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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Health One Expansion in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Seattle, located in Seattle, Washington.

This project would add capacity to Seattle's existing Health One program to respond to emergency calls and other calls of service with behavioral health professions and crisis care management teams. The funding would support an additional response team and corresponding case management and supervision from Aging and Disability Services. With the addition of another vehicle and response team, this expansion is expected to reach an additional 1,000 individuals through referrals each year.

Although Health One may serve anyone who accesses the 9-1-1 system, it orients toward service to vulnerable and under-represented communities and individuals who struggle to access health and social services. Approximately half of clients served are experiencing homelessness; many of the other half reside in supportive or low-income housing. Medicaid and Dual Eligible account for most of the clients (whose average age is 60). The City focuses on equity in approaching expansion design to selectively target neighborhoods whose health or service needs are particularly stark.

The current Health One program, and similar diversion programs for non-violent 911 calls, have demonstrated success in providing more appropriate behavioral and mental health support than traditional 911 response, reducing unnecessary interactions between police and community members, and helping ensure emergency response programs are meeting the needs of the community.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Smith".

Adam Smith
Member of Congress