



**DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER**  
**Department of Medicine**  
**Division of Geriatrics**

December 7, 2018

Board of Commissioners for Durham County

Re: Support for Durham Master Aging Plan (MAP) Proposal

Dear Board Members,

We are pleased to have this opportunity to provide our endorsement of the proposal submitted by the Triangle J Council of Governments for development of a Master Aging Plan for the Greater Durham area. As co-Directors of the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) at Duke University, we are committed to promoting the well-being of older residents in Durham City and County. The GWEP has been funded by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to work with community partners and primary care practices with an aim of implementing education and care innovations that optimize the health and independence of older adults. The GWEP is administered through the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development and the Duke School of Nursing. In this work, our key community partners include the Triangle J Area Agency on Aging, Senior PharmAssist, and the Durham Center for Senior Life. We have worked closely with Mary Warren, the TJAAA executive director, and Melissa Black, the Durham Community Resource Connections Coordinator. We also participated in the Livability Assessment performed last year and, as such, have a vested interest in the development and implementation of a plan that addresses the needs identified therein.

We have reviewed the Master Aging Plan proposal submitted to you, including the proposed series of meetings and programs. We strongly encourage you to approve this proposal and provide support for its implementation as requested over the next year. Given the importance of this plan to the mission of the GWEP and to the well-being of Durham and its seniors, we feel it only appropriate to back up our endorsement with resources and financial support. We commit \$7,500 to support specific aspects of the program, including sponsorship of the Racial Equity Institute Groundwater presentation at the kick-off event and support for staff time needed to plan for and administer the Livability Working Group meetings listed on page 3.

Sincerely,

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Center for the Study of Aging and Human  
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