



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

4C for Children
African American Chamber
Beech Acres Parenting Center
Bethany House
Caracole
Center for Addictions Treatment
Center for Independent Living
Options
Central Community Health Board
The Children's Home of Cincinnati
Cincinnati Works
Community Action Agency
Cornerstone Renter Equity
Council on Aging
Crayons to Computers
Dress for Success Cincinnati
Easterseals Serving Greater
Cincinnati
First Step Home
Freestore Foodbank
GLAD House
Greater Cincinnati Behavioral
Health Services
Greater Cincinnati Urban League
Housing Opportunities Made
Equal
Interfaith Hospitality Network
Jewish Family Services
Legal Aid Society
Lighthouse Youth Services
Mercy Neighborhood Ministries
National Assoc. of Social Workers
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries
Ohio Valley Residential Services
Our Daily Bread
People Working Cooperatively
Per Scholas
Queen City Kitchen
Santa Maria Community Services
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
St. Joseph Orphanage
Strategies to End Homelessness
Talbert House
UMADAOP
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
Valley Interfaith Community
Resource Center
Villedge, Inc.
Wesley Community Services
The Women's Fund
Women Helping Women
YMCA of Greater Cincinnati
YWCA Greater Cincinnati

June 5, 2018

Dear Mayor Cranley and Honorable Council Members,

First, on behalf of our 48 Human Services Chamber members, thank you for your leadership last year in adopting Ordinance No. 153-2017, which set into law Council's commitment to fund human services in the amount of 1.5% of the General Fund budget by 2023. As you recall, this ordinance established a schedule for attaining the 1.5% goal. Pursuant to that schedule, human services funding must be appropriated in the amount of 1% of the General Fund budget in the 2019 Budget Update. The ordinance defines "human services funding," in part, as funding that is... allocated by the United Way or another nonprofit entity through a process that awards funding through a competitive proposal process and thoroughly evaluates program outcomes."

We are writing to express our concern that the City Manager's Recommended 2019 Budget Update did not take into consideration this ordinance. The City Manager's Recommended Budget allocates human services funding in an amount that is \$1,269,828 below the 1% (\$4,060,000) required by Ordinance 153-2017. It is our expectation that the City Manager, in recommending a budget to City Council, would follow the laws adopted by Council.

We appreciate the commitment that each of you has to residents who depend on the City's human services funding. Unfortunately, over 1 in 4 of our residents, many of them children, live in poverty. These residents struggle to achieve many of the basics that we take for granted: safe housing, nutritious food, and the opportunity to support our families through work. The City's human services funding is critical to many of these families. Though 1% of the General Fund budget is nowhere near enough to meet the need, many of our members leverage this funding to increase funding available from other sources to help meet the needs of the families that they serve.

In conclusion, we understand that the budget reflects the priorities of Council. We request that Council fulfill its commitment to fund human services at 1% of the General Fund, and that you ask the City Manager to propose his ideas for achieving this outcome.

Respectfully,

Gina Marsh
Executive Director

cc: Patrick Duhaney, Acting City Manager