

Carol DeSoto

From: Charles County Government <applications@charlescountymd.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 12:25 PM
To: Public Record
Subject: *NEW SUBMISSION* FY2022 Operating and Capital Budget Public Hearing

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FY2022 Operating and Capital Budget Public Hearing

Submission #: 900014
IP Address: 73.86.100.144
Submission Date: 04/27/2021 12:24
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Public Hearing Comment Form

Questions or More Information (301) 645-0570

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Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. On behalf of The Arc Southern Maryland, we are disappointed to learn that the county's budget allotment for the Nonprofit Grant Award Program still hasn't changed. What has changed is the level of need. The past 13 months have been about survival for non profits. Survival of the services we all provide so that Charles County residents can also survive and hopefully thrive. Prior to the pandemic, the amount allotted wasn't enough to meet even half of the needs presented annually to The Charles County Charitable Trust which exceeded \$2M. This year it will mean that we can only make repairs to one of the two group homes we operate in the county. Our residents, their families, and the staff that support them daily bring trained workforce into the county and positive economic impact as they work, live and play in the county as well. What it meant to The Arc last year is that we were only able to assist half of the families living in Charles County who reach out to us to help them bridge the ever increasing gap between what they have and the cost of taking care of their loved one with disabilities. More specifically, that meant that we had to say no to families who had no child care options when they had to report to jobs as essential workers. We also had to say no to families who couldn't pay for their heating, lights and food on top of medical care for their loved ones. Can you imagine having to make those choices? And yes, these families had already been everywhere else. The examples I reference came to

us as direct referrals from the Charles County Department of Social Services. It's a great thing to be able to share resources across nonprofits in Calvert County but when there isn't enough to share it just means more desperate families having to hear "No" multiple times. Please prioritize the needs of those who don't have enough in your County. Help us to help all of them! Thank you for your consideration. The Arc SoMD

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Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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