



April 1, 2022

Abby Branan  
Director of Finance and Purchasing  
99 Courthouse Hill  
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Re: Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2023

Dear Ms. Branan:

Avita Community Partners is committed to serving the residents of Lumpkin County with mental health, developmental disabilities and addictive diseases (MHDDAD) services. We appreciate the buildings the county provides for Avita to deliver these services. During Fiscal Year 2021, Avita served 491 individuals with MHDDAD from Lumpkin County.

Our role is to serve the "most in need" clients with serious, persistent mental illness, addictive disease and developmental disabilities. A wide range of services are offered to individuals in their home community. These would include diagnostic assessment, individual counseling, group services, and community support individual services. Our Emerging Adult Program provides supports to individuals ages 16-26. Many Emerging Adult Events have been held in Lumpkin County. In addition, Avita offers the services of a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst to work with children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Other services available to Lumpkin County citizens include our Crisis Stabilization services, Women's Treatment and Recovery Support program, and the services of an American Sign Language fluent counselor and case manager to serve deaf or hearing-impaired clients.

In recent years death by suicide has been on the rise. Avita started a Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program in Northeast Georgia last year. We presented the program to the Lumpkin County School Administration and have offered to present the program to Lumpkin County School faculty and students free of charge.

Since July 1, 2017, the decrease in funding from the State of Georgia, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability continues to impact our revenues, which is why County funds are critical to the service delivery process. Our ability to serve MHDDAD clients residing in your county through quality community-based mental health programs is increasingly dependent on local funding. We respectfully request \$5,000 from Lumpkin County for Fiscal Year 2023. This financial commitment from the Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners will help Avita offset expenses not covered by state and federal contract dollars. We also contribute to the local economy by employing 33 dedicated staff members.

Avita is a public entity created under HB 100 and we are currently operating in compliance with SB 349. We work diligently to provide quality services while being good stewards of our financial resources. We appreciate the appointment of Mrs. Barbara Bosanko to represent Lumpkin County on our Board of Directors. She is dedicated to our mission and vision and is an asset to our Board.

Avita feels fortunate to have the support of Lumpkin County and look forward to addressing any questions you might have. Thank you in advance for consideration of our budget request for Fiscal Year 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia L. Levi".

Cynthia L. Levi  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Greg Ball, CFO, Cathy Ganter Cooper, COO, Lori Holbrook, CCO, Hannah Quinn, DD Services Director  
Barbara Bosanko, Board Member, Angela Whidby, Board Chair



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