

November 20, 2018

To: JP Morgan Advancing Cities Challenge

Re: Letter of Support, United Against Poverty Advancing Cities Challenge Grant

To whom it may concern,

The Indian River County Board of County Commissioners strongly supports United Against Poverty's (UP) application for funds from the Advancing Cities Challenge grant from J.P. Morgan/Chase.

The Board has supported UP, formerly known as Harvest Food and Outreach, with grants of \$34,205 annually since Fiscal Year 2013/2014. The Board has already approved a grant to UP of \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2018/2019. These grants support the UP Rapid Employment Program.

UP provides a significant benefit to Vero Beach's economy. Their unique workforce development program, Success Training for Employment (STEP), is designed for individuals with significant barriers for employment. This program has re-engaged many individuals into our local workforce (UP reports 301 to-date since their program's inception).

United Against Poverty estimates that the New UP Center facility will expand the number of STEP graduates from 100 to 300 per year. This will increase the available workforce in Vero Beach ready for gainful employment. The Board believes that UP will provide an increase in employment security and certainly add access to services to our more vulnerable citizens.

The New UP Center will be a community asset that will benefit our county, our employers and our citizens for years to come. Therefore, the Board encourages J.P. Morgan/Chase to support UP's Advancing Cities Challenge grant application

Sincerely,

Chairman