

COUNTY OF OCEAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08754-2191



Joseph H. Vicari
Commissioner

(732) 929-2002
Fax (732) 505-1918

April 22, 2022

The Honorable Chris Smith
Washington, DC Office
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Honorable Congressman:

I am writing this letter to support the request from Lakewood Community Services Corp. (LCSC) for \$1,000,000 in Community Project Funding from the House Appropriations Committee, to assist them in the expansion of their mental health center.

I have a long standing relationship with the LCSC and with Rabbi Weisberg its President, in particular, and have observed first- hand the wonderful work they do with Ocean County seniors, especially with meals on wheels and mental health services for this fragile community. In my responsibilities as a Freeholder/Commissioner, I have been the liaison for the County's Office of Senior Services and the agencies that partner with them. LCSC has an impeccable reputation for integrity and quality of services attested to by the many audits and inspections the County has done over the years. Particularly during the Covid-19 crisis, the LCSC has been a leader in aggressively partnering with the county to ensure that service to vulnerable populations continue uninterrupted during this challenging period. The County Commissioners recognize the explosion of mental health needs due to Covid -19 and it is critical for LCSC to be able to expand their facilities to be able to service our vulnerable constituents.

I respectfully request that you prioritize this application for submission. I am available to speak to you, should you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Vicari
County Commissioner