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From: Kelly Johanessen [KJohanessen@ucpworc.org]

Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 06:27 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Nancy Muller

Subject: RFA for building and rehabilitate smaller permanent supportive housing properties for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Nancy,

I wanted to follow up with you regarding the recent workshop you and your colleagues facilitated this past Wednesday on the above referenced. First let me say Thank You.

As we discussed, our organization currently operates two residential Assisted Living Facilities licensed by the Agency for Healthcare Administration (ACHA). The target population we serve in these two homes are adults with developmental disabilities and although our current homes are licensed for 15 residents each, we are in the process of acquiring a third home which will also be licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA) to serve 6 individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

Our organization has 44 years' experience serving the needs of individuals with disabilities including those with developmental disabilities and we are strategically expanding our residential services to include small community based group homes to serve 6 residents each in order to provide a comprehensive array of residential options for individuals with developmental disabilities. I personally have 25 years' experience serving individuals with disabilities and am committed to providing opportunities for the individuals we serve to actively engage in their communities by choosing where and with whom they live and work. I consider it a privilege to be in a position to create opportunities for the individuals we serve to experience the same or greater quality of life that you and I to fully engage in life.

We are very hopeful that you and your team will strongly consider expanding eligibility of funding under this RFA for organizations such as ours that operate residential homes licensed by the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) as well as those licensed by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. In our opinion and assessment it would be a travesty to exclude licensure through AHCA from eligibility criteria for these funds as the individuals with developmental disabilities that we serve could benefit tremendously from funds that we could access to acquire and rehabilitate additional housing options to allow them to fully achieve life without limits by living, working, learning, and playing in their communities.

Clearly the intent of the legislature in designating funds under this RFA was to provide additional housing stock to expand capacity for community based small group homes specifically targeted to serve individuals with developmental disabilities. As long as the entity applying for these funds can demonstrate licensure under a state licensing authority to serve the designated target population, it should meet with the intent of the legislature.

Thank you for your further consideration to our request.

Sincerely,

Kelly Johanessen

"Life without Limits for people with disabilities"

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