



COUNTY OF DUKES COUNTY

Martha's Vineyard & Elizabeth Islands



Board of Selectmen
Town of Tisbury
Town of Oak Bluffs

November 9, 2018

RE: Request for Consideration of Municipal Government Funding

Dear Selectmen,

I have conducted two meetings of the top representatives for the organizations and services you mentioned in your letter dated September 12, 2018. After discussions among the participants it became apparent that each organization has its own set of procedures and policies to address the effectiveness of operations and budgeting techniques. Some of these programs already share administrative services and oversight. Vineyard Health Care Access Program, Dukes County Social Services Department and the Substance Use Prevention programs are all under the umbrella and policies of the County. The First Stop, CORE and Healthy Aging are provided under the umbrella of the MV Community Services. The County is a governmental municipal organization with strict set of legal requirements in the areas of personnel, financial management and operations headed by elected officials. The MV Community Services and the MV Center for Living are non-profit organizations run by independent boards. Sharing of administrative services and oversight would pose a legal, logistic and liability issues. In response to your letter I urged all to revise their budgets and requests to the towns for FY2020 and seek additional funding for these programs through charitable donations and other alternative revenue sources. I believe this will result in lowering the requests to the towns for the upcoming FY2020.

All participants are willing to meet with the town officials to review your concerns and answer any questions. As we are all aware of the budgetary constraints of the towns as well as the growing needs of our aging island population we would like to continue to work with you to explore a development of a more sustainable model for meeting the island needs in the areas of health and human services.

Sincerely,

Martina Thornton
Dukes County Manager

Cc: Bob Whitenour, Oak Bluffs Town Administrator
Jay Grandy, Tisbury Town Administrator