



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive
cball@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov
FAX 410-313-3051

November 16, 2021

Senator Clarence K. Lam, Senate Delegation Chair
Howard County Delegation
420 Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Courtney Watson, House Delegation Chair
Howard County Delegation
216 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT:** Ho. Co. Legislative Bond Initiative: Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center

Dear Chair Lam, Chair Watson and Delegation Members,

I am proud to express my support for this project, which would establish funding to modify the Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center to meet the increased needs of our homeless population.

Through a partnership between the Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS) and the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, individuals experiencing homelessness can go to the Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center for shelter, hygiene, nutrition, educational support, employment assistance, and other services. I was glad to present Grassroots a Rise to the Challenge grant last year to support its sheltering efforts and programming during COVID-19 pandemic. Continuing to address service and support gaps affecting homeless individuals will improve Howard County's overall health and wellbeing. Delegation support for the \$150,000 bond bill initiative will help DCRS and Grassroots modify the Center to optimize space. Funding would allow the Center to expand Cold Weather Shelter program capacity; provide shelter for unsheltered individuals during Code Blue events to reduce hypothermia risk; shelter individuals during heat, flood, and storm warnings; and provide quarantine and isolation space for individuals during a State of Emergency or Public Health Emergency

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently named Howard County one of four nationwide winners of the 2021 Culture of Health Prize for our community's commitment to advancing health, equity, and opportunity for all. The Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center supports this commitment by providing a safe space for our homeless population. I urge your support for this project so that the Center can expand its efforts and continue serving this vulnerable population with care and dignity.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive