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November 20, 2024

Mr. Rafael Acevedo, COC Coordinator
City of Milwaukee
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: U.S. HUD Community Planning and Development
Continuum of Care (CoC) Builds FR-6800-N-25A

We are excited to partner with the Milwaukee Continuum of Care and Milwaukee County Housing Services on a housing development that will address growing homelessness in the older adult population by adding new units of permanent supportive housing coupled with a multipurpose senior center accessible to the community in a neighborhood with high socio-economic need.

The Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging offers a wide range of community-based supportive services through the Older Americans Act to the county's 190,000 older residents, including senior dining, socialization and recreation, and evidence-based wellness programs through county senior centers. The Aging and Disability Resource Center will provide long term care and benefits counseling at the center. Specialized transportation services for healthcare, food, and social services will also be available. This CoC Builds grant would leverage \$500,000 from Milwaukee County for supportive services within a new multipurpose community center in McGovern Park.

Coupling affordable housing that will address the growing housing needs of older adults with an accessible community center that provides a wide range of community supports will further the goals of the Administration for Community Living and HUD to advance housing, health, and social care partnerships.



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

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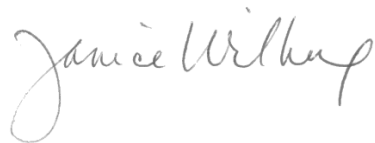
A growing aging population in the City of Milwaukee live in housing that is increasingly unaffordable and without the most basic, age-accessible features. Providing accessible alternative residential options will both address the immediate needs of unsheltered older adults and prevent future homelessness among older residents.

Through its Area Aging Plan, the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging has recognized the importance of housing as a social determinant of health. The Plan includes goals to both address housing insecurity and to reimagine senior centers as attractive community hubs for supportive community services. Senior residents in the new housing complex would have access to free nutritious meals, a health and wellness center, benefits counseling, recreational and social activities, and a wide range of programs that advance their engagement and wellness in the community.

This cooperative venture would be a watershed opportunity for Milwaukee County to both reduce homelessness and advance the health and well-being of older adults in a resource poor neighborhood. We strongly encourage a positive review of this HUD Continuum of Care Builds grant application by the Milwaukee Continuum of Care for the new construction of permanent supportive housing coupled with a multipurpose community center in Milwaukee's McGovern Park.

Do not hesitate to reach out for additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,



Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.
Chair, Commission on Aging



Daniel Idzikowski
Aging Services Director

cc: James Mathy, Milwaukee County Housing Services