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USTDA SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN NIGERIA WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA – In order to improve the quality of healthcare in Nigeria, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) awarded a grant today to the Children's American Medical Center (CAMC), a pediatric specialist hospital in Lagos, Nigeria. The grant will benefit CAMC by developing specifications for equipment, personnel, facilities, and other requirements to help the hospital meet international medical standards, significantly improving the availability and quality of healthcare in Africa's largest city.

USTDA Director Leocadia I. Zak described the technical assistance project as an important step for Nigeria to develop its healthcare sector. The grant will also create business opportunities for U.S. companies who provide medical equipment and consumables.

"This technical assistance grant will assist CAMC in developing a hospital capable of performing advanced medical procedures at an internationally recognized level of care," said Director Zak when she conferred the \$289,000 grant at USTDA's office in Arlington, Virginia.

"The technical assistance contractor, the Children's National Medical Center in Washington D.C., will be able to use its expertise and experience in hospital development to guide CAMC as it seeks to become the premier pediatric facility in West Africa."

Conceptualized by a pair of Nigerian-American doctors, Dr. Adora Wonodi and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ikwunga Wonodi, CAMC is envisioned as an 80 bed hospital which would feature a neonatal intensive care unit, biomedical research laboratory, teaching facilities, and a children's health outreach program.

In addition to recommending equipment, practices and procedures, the USTDA-funded technical assistance grant will assist CAMC in reaching out to prospective private-sector sponsors in the Lagos area who may be willing to fund the cost of treatment for patients who might not otherwise be able to afford medical care.

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