



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

April 14, 2020

Dear Mayor Cranley and Honorable Members of City Council:

Thanks to each of you for your leadership in helping our City navigate the COVID-19 response during these unprecedented times. As you know, nonprofits in the human services sector are on the front lines of this crisis. Even as this pandemic has shut down many businesses in our City, human services organizations continue to meet a wide range of needs, from providing meals to families, to offering emergency childcare to essential workers, to identifying emergency financial support for those who have lost their jobs in recent weeks.

We are writing to urge you to reject the City Manager's proposal to cut funding for organizations that provide human services in the FY 2020 budget. We understand that this crisis is having a devastating impact on the City budget that will require you to make difficult choices. As you deliberate, we ask that you keep in mind the following priorities that have become even more imperative during this crisis:

1. Housing, health and safety, including eviction prevention and violence prevention;
2. Workforce development and supports, so that people will be prepared to get back to work when the economy reopens; and
3. Protection of vulnerable and underserved populations, including seniors, people with disabilities and African Americans.

These are the supports our community needs right now in order to weather this storm and prepare for the rebuilding process to follow. Eliminating these supports would be counterproductive, leaving our residents without assistance during a time when many are experiencing exceptional financial and emotional stress. Many residents are currently relying on this assistance to maintain housing, find childcare, or obtain job training so that they are ready to enter the workforce. Contrary to what is stated in the proposed Resolution, most of the human services programs supported by this funding have continued and many organizations are seeing increased demand.

We urge you to maintain human services funding and the associated essential services that many of our residents are relying on during this crisis.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina Marsh".

Gina Marsh
Executive Director
(513) 623-6208

Cc: Patrick Duhaney, City Manager