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LT. GOVERNOR SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Commissioner

May 22, 2019

Frank Haines
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer
Office of Legislative Services
State House Annex
P.O. Box 068
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0068

Dear Mr. Haines:

Following the hearing before the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on May 2, 2019, by letter dated May 15, 2019 you requested that the Department provide answers to certain specific questions. This letter is submitted in response to that request.

Senator Ruiz

Question: The Division of Housing and Community Resources provides support for housing assistance and community planning and development initiatives. Will the DCA dedicate any resources in Fiscal Year 2020 in independent living housing and/ or specialized treatment/ wrap-around services for young people from the communities most impacted by incarceration and poverty? If so, please explain.

In SFY2019, 86 of the households DCA served through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) included a head of household or spouse who was 25 years old or younger. This program provides short-term rental assistance and case management to families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These families headed by a young adult received approximately \$963,000 in HPRP assistance. DCA anticipates assisting approximately the same number of families headed by young adults in SFY2020.

In SFY2020, DCA will administer \$83,715 in Continuum of Care funds to support 10 homeless youth (aged 18 to 24 years old) in Gloucester County. These funds will provide rental assistance for ten efficiency apartments. Robins Nest will offer supportive services to the youth served in this program.

DCA has also created a set-aside of 125 housing vouchers for homeless youth or youth aging out of the foster care system without a permanent housing option. Of these 125 vouchers, 50 are targeted to young adults who are pregnant or parenting. These young adults are referred to DCA by the Department of Children and Families. DCA anticipates that these vouchers will be fully leased in SFY2020. While the final cost of assistance will depend on the location and actual rent of each unit, DCA anticipates an average annual cost of \$1,224,000.

Question: The DCA anticipates receiving revenue from several Federal sources, including but limited to, the Community Services Block Grant, Community Development Block Grant, and the Continuum of Care Program. Will the DCA use these funds in Fiscal Year 2020 to support at-risk youth, homeless youth, and young persons involved in the justice system? If so, please explain.

In addition to the resources listed above, in SFY2019 DCA provided \$1,439,184 to fund programs that support at-risk youth, serving 109,000 individual young people across the State. 25 grantee agencies receive Community Services Block Grant funds administered by DCA to operate these programs. In SFY2020, DCA anticipates assisting approximately the same number of at-risk young people.

Question: Research shows that involvement in the juvenile justice system increases a young person's likelihood of involvement in the adult system later in life. The DCA recommends appropriating \$9 million for adult re-entry services in Fiscal Year 2020, including \$5 million for the New Jersey Re-entry Corporation and \$4 million for the Volunteers of America-Delaware Valley. Will the DCA dedicate any Fiscal Year 2020 funding for youth prevention and intervention programs that attempt to reduce the exposure of young people to the justice system?

In SFY2019, DCA is providing \$3,145,00 to provide services to a total of 550 individual young people at risk through Legislative Grants in Aid. Should these grants be included in the SFY2020 budget, DCA will continue to administer them.

Three Anti-Violence Out of School Legislative Grants in Aid serve 60 young people in Newark, 80 in Trenton, and 200 in Paterson. Newark provides services through the Newark Street Academy Learning Center, in partnership with Community Policing, Juvenile Division, and the Board of Education. The Trenton Police Department provides services through its "Trenton RISE" youth violence prevention/intervention program. Paterson provides services through the "Youth Interdiction and Education Initiative II," an after-school program for mentorship and participation, through the Community Policing Division. Services in Trenton and Paterson will continue until September 30, 2019, and services in Newark will continue until April 30, 2020.

An additional SFY2019 Legislative Grant in Aid for At Risk Youth provides services to 210 young people statewide through the New Jersey Alliance of Boys and Girls Club Inc. Services provided through this grant will conclude on June 30, 2019.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions on these matters.

Sincerely,



Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver
Commissioner

C: David Ridolfino, Office of Management and Budget
Luke Wolff, Senate Democratic Office
Christopher Emigholz, Senate Republican Office
Joseph Pezzulo, Office of Legislative Services