

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3805

May 8, 2020

Mr. Tim Thomas
Federal Co-Chair
Appalachian Regional Commission
1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Co-Chair Thomas:

I write in support of the application submitted by Fayette County for funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) grant program. I urge you to give this proposal full and fair consideration.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a high opioid overdose rate; in the year 2018, 65% of drug overdoses were opioid-related, which totaled to 2,866 fatalities. Fayette, Greene, Washington and Cambria counties suffer some of the highest overdose rates and all four have seen a relationship between high overdose rates, the ratio of deaths to overdoses and unemployment rates. Services are dramatically needed in this region, and this project will be a tremendous aid.

If granted, the \$917,368 requested in funding would be used for the Recovery to Reemployment Remote Monitoring Project. This regional project would serve the Appalachian region of Pennsylvania, a region wracked by the opioid epidemic, by targeting populations who are struggling with addiction in the justice or recovery system in Fayette, Greene, Washington and Cambria counties. Patients afflicted with a substance abuse disorder would have a new option to engage in a program of remote health and wellness through a monitoring service provided by TeleHealth Suite's Virtual Care Center, a Pittsburgh-based company with an ownership group originally from the City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The program would be able to reach over 400 vulnerable individuals and support them with daily patient monitoring and support services.

The program will aid those recovering from opioid addiction and chronic conditions, as well as populations at risk to contract COVID-19. The most vulnerable citizens cannot be forgotten and this project would ensure that a population that is already tremendously at-risk will have the resources and, most importantly, the support to combat opioid addiction.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202) 224-6851.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Casey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator