



211 LA COUNTY

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL FEDERATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Serving Los Angeles County since 1981

January 8, 2018

Councilmember Mitchell Englander
Chair, Public Safety Committee
City Council, c/o City Clerk, Room 395
City Hall, 200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4801

RE: Support for the DHS CVE Grant, funding LA's Building Healthy Communities Initiative

Dear Councilmember Englander and members of the Public Safety Committee:

On behalf of 211 LA County (211 LA), I am writing to ask for your support for accepting the Department of Homeland Security – Countering Violent Extremism grant, and the excellent community-based work this grant will fund with the Building Healthy Communities Initiative.

211 LA is an independent non-profit organization (501c-3) that has served Los Angeles county by connecting people to critical health and human services since 1981. We receive over 400,000 calls every year from Angelenos in need of information, help, and support – many of whom are from extremely vulnerable or at-risk populations. Our staff is trained in assessment, crisis response, helping people navigate the complex service system, and applying a protective factors approach to building individual and family support and resilience.

211 LA is one of the sub-awardees of this grant, and the work we will be doing if approved includes building a connected network of community –based service providers who can provide culturally appropriate, multi-lingual, accessible preventive services to community members in need of assistance. This work will help ensure that no group is left behind when it comes to providing the connections, resources, and support networks needed to serve populations with social vulnerabilities.

We understand the fears expressed by some opposed to this grant, and initially shared their concerns. However, having worked closely with the Mayor's Office of Public Safety and the other community-based subawardees, we are confident that this grant represents an innovative, positive approach to CVE that poses no threat of religious or racial targeting. In fact, it builds on the work already being done by 211 LA and others to reach and support vulnerable populations in Los Angeles County, and to reduce social isolation, hate and violence generally through a protective factors public health approach.

I thank you for your consideration, and ask for your support for this grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maribel Marin', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Maribel Marin
Executive Director
211 LA County

Cc: Councilmember Mitch O'Farrel, Councilmember David Ryu, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, Joumana Silyan-Saba



Re: Release of DHS Grants
Respected Los Angeles Mayor and City Council:

On behalf of the entire AMWEC board of directors, I would like to express our deepest support for the program that the L.A. City's Office of Public Safety has been providing.

AMWEC has been a partner in these programs that have shown great impact and progress in building healthy and resilient communities that serve as a first line of defense against bigotry, hatred, and extremism.

AMWEC's mission and goals aligned with the programs that help create a trusting relationship between the community, clergy, and law enforcement. The measure of the success of these programs can be seen in the rise of the South Asian community and in civic leadership and community engagement. These programs provided a unified platform to discuss issues and finding solutions for communities that would otherwise be marginalized or isolated.

In the time of tragedies, when our communities felt vulnerable to attacks, it was the cohesion and support of these programs and their ability to pull together law enforcement and Interfaith community to put up a strong and resilient face.

Furthermore, these programs represent our American values of inclusion, diversity, and pluralism which are the hallmarks of a healthy community as well. These programs not only provide information and support, they support the refugee programs for families that otherwise would have no support.

We request the honorable members of the City Council to approve the DHS grant award funding and continue to invest in community-led programs from which our communities have learned and benefited greatly. It's these programs that have kept L.A. as the top of the cities in the United States where we welcome all and no one is left behind.

With deep gratitude,

Anila Ali

President

American Muslim & Multifaith Women's Empowerment Council

8 Southwind, Irvine, CA 91614

Tel: 949-231-0022 www.amwec.com