



Rochester Institute of Technology
National Technical Institute for the Deaf
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July 25, 2022

Diana Pryntz, Executive Director
Deaf Refugee Advocacy Inc
POB 10335
Rochester, NY 14610

Dear Ms. Pryntz:

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf is pleased to provide this letter of support in support of Deaf Refugee Advocacy (DRA)'s response to the Monroe County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Opportunities RFP. Since its formation, DRA has offered essential on-going community support for extremely at-risk citizens within the Monroe County area: deaf refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers (RIAs).

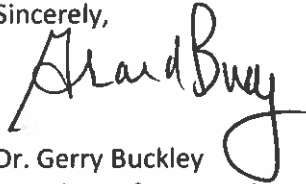
DRA's project, if funded through the ARPA Funding Opportunity, will have a significant impact on reducing barriers faced by deaf, deafblind and hard-of-hearing RIAs that were made evident and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. These systemic barriers, which include but are not limited to language, cultural, and accessibility, can be overcome through DRA's efforts to provide programming on language and cultural competency, health, safety, and employment to individuals and their families. As a result of these sign language-centric services, deaf RIAs' skills, support networks, and sense of belonging will increase, engaging them as equitable and contributing members of the Monroe County community.

Full funding of DRA's ARPA submission will significantly meet the needs of a population that has been historically underserved, due to their unique intersectionalities of people who are deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers. (Name of Organization) believes in the importance of DRA's work and the ultimate impact it aims to achieve. By addressing these inequities, DRA's transformational approach will ultimately benefit deaf RIAs, their families, and the community members, employers, and service providers they engage with, strengthening Monroe County for all.

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf houses the Master of Science in Secondary Education, which currently has 50 teacher candidates and four internationally and nationally renowned faculty members who all have experience with curriculum development, international supports, and instructional strategies. We can support the DRA in providing multiple resources for this project. Additionally, Dr. Christopher Kurz, Dr. Thomastine Sarchet and Dr. Patrick Graham all have experience working with students from multiple backgrounds and see the importance of this project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerry Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" at the beginning.

Dr. Gerry Buckley
President of NTID and Vice President/Dean of RIT
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