



LOUDOUN HUMAN SERVICE NETWORK

P.O. Box 803 • Leesburg, Virginia 20178

February 22, 2021

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 7000
Leesburg, VA 20177

Dear Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Loudoun Human Services Network, a coalition of almost 50 nonprofit human services providers, I am writing to express our support of the proposed 58% increase in funding for the Human Service Nonprofit Grant Program in FY 22. COVID-19 has placed extraordinary demands on our nonprofit service providers. The proposed funding increase is absolutely essential to our ability to continue providing services in the upcoming year. Our nonprofits have been a key part of our safety net in the last year. We've responded in our community with kindness, respect and dignity to so many who have never needed human services before. We've pivoted with extraordinary effectiveness, efficiency and courage.

While we greatly appreciate the proposed increase and recognize that FY 22 will be a financially difficult year, we know that additional funds beyond this increase are still needed to adequately support the Human Service Nonprofit Grant Program and to ensure the Core Service Providers have sufficient funding to meet the increased demand for their services. Throughout the last year, most of our nonprofits have dealt with significant business interruptions, fewer volunteers, and decreased donations. And while dealing with those challenges, we have responded to dramatic demand for services. Our community needs us now more than ever. CARES Act money prevented disaster from ensuing, but did not address the need for financial stability in our nonprofit sector. We need general operating support.

We also ask the board to fully fund the proposed budget for the Department of Mental Health, including priorities 1 and 2, the Department of Family Services, including priorities 1 and 2, and the Health Department, including priority 1. Fully funded budgets for our government partners are important as we work together to serve Loudoun's most vulnerable residents. Accessible and affordable housing opportunities remain a critical need and LHSN supports the County identifying significant, sustainable and dedicated funding to provide a true continuum of housing.

We don't have to tell you what a tough year it's been as we've all been in this together. We want to offer a powerful, collective voice for stabilizing the sector because strong nonprofits mean strong communities. Thank you for your leadership and time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JM" or "Jennifer Montgomery".

Jennifer Montgomery
Chair, Loudoun Human Services Network