

July 28 2022

Jonathan Meagher-Zayas  
Director of Community Engagement  
3300 Dewey Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14616

Dear Mr. Meagher-Zayas,

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield is pleased to offer this letter to support Villa of Hope in their proposal for funding through the Monroe County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). As a nonprofit health plan whose mission is to improve access to care and advance health outcomes, we believe the work and goals of our organization align with those of Villa of Hope and their application.

Villa of Hope is a human service agency providing a comprehensive behavioral health continuum of care for youth, adults, and families living with trauma, mental health issues, and substance use needs. Based in Rochester, they serve thousands of individuals annually through Monroe County and the Finger Lakes Region. The mental health needs of Monroe County residents are exponentially increasing and Villa of Hope is working to meet those needs.

The Villa is applying to launch Hope on the Horizon – a youth drop-in center based in the City of Rochester focused on meeting the mental health needs of youth ages 13-21 in the Greater Rochester community. The program will support mental health needs, address social determinants of health, reduce community violence, and connect to needed resources in the community.

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield is excited to learn about Villa of Hope's plans and to offer our support for their proposal as a longstanding community partner. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Melissa Gardner  
Executive Vice President, Chief Population Health Engagement Officer