



April 24, 2017

Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners  
99 Courthouse Hill, Suite H  
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Re: Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018

Dear Commissioners:

Avita Community Partners is committed to serving the residents of Lumpkin County with mental health, developmental disabilities and addictive diseases (MHDDAD) services. We appreciate the buildings the county provides for Avita to deliver these services. During Fiscal Year 2016, Avita served 882 individuals with MHDDAD from Lumpkin County. This is an increase of 4.8% from Fiscal Year 2015. Our role is to serve the "most in need" clients with serious, persistent mental illness, addictive disease and developmental disabilities. A wide range of services are offered to individuals in the community. These would include diagnostic assessment, individual counseling, group services, case management, and community support individual services. We also provide counseling services at Lumpkin County Middle and High Schools. Our Crisis Stabilization services in Flowery Branch have also been delivered to citizens of Lumpkin County. Please find enclosed narrative information that relates to our mission, vision and services.

The State of Georgia, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is no longer funding MHDD core services at 100% Grant-In-Aid (GIA). Effective FY17 the core services funding is split approximately, 50/50 into GIA and Fee-For-Services (FFS). This funding mix has adversely impacted our revenues.

County funds are critical to the service delivery process. Our ability to serve MHDDAD clients residing in your county through quality community-based mental health programs is increasingly dependent on local funding. We respectfully request funding to an annualized level of \$3,000. This financial commitment from Lumpkin County will help Avita offset expenses not covered by state and federal contract dollars. For example, we receive no funds for clinical expenses related to travel time for community and case management services. We also contribute to the local economy by employing 48 dedicated staff members.

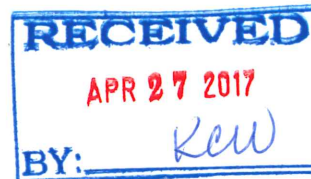
Avita is a public entity created under HB 100 and we are currently operating in compliance with SB 349. We are not a state agency; however, we are an instrumentality of the state. We work very diligently to provide quality services while being good stewards of our financial resources. We appreciate the appointment of Ms. Barbara Bosanko to represent Lumpkin County on our Board of Directors. She is dedicated to our mission and vision and is an asset to our Board.

Avita feels fortunate to have the support of Lumpkin County and look forward to addressing any questions the commissioners might have. Thank you in advance for consideration of our budget request for Fiscal Year 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia L. Levi".

Cynthia L. Levi  
Chief Executive Officer



Enclosure

Cc: Victor Bowers, CFO  
Cathy Ganter, COO  
Lori Holbrook, CCO

Gwen Hall, Director of IDD Services  
Brian Alexander, Board of Directors Chair  
Barbara Bosanko, Lumpkin County Board Representative

4331 Thurmond Tanner Parkway  
Flowery Branch, GA 30542

(800) 525-8751 toll-free  
(678) 513-5830 fax  
[www.avitapartners.org](http://www.avitapartners.org)