



October 13, 2021

Chairman John Vasquez  
Solano County Board of Supervisors  
675 Texas Street, Suite 6500  
Fairfield, CA 94533-6532

Dear Supervisor Vasquez,

Since 1977, Meals on Wheels of Solano County (MOWSC) has served our community's older adult population with programs and services to support active aging and independence. The population of seniors continues to grow steadily, and Solano County is projected to have 25% of its population represented by seniors within 10 years (by 2030). Additionally, the average age of seniors is rising as healthcare advances are enabling people to live longer than previous generations. These factors, paired with the short- and long-term ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, translates to more demand for the core services MOWSC provides.

In 2020, the Board of Directors of MOWSC determined that the best strategy for positioning the organization to sustainably provide services to a broader range and greater number of seniors experiencing food insecurity and social isolation in our community was for MOWSC to increase its capacity by investing in a larger, more efficient kitchen, with more energy efficient appliances and a larger office with increased food storage space. MOWSC has identified the need to raise approximately \$3 million to complete this facility expansion project which would result in MOWSC's ability to meet the needs of the larger senior population in the coming years.

Among the expected outcomes from a larger facility are an increase of 80% in the number of seniors receiving fresh fruits and vegetables through MOWSC's partnership with the Napa Solano Food Bank, as well as a 40% increase in the number of meals provided through home delivery daily. Many of the more than 1,600 seniors served annually would benefit from receiving 7 meals per week and/or more than 1 meal per day.

As the County determines the framework for allocation of ARPA funding in Solano County, MOWSC respectfully requests the opportunity to submit an application and project plan for funding consideration to support this expansion. This one-time investment will pay dividends for years to come in the form of decreased food insecurity and more stability for the growing senior population. I look forward to next steps in the process, and as always, appreciate the partnership we have with Solano County in supporting our programs.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'L. Hartmann'.

Laurie Hartmann, Executive Director

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