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By Appointment



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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April 28, 2021

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

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

I am writing to request Community Project Funding for the **Lakewood Community Services Corporation (LCSC)**, in order to expand the mental health services it provides to communities 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, 13,581 residents have been infected with COVID to date. This, in addition to recent attacks 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, having provided 25,397 units of service to 1,609 unique patients, 86% of whom were either insured by Medicaid 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 \$400,000, to be spent in fiscal year 2022 and drawn from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Health Facilities Construction account. The remaining funds for this

\$2,040,000 project would be provided through a combination of local sources, donations, and bank financing.

This program has received broad support, including from New Jersey State Senator Robert Singer, Ocean County Commissioner Joseph Vicari, and Lakewood Mayor Ray Coles, whose letters of support are attached to this application.

Thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress