



Request to Collin County Housing Finance Corporation

1st Life Planning is requesting one-time financial assistance in the amount of \$140,000 from the CCHFC to address housing issues for individuals with severe disabilities. These funds will serve as “seed money” to initiate a series of housing opportunities in Collin County.

Background

Having access to adequate, affordable housing is a concern in Collin County for individuals with modest to low incomes. This is even more difficult when the house has to be modified for a person with disabilities or requires extraordinary conditions (for example attendant care or building modifications) to make the house functional. It is critical therefore to reduce the initial investment for these individuals and the groups who serve them.

Who is 1st Life Planning?

1st Life Planning is an established non-profit, formed in 2012 by a group of passionate and concerned parents, advocates and local business partners. The aim of 1st Life Planning Parents and Partners is to provide housing solutions that will serve adults with special needs, alleviating the greatest fear faced by aging parents of special needs children.

How will funds be used?

These funds will help to assist in the initial cost of expansion and modification of properties in Plano and Collin County through 1st Life Parents and Partners.

- Acquisition of at least 2-4 BR Plano properties to be used for IDD community residential needs.
- Costs of renovation to convert homes to ADA (handicapped compliant) standards
 - Wheelchair accessible bathrooms
 - Ramps
 - Expanded hallways
 - Expanded doorway openings
 - Installation of interior sprinkler system if required in compliance with HCS and Plano FD requirements
 - Other identified ADA required modifications depending on level of need for incoming IDD residents

Examples of immediate and ongoing need in Collin County:

For several years LifePath's IDD staff have been working with the families of three individuals (young adult women) whose diagnoses of autism include severe behavioral disturbances (wandering, elopement, not sleeping, etc) that require intensive management and 24 hour awake supervision. The families are no longer able to provide 24 hour care or a safe environment. Unfortunately in this case the intensity of needs makes it almost impossible for a provider to create a safe and therapeutic environment based solely on HCS standard rates. Some of the extraordinary costs to a provider occur during start up: staff recruitment and specialized training, purchasing a vehicle, home modifications and home furnishings. With the added expense of paying slightly higher staffing rates to reduce turnover (critical to effective service delivery), it is almost impossible to identify a provider willing to provide the necessary level of care in Collin County.

Additional homes will be utilized as soon as they are available for the IDD community and providers. 1st Life Planning Parents and Partners will use 100% of Collin County Housing Finance Corporation funds for the expansion of additional homes in Collin County as the need is ongoing and present. The 2013 Texas Workforce Investment Council study documents over 84,000 individuals in North Texas alone with special needs and developmental disabilities in need of residential services.

LifePath Systems' Involvement

As the designated IDD Authority, LifePath staff will continue as service coordinators and will monitor client progress and safety. 1st Life is asking for \$140,000 to assist providers with the extensive startup costs that go beyond the state's reimbursement. LifePath will not receive any of these fees or charge any administrative costs. LifePath's Management Team believe the development of housing options like this to be a valuable and appropriate use of CCHFC's funds and a significant benefit to individuals and families in Collin County struggling with housing availability.