



Request to Collin County Housing Finance Corporation

LifePath Systems is requesting one-time financial assistance in the amount of \$140,000 from the CCHFC to initiate housing for 3 indigent individuals with significant disabilities.

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 to make the house functional.

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.

The state's funding program (Home and Community-based Services- HCS) for individuals with intellectual disabilities has a multi-year (8-10 years average) waiting list. These families have been on the list and have finally received an approved HCS "slot" for each of the women.

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, it is almost impossible to identify a provider willing to provide the necessary level of care in Collin County.

Current Status and Rationale for Request

After much searching, a respected and experienced provider (AVID) from the North Texas area has agreed to collaborate with the families and LifePath to develop an appropriate home in Plano for these three individuals. AVID's owners have worked with First Life, a non-profit agency in Plano to lease a home modified for this specific use. LifePath staff will continue as service coordinators and will monitor client progress and safety. We are asking for \$140,000 to pay the provider's extensive start up costs that go beyond HCS reimbursement. LifePath will not receive any of these fees or charge any administrative costs. We believe the development of a housing option like this to be a valuable and appropriate use of CCHFC's funds.

Randy Routon, CEO