promoting access to health care for its low-income and uninsured residents; and

**WHEREAS**, leveraging additional federal support through the above-described IGTs to fund Medicaid payments to the Hospitals for health care services directly and specifically benefits the Hospitals' properties and supports their continued ability to provide those services; and

**WHEREAS**, imposing an assessment limited to Hospital properties to help fund the provision of these services and the achievement of certain quality standards by the Hospitals to residents of the County is a valid public purpose that benefits the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the assessment ensures the financial stability and viability of the Hospitals providing such services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hospitals are important contributors to the County's economy, and the financial benefit to these Hospitals directly and specifically supports their mission, as well as their ability to grow, expand, and maintain their facilities in concert with the population growth in the jurisdiction of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the County finds the assessment will enhance the Hospitals' ability to grow, expand, maintain, improve, and increase the value of their properties and facilities under all present circumstances and those of the foreseeable future; and

**WHEREAS**, the County is proposing a properly apportioned assessment by which all Hospitals will be assessed a uniform amount that is compliant with 42 C.F.R. § 433.68(d); and

**WHEREAS**, on June 22, 2021, the County convened a public hearing and on June 22, 2021 adopted Ordinance No. 2021-19 enabling the County to levy a uniform non-ad valorem special assessment, which is fairly and reasonably apportioned among the Hospitals' properties within the County's jurisdictional limits, to establish and maintain a system of funding for IGTs to support the non-federal share of Medicaid payments, thus directly and specially benefitting Hospital properties; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 14, 2021, the County convened a public hearing and on September 14, 2021 adopted Resolution 2020/2021-100 imposing and levying against the Assessed Properties non-ad valorem special assessments for Fiscal Year 2021/2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 27, 2022, the County convened a public hearing and on September 27, 2022 adopted Resolution 2021/2022-78 imposing and levying against the Assessed Properties non-ad valorem special assessments for Fiscal Year 2022/2023; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 26, 2023, the County convened a public hearing and on September 26, 2023 adopted Resolution 2022/2023-79 imposing and levying against the Assessed Properties non-ad valorem special assessments for Fiscal Year 2023/2024.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1. Definitions.** As used in this Resolution, the following capitalized terms, not otherwise defined herein or in the Ordinance, shall have the meanings below, unless the context otherwise requires.

*Assessed Property* means the real property in the County to which an Institutional Health Care Provider holds a right of possession and right of use through an ownership or leasehold interest, thus making the property subject to the Assessment.

*Assessment or Special Assessment* means a non-ad valorem special assessment imposed by the County on Assessed Property to fund the non-federal share of Medicaid and Medicaid managed care payments that will benefit hospitals providing Local Services in the County.

*Fiscal Year* means the period commencing on October 1 of each year and continuing through the next succeeding September 30, or such other period as may be prescribed by law as the fiscal year for the County.

*Institutional Health Care Provider* means a private for-profit or not-for-profit hospital that provides inpatient hospital services.

*Local Services* means the provision of healthcare services to Medicaid, indigent, and uninsured members of the Clay County community.

*Ordinance* means the Clay County Local Provider Participation Fund Ordinance, Ordinance No. 2021-19, and codified in Chapter 18.3, Article IX, of the Clay County Code of Ordinances.

**Section 2. Authority.** Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1(g) of the Constitution of the State of Florida, Chapter 125 of the Florida Statutes, the Clay County Charter, and the Ordinance, the Board is authorized to impose a special assessment against private for-profit and not-for-profit hospitals located within the County to fund the non-federal share of Medicaid payments associated with Local Services.

**Section 3. Special Assessment.** The non-ad valorem special assessment discussed herein shall be imposed, levied, collected, and enforced against Assessed Properties located within the County. Proceeds from the Assessment shall be used to benefit the Assessed Properties for Local Services through a directed payment program.

When imposed, the Assessment shall constitute a lien upon the Assessed Properties equal in rank and dignity with the liens of all state, county, district, or municipal taxes and other non-ad valorem assessments. Payments made by Assessed Properties may not be passed along to patients of the Assessed Property as a surcharge or as any other form of additional patient charge. Failure to pay may cause foreclosure proceedings, which could result in loss of title, to commence.

**Section 4. Assessment Scope, Basis, and Use.** Funds generated from the Assessment shall be held in a separate account called the local provider participation fund and shall be used only to:

- (a) Provide to the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration the non-federal share for Medicaid managed care hospital directed payments to be made directly or indirectly in support of hospitals serving Medicaid beneficiaries; and
- (b) Reimburse the County for administrative costs associated with the implementation of the Assessment authorized by the Ordinance.

If, at the end of the Fiscal Year, additional amounts remain in the local provider participation fund, the Board is hereby authorized either (1) to refund to Assessed Properties, in proportion to amounts paid in during the Fiscal Year, all or a portion of the unutilized local provider participation fund, or (2) if requested to do so by the Assessed Properties, to retain such amounts in the fund to transfer to the Agency in the next fiscal year for use as the non-federal share of Medicaid hospital payments. If, after the Assessment funds are transferred to the Agency, the Agency returns some or all of the transferred funding to the County (including, but not limited to, a return of the non-federal share after a disallowance of matching federal funds), the Board is hereby authorized to refund to Assessed Properties, in proportion to amounts paid in during the Fiscal Year, the amount of such returned funds.

**Section 5. Computation of Assessment.** The Assessment shall equal 3.20% of net patient revenue for each Assessed Property identified in the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll attached hereto as Attachment A. The amount of the Assessment required may not exceed an amount that, when added to the amount of other hospital assessments levied by the state or local government, exceeds the maximum percent of the aggregate net patient revenue of all Assessed Property in the County permitted by 42 C.F.R. § 433.68(f)(3)(i)(A). Assessments for each Assessed Property will be derived from data contained in cost reports and/or in the Florida Hospital Uniform Reporting System, as available from the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration.

The methodology for computing the Assessment and the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll are hereby approved.

**Section 6. Timing and Method of Collection.**

- (a) The amount of the assessment is to be collected pursuant to the Alternative Method as provided for in Section 197.3631, Florida Statutes.
- (b) The County shall provide Assessment bills by first class mail to the owner of each Assessed Property. The bill or accompanying explanatory material shall include (1) a reference to this Resolution, (2) the total amount of the Assessed Property's Assessment for the appropriate period, (3) the location at which payment will be accepted, (4) the date on which the Assessment is due, and (5) a statement that the Assessment constitutes a lien against assessed property equal in rank and dignity with the liens of all state, county, district or municipal taxes and other non-ad valorem assessments.

- (c) The Assessed Properties shall pay to the County the Assessment promptly upon receipt of invoice or payment request from the County.

No act of error or omission on the part of the Comptroller, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Assessment Coordinator, Board, or their deputies or employees shall operate to release or discharge any obligation for payment of the Assessment imposed by the Board under the Ordinance and this Resolution.

**Section 7. Public Hearing.** As set forth in the Ordinance, notice of a public hearing has been published and the Assessed Properties have been provided notice by mail. On September 10, 2024, the Board heard and considered objections of all interested persons prior to rendering a decision on the Assessment and attached Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll.

**Section 8. Assessment; Responsibility for Enforcement.** The Assessment is hereby approved and imposed on the Assessed Properties. The County and its agent, if any, shall maintain the duty to enforce the prompt collection of the Assessment by the means provided herein. The duties related to collection of assessments may be enforced at the suit of any holder of obligations in a court of competent jurisdiction by mandamus or other appropriate proceedings or actions.

**Section 9. Severability.** If any clause, section, or provision of this Resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason or cause, the remaining portion hereof shall be in full force and effect and shall be valid as if such invalid portion thereof had not been incorporated herein.

**Section 10. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be effective upon its adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

**DULY ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, Florida, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Renninger, Its Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tara S. Green  
Clay County Clerk of Court and Comptroller  
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board

**Attachment A**

Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll

<b><u>Hospital</u></b>	<b><u>Parcel No.</u></b>
Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County Hospital 1670 St. Vincent's Way Middleburg, FL 32068	31-04-25-008075-900-00
Kindred Hospital 801 Oak Street Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	38-06-26-017517-000-00
Orange Park Medical Center 2001 Kingsley Avenue Orange Park, FL 32073	07-04-26-013077-000-00

Being in total three (3) parcels of land to be included in the Local Provider Participation Fund and subject to a non-ad valorem special assessment to be levied by the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, Florida, after due notice and public hearing thereon.