



January 27, 2026

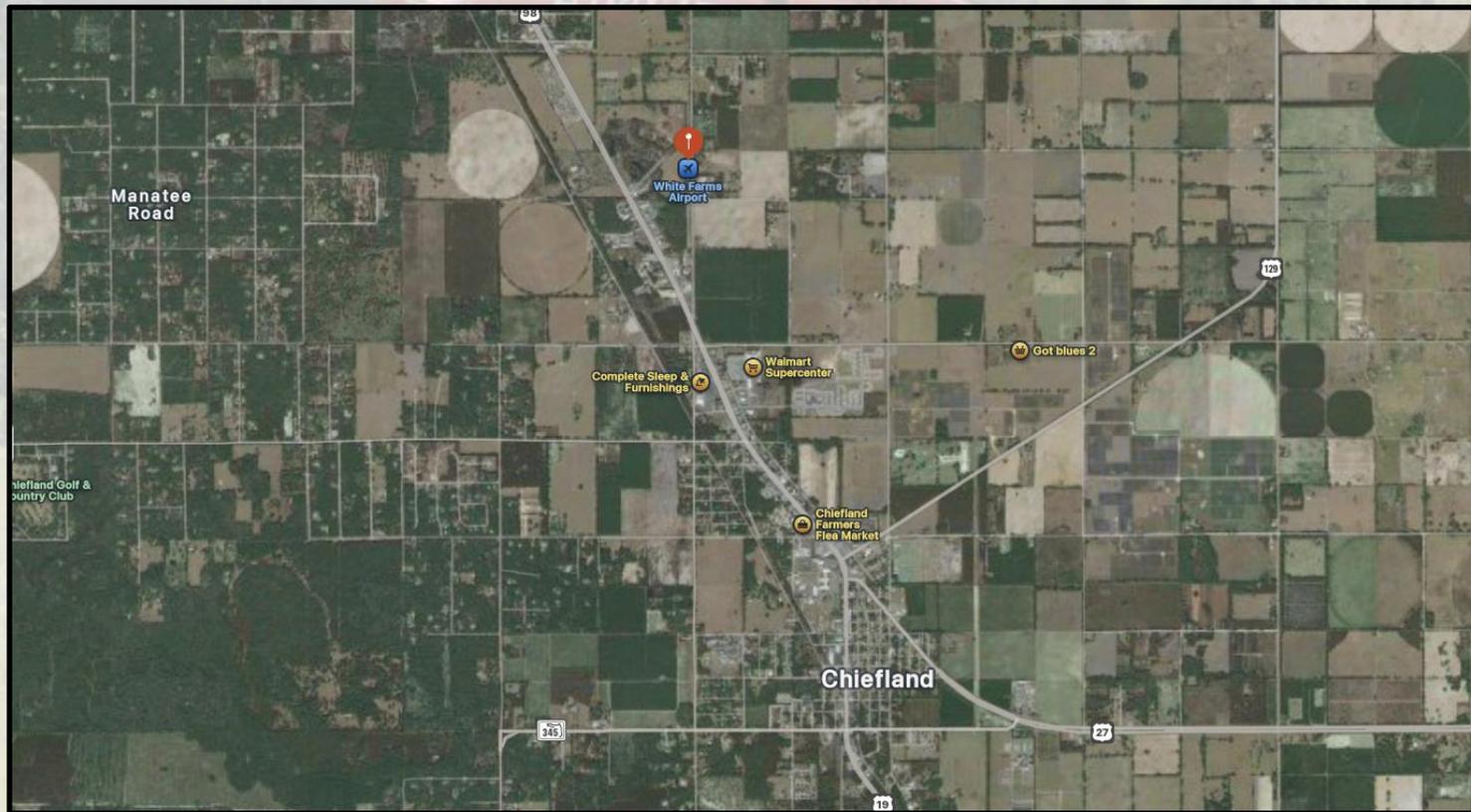
Levy County, Florida COPCN Request

Submitted in Partnership between
Air Methods and HCA Florida
Healthcare

Proposed Location of Base

White Farms Airport

**Lease Negotiations Ongoing*



Patient Billing

What Levy County Needs to Know

- **Residents Are Protected Under the Federal No Surprises Act (NSA)**
 - ❑ Emergency air medical transports are covered by the NSA, which prevents unexpected or excessive bills.
- **No Balance Billing – Ever**
 - ❑ Air Methods does not balance bill patients
 - ❑ Patients are not responsible for the difference between what insurance pays and the full cost of a flight.
- **Clear, Predictable Out-of-Pocket Costs**
 - ❑ Patients only pay their standard deductible, copay or coinsurance – nothing more.
 - ❑ No hidden fees, no additional charges after insurance processes the claim
- **Air Methods Works Directly with Insurance**
 - ❑ Air Methods handles all insurance negotiations and appeals behind the scenes
 - ❑ County residents are not caught in the middle and do not have to fight the insurance companies
- **Transparent, Patient-First Billing**
 - ❑ Bills are simple, easy to read, and fully itemized
 - ❑ Dedicated customer support helps patients understand every step

Patient Billing

What If A Patient Does Not Have Insurance?

- **Air Methods provides a full Financial Assistance Program**
 - ❑ Uninsured patients may qualify for major reductions or complete forgiveness of their bill.
 - ❑ Approval is based on the patient's ability to pay, not strict income rules.
- **No one is denied help because they cannot pay**
 - ❑ Air Methods' policy ensures financial hardship does NOT prevent someone from receiving emergency transport or being able to resolve their bill afterward.
 - ❑ Many uninsured patients end up with little to no out-of-pocket cost.
- **Billing advocates work directly with the patient**
 - ❑ Air Methods assigns a dedicated financial advocate to help the uninsured patient:
 - Apply for assistance
 - Set up manageable options
 - ❑ The patient is not left alone to navigate billing.
- **Transparent, compassionate approach**
 - ❑ No aggressive collections.
 - ❑ No surprise fees.
 - ❑ Clear communication about assistance options from the beginning.

Patient Billing

Bottom Line for Levy County Residents

- **The average Out of Pocket expense in the State of Florida is approximately \$115**
- **No balance billing**
- **No surprise bills**
- **No financial burden for emergency air transport**
- **Air Methods absorbs the insurance disputes – not the patient nor the County**
- **Uninsured patients are protected just as strongly as insured patients**
- **Significant discounts or total forgiveness for the uninsured**



Why Is Air Medical Needed?

- **Distance between Chiefland to HCA Florida Ocala Hospital is 51-Miles and to HCA Florida North Florida Hospital is 35-Miles, with parts of the county being even further**
 - ❑ Average travel time by ambulance is approximately **46-48 minutes**
 - ❑ Average flight time by helicopter is approximately **18-minutes**
 - The Chiefland airframe will have highly trained clinicians making it a “flying Intensive Care Unit.”
 - Air crews provide:
 - Advanced airway management
 - Ventilation
 - Cardiac monitoring
 - Medications not available on basic EMS Units
 - Rapid Intervention meaning the patient received higher-level care sooner
- ❑ The “Golden Hour” is the first 60-minutes after a life-threatening injury when rapid care provides the greatest chance of survival
 - Ground transport may use up the entire Golden Hour enroute
 - Critical for Heart Attacks and Strokes

Why Will It Work This Time

- Partnership between Air Methods and HCA ensures support for both parties – Something that was previously missing.
- Population growth in the Tri-County Region has seen a steady increase since the 2010 Census.

