

LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

ADG Free Medical Clinic Volunteer Internship Program
American Diversity Group, Inc.
Silver Spring, MD 20904

April 8th, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the student volunteers of the American Diversity Group Free Medical Clinic, write in strong support of continued County funding for ADG and the renewal of its contract with Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2027. We write not as passive observers, but as students whose academic and professional trajectories have been directly shaped by the opportunity to serve here.

Who We Are

We are pre-medical, undergraduate, and graduate students from the University of Maryland, Towson University, and a growing network of partner institutions with which ADG has established formal academic partnerships. We represent a wide range of disciplines united by a shared commitment to equitable, culturally responsive healthcare.

This year alone, 17 of our fellow volunteers earned admission to medical school, including one to Weill Cornell Medical College, one of the most competitive programs in the country. ADG is not simply a place where students log clinical hours. It is a place where future physicians are formed.

What This Experience Actually Means

For any student pursuing medicine, meaningful clinical experience is not optional. It is essential. At ADG, we assist with patient intake, triage, vital sign measurement, chronic disease screenings, and multilingual health education. We work directly alongside licensed physicians and nurse practitioners, observing real clinical decision-making for patients managing real conditions, many of whom have never had consistent access to a doctor before.

What sets ADG apart is who we serve. Our patients are uninsured families, Afghan refugees, South Asian immigrants, Black and Latino households, and seniors managing multiple chronic conditions. Serving this population has taught us that medicine is not only a science. It is a relationship built on trust, and that trust must be earned through cultural humility, patience, and genuine human care. No classroom teaches that. ADG does.

I can speak to this personally. When I first joined ADG, a woman walked into our clinic. She had spent eight years in Montgomery County, working two jobs, and in all that time, had never once seen a doctor. I took her intake myself. Her blood pressure was 160 over 100. Stage 2 hypertension, completely undetected. We gave her a diagnosis, a care plan, and groceries. All in Spanish, because that was the only way she could fully understand what was happening to her.

She came back the following weekend. And the one after that. That is what ADG does. It does not just treat people. It brings them into the healthcare system and keeps them there.

ADG as an Academic Pipeline

ADG's formal academic partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding with the University of Maryland, Towson University, and a growing number of higher education institutions across the region represent a serious and structured commitment to developing the next generation of healthcare professionals. These are not informal arrangements. They are deliberate, credit-bearing partnerships that provide students with supervised clinical learning experiences in a real-world community health setting. ADG is actively expanding this network to additional universities, and the long-term impact on both student preparation and regional healthcare capacity will be substantial.

The program creates a meaningful pipeline from higher education into community medicine, and it does so in a way that is fully aligned with the workforce development priorities of Montgomery County and the State of Maryland. The fact that 17 ADG volunteers were accepted to medical school this year, including one to Weill Cornell Medical College, is not a coincidence. It is the direct result of a program that takes student development seriously, mentors volunteers with intention, and provides the kind of authentic, substantive clinical preparation that the nation's leading medical programs recognize and value. We are proud to have been part of this program, and we carry its lessons forward into our careers.

Our Ask

We respectfully urge county leadership to renew ADG's contract and restore FY27 funding. To defund ADG now would mean severing a connection that links vulnerable patients to consistent care and promising students to meaningful purpose, at exactly the moment that connection is working.

We believe in this organization. We ask that you do the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Yash Porwal

Volunteer

American Diversity Group Free Medical Clinic