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By Appointment



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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April 25, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Lakewood Community Services Corporation (LCSC)
500 W Kennedy Blvd
Lakewood, NJ 08701
thelcsc.org

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

I write to respectfully request Community Project Funding for **Lakewood Community Services Corporation (LCSC)**, in order to expand the mental health services the organization provides to individuals in my district.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on mental health, with many facing increased levels of stress, anxiety, and depression. In Lakewood Township, the densely populated, fifth largest municipality in the state, COVID-19 took a dramatic toll. This, in addition to attacks as recent as this month targeting the area's Orthodox Jewish population, has increased the need for counseling and mental health assistance, and the existing resources cannot meet the need.

The Lakewood Community Services Corporation is on the front lines of the ongoing public health emergency. In 2021, LCSC provided over 26,174 units of service (including telehealth) to over 1,500 unique patients, 86% of whom were Medicaid insured or uninsured. Moreover, Lakewood Township is a federally designated Medically Underserved Area, with 24.2% of residents living under the poverty line, and it's also the fastest-growing municipality in New Jersey.

The expansion of LCSC's outpatient mental health capacity is critical to addressing this need. Specifically, they are seeking to construct a new, 5,000 square foot mental health facility which would enable LCSC to provide services such as individual and family psychotherapy,

group therapy, and dialectical behavioral therapy. It is important to note that LCSC has already purchased land and drawn up architectural plans for the construction of this facility.

The total amount of Community Project Funding I am requesting for this project is \$1,000,000 to be spent in fiscal year 2023 and drawn from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Health Facilities Construction account. The remaining funds for this project would be provided through a combination of local sources, donations, and bank financing.

This project is widely supported in the community, including the mayor, state legislators and county commissioners.

Thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of my request for Community Project Funding for Lakewood Community Service Corporation, and I hope you will not hesitate to be in touch with me or my staff should you have any questions regarding this request.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. I appreciate the Committee's due consideration of this project. Please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress