



United Services, Inc.

Creating healthy communities

November 2021

Mayor Barney Seney
Town of Putnam
126 Church Street
Putnam, CT 06260

Dear Selectman:

As the President/CEO of United Services, I am writing today to respectfully request the town of Putnam consider appropriating a portion of its American Rescue Plan Act funding to local mental health services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on mental health and substance abuse. United Services, the Local Mental Health Authority and the Community Behavioral Health Center for northeastern Connecticut, is seeing significant increases across our programs, with some programs operating at a more than 100% increase over pre-COVID times.

As you may remember, the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security's Region 4 Recovery Steering Committee via the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut sent a letter to all towns in June recommending that towns allocate 30% of ARPA funding to early childhood care and education, mental wellness and safe and affordable housing. A copy of that letter is included.

If you have already identified mental wellness needs in your town, United Services would be happy to meet with you to discuss how we can work together to address these.

United Services is proposing **Supports for Businesses and Employees** as a potential area for town ARPA funding support.

As people have returned to in-office work this year, our agency has seen an increase in employer and employee issues. The stresses of the pandemic continue to impact our daily lives, and this is affecting employees' performance at work.

For small employers, these issues are especially hard to cope with, as they lack the resources of a large HR department or a local Employee Assistance Program.

United Services would like to support Putnam businesses and their employees, including town employees, by using ARPA funding to deliver a model similar to its Employee Assistance Program. Through this partnership, the town could provide United Services with block grant funding to operate the program for two years as the region continues to recover from the pandemic.

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Through this partnership, United Services would advertise this service to all businesses in Putnam. Through the program, United Services would provide trainings and consultations for Putnam employers at no cost to them. United Services would also use the block grant funding to cover co-pay costs for employees of Putnam businesses receiving treatment at our outpatient clinics.

Employees and their family members who access our clinical outpatient services through this program would have access to other programs for which they may be eligible that United Services also offers, such as case management services, substance use programs, family programs and specialized services for victims of crimes.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this concept and how we could customize it for businesses and employers in Putnam.

I look forward to meeting with you and discussing this further. You can reach me at 860-774-2020 or dlmanning@usmhs.org.

Sincerely,



Diane L. Manning
President/CEO, United Services, Inc.