

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: FY 2021 Budget

From: Cathleen Aliberti

Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 5:36 PM

To: Theresa Utton-Jerman <TUTTON@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: FY 2021 Budget

Dear Representative Toll,

This is a request to reinstate the 3% reduction in the Senior Corps budget proposed by Governor Scott.

I oversee Green Mountain RSVP (GMRSVP), one of the Senior Corps RSVP programs in Vermont, covering Bennington, Windham, and Windsor Counties. We appreciate that our budget was level funded for the first quarter of FY21, and ask that Senior Corps RSVP programs receive level funding for the remainder of FY21.

GMRSVP primarily focuses on social isolation and food insecurity. Our volunteers continue to safely serve their communities by delivering for Meals on Wheels, supporting food pantries, and offering companionship activities that included friendly visiting, phone call check-ins, and rides to medical appointments. We have also developed an elder justice program to educate older Vermonters on how to spot scams and avoid fraud. We are slowly starting up our Bone Builder exercise classes, providing thermometers, sanitizers, and the tools to take attendance effectively for contact tracing. These are additional costs to our program not budgeted for.

A decrease in funding for our programs would be detrimental. We have received level funding for many, many years from the State of Vermont, even though our expenses have increased each year. We receive funds from town appropriations yearly, but we do not know where we stand there and anticipate a decrease in town funding. We have increased expenses to help keep our volunteers safe during this uncertain time of COVID-19.

We need to continue to serve our communities safely. We are working daily to pivot our programs to best serve the needs of Older Vermonters addressing social isolation and food insecurity, two issues that are not going away. We are thankful for your past support and request level funding for FY21.

Regards,

Cathy Aliberti

Director

Green Mountain RSVP

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