

Mr. John Edmond, Regional Representative
Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Seattle Regional Office
Jackson Federal Building
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174-1001

RE: FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge Notice of Funding Opportunity EDA-HDQ-ARPBBB-2021-2006976 – Phase 2

Dear Mr. Edmond:

On behalf of United Way of Southern Nevada, I am writing to share our support for Southern Nevada's Build Back Better Regional Challenge Phase 2 grant proposal, led by the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (LVGEA). The proposal focuses on the growth of the Southern Nevada region's advanced manufacturing industry cluster through the advancement of four (4) tightly aligned, transformative projects with an emphasis on job creation, economic outputs, equity, and sustainability. Together, these projects will create a long-term, transformational plan for rebuilding Southern Nevada's regional economy that is fully aligned with the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

At United Way of Southern Nevada, we work side-by-side with Southern Nevada nonprofits, businesses, and local leaders, to tackle critical human services issues and invest in programs that support people working to build their own pathways towards a bright future. We support programs that help people get ready for employment through job readiness training, job placement services, building work experience, and learn from mentors who have achieved success. We work to understand and address the challenges that keep people from finding, keeping, and getting back into employment.

In the event this proposal is funded, United Way of Southern Nevada's role in assisting LVGEA with the project would include:

- Forming a genuine partnership with LVGEA to build and grow programs that support a resilient Southern Nevada economy;
- Engaging our funded partners that actively support employment readiness and job placement services to support the development of the skills training curriculum and securing the technical expertise needed to train workers;
- Engaging state-wide nonprofits to support the shared vision of Build Back Better Regional Challenge;

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- Collaborating on outreach efforts focused on historically underserved populations and areas, communities of color, women, and other groups facing labor market barriers; and

United Way of Southern Nevada looks forward to working with LVGEA and the Southern Nevada's Build Back Better Coalition on Phase 2 of this initiative. LVGEA is an important lead for this grant, and the breadth of the partners assembled to establish the coalition behind this proposal signals the community is aligned in our understanding of the opportunity this grant will bring to enhancing our regional economy in the identified project areas. If you have any questions, please contact me at julianh@uwsn.org or 702-892-2338.

Sincerely,



Julian High
United Way of Southern Nevada President & CEO