



**Testimony in SUPPORT of:  
Supplemental Appropriation #23-17 to the County Government's FY23  
Operating Budget, Department of Health and Human Services  
\$1,593,442 for Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance  
November 15, 2022**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We have a long history of supporting immigration reform and work tirelessly to advocate for our agencies and partners that serve the most vulnerable populations including refugees and migrants.

The JCRC supports the Supplemental Appropriation #23-17 to the County Government's FY23 Operating Budget for \$1,593,442 dollars to fund Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance. We also support the additional \$200,000 dollars the Health and Human Services Committee recommended for immediate relief to the community and faith-based groups whose funding sources are drying up due to months of support for new arrivals.

For the past fifteen months the JCRC has been heavily involved in the resettlement efforts of the Afghan community, and more recently, our agency has worked closely with Identity Inc to meet the needs of migrant families from Texas and Arizona being temporarily housed in Montgomery County. The JCRC has built interfaith coalitions and convened dozens of synagogues to aid all newcomers in our community and to provide funding and assistance with housing, social services, dignity kits, and much more.

The JCRC is committed to the resettlement of individuals and families from all over the world, regardless of race, religion, or nationality. Montgomery County has been stretched and challenged by the recent surge of newcomers. Therefore, the JCRC supports this critical special appropriation of \$1,593,442 dollars and the recommended additional funding of \$200,000 dollars.