July 18, 2022

Adam Bello, Monroe County Executive
110 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Dear Mr. Bello,

We are writing this letter of support for Reentry Association of Western New York's (RAWNY) application for funding under Monroe County's ARPA Grant. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County (CCE Monroe) is a member of RAWNY and Marci Muller is on the board of directors.

CCE Monroe offers an array of programs, including several workforce development programs that target residents of some of the city's most underserved neighborhoods. By default, many of the participants in these programs are formerly incarcerated or have had interactions with the criminal justice system. RAWNY serves as an irreplaceable resource for us. In just the past month, there have been two instances with two participants in our Growing Relevant and outstanding Work Skills (GROWS) program who needed help with resources outside of our concentration. One young man needed transportation and overnight housing so he could appear in court downstate (had he missed his appointment, they would have issued a bench warrant and he would be re-incarcerated now). The other needed to move out of his mother's house, having never lived on his own before. He has been connected with a property manager who is willing to take him on as a tenant (and help him find a safe environment). In both cases, calls to Ann Graham at RAWNY brought about workable solutions for each individual. It is RAWNY's ability to connect people in need with organizations that are able to assist that is invaluable to the community.

We strongly support RAWNY's application for funding. This is a vital organization to the reentry community and the community at large. We hope you will help RAWNY continue its vital work.

Very truly yours,

Marci Muller
Horticulture Team Leader

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

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