

Dear Council Members,

As you meet to discuss Fiscal Year 2027 (FY 27) Operating Budgets, I am writing to express my strong support for continued County funding for the American Diversity Group (ADG) Free Medical Clinic and the renewal of its contract with Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2027. As a member of the community, I have seen firsthand the critical role that ADG plays in ensuring that individuals and families—especially those who are uninsured or underinsured—have access to compassionate, culturally responsive healthcare. For many, ADG is not just a clinic, but a trusted and reliable source of care.

ADG serves a diverse population, including immigrants, refugees, seniors, and working families who may otherwise face significant barriers to receiving medical attention. The clinic provides essential services such as preventive screenings, chronic disease management, and health education, all delivered with a deep understanding of the cultural and linguistic needs of the community. This level of care fosters trust and allows patients to feel seen, respected, and supported—something that is often difficult to find in traditional healthcare settings.

Beyond the direct medical services, ADG strengthens the broader community by promoting health equity and reducing disparities in access to care. When individuals are able to receive early screenings and consistent support for ongoing conditions, it not only improves their quality of life but also reduces the strain on emergency services and the healthcare system as a whole. ADG's presence is a proactive investment in the health and well-being of Montgomery County.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge county leadership to renew ADG's contract and restore its FY27 funding. ADG is an essential resource that uplifts some of the most vulnerable members of our community while contributing to a healthier, more connected county overall. I strongly believe in the importance of this organization and the services it provides, and I hope you will continue to support its mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaushik Shah