



Jewish Council for the Aging®
Helping All Seniors Thrive®

TESTIMONY OF SHANE ROCK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JCA
TO THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 18, 2025

Good afternoon. I am Shane Rock, CEO of the Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington.

JCA has served older adults and their families in Montgomery County for more than 52 years. I think it is appropriate to note that in those 52 years, JCA has never pursued its vital mission of helping all older adults to thrive in such a challenging federal environment.

The federal government shutdown exacerbated issues for many of our county neighbors who were already experiencing fears and strains from economic and other threats to their families. Older adults, among them furloughed and RIF'd federal workers, are turning to nonprofits, including JCA, for assistance in ever increasing numbers. We are experiencing surging requests for information and referrals, transportation assistance, Medicare enrollment, and employment assistance. Our social day program for people with early stage dementia is at or near capacity. This is but one indication of the increased level of need in our community that this special appropriation may help alleviate.

On July 1, 2025, JCA's Senior Community Services Employment Program, supported by philanthropy, Montgomery County, and the Federal Government was suspended because the Federal Government did not release Congressionally appropriated funds. The program places older adults facing significant barriers to employment in paid internships at local nonprofit organizations where they learn and practice job skills while earning the county minimum wage. The suspension of Federal funding resulted in three participants becoming homeless and others facing the same prospect. Fortunately, two weeks ago we received news that the funds had been released. We expect to re-enroll nearly all the prior participants and more from our extensive waiting list. While JCA may not be directly funded by this appropriation, we recognize that it may provide additional vital supports to our SCSEP participants and participants in other JCA programs.

This Special Appropriation is needed to help ensure people have access to food, shelter and other essential services in our community. JCA strongly supports this proposed appropriation.

Thank you.

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