



State of Rhode Island  
Office of the General Treasurer

**James A. Diossa**  
General Treasurer

9 May 2024

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

**RE:** *2024-H 8196, Making an Appropriation Of \$2,000,000 to The Elisha Project*

Chair Abney:

I write in strong support of 2024-H 8196, which would authorize the appropriation of \$2,000,000 to the Elisha Project to provide invaluable support in sustaining and expanding their operations.

The Elisha Project – a 501(c)(3) organization located in the Blackstone Valley – has been dedicated to combatting food insecurity since 2011 throughout the state of Rhode Island, successfully reaching our most vulnerable populations. The Elisha Project is a movement that identified very clear needs in our state and is now bringing diverse communities together through service, sharing, teaching, and learning to make a positive impact. In 2023 alone, the Elisha Project distributed over 7 million pounds of food and essential items to more than 6,000 Rhode Island families in need. Last year alone, the Elisha Project – in cooperation with the Rhode Island Department of Human Services – made over 10,200 deliveries to individual households and conducted more than 325 bulk deliveries to other non-profit organizations.

When the needs of our communities were heightened throughout the coronavirus pandemic, the Elisha Project was there to answer the call. Since my time as Mayor of Central Falls, I have seen the direct impact that the Elisha Project has had on the low-income communities that it serves. Families struggling to make ends meet because of the pandemic pulled through thanks largely to their food distribution boxes, which contained fresh produce, fresh protein, fresh milk, and non-perishables. This organization had and continues to have a real work impact on the *people* of our state – the families, women, children that had nowhere else to turn to. And though we have navigated beyond the pandemic, the need for these services continues.

Support for the Elisha Project will have a direct impact on the most disadvantaged individuals across our state, and I strongly urge this Committee to recommend passage.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James A. Diosa', written over a circular scribble.

James A. Diosa  
General Treasurer