

APPOINTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFYING OFFICER

Effective _____ as Commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Local Government which is acting as the Responsible Entity as defined at 24 CFR Part 58.2 (7) (C) for the Pathways, Inc. The Journey Transitional Housing/Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center for Women project, I have assumed the role of Environmental Certifying Officer for this project.

As Environmental Certifying Officer, I will certify that all environmental assessments required by applicable laws and regulations have been performed in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR Part 58.



Dennis Keene, Commissioner
Certifying Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY-DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

THE JOURNEY
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING/SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER TREATMENT CENTER FOR WOMEN

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW STATUS

EXEMPT ACTIVITIES:

Architectural Design Services
Administration
Planning

CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES:

NONE

ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH ASSESSMENT IS REQUIRED:

Acquisition for Rehabilitation
Multi-Unit Residential Rehabilitation

Finding Made By:



Dennis Elrod, Program Administrator

Finding Approved By:



**Dennis Keene, Commissioner
Certifying Officer**

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY-DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**THE JOURNEY
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING/SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER TREATMENT CENTER FOR WOMEN**

FINDING OF EXEMPTION

It is the finding of the Commonwealth of Kentucky-Department for Local Government that the following activities proposed as part of the Pathways, Inc. The Journey Transitional Housing/Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment Center for Women project are exempt from environmental review under the requirements of NEPA and the environmental requirements of related federal authorities due to being defined as an exempt activity at 24 CFR Part 58.34 (a) (1), 24 CFR Part 58.34 (a) (3) and 24 CFR Part 58.34 (a) (8).

Exempt Activity

Planning (Environmental Assessment)
Administration
Architectural Design

24 CFR Part 58.34 (a) (1),
24 CFR Part 58.34 (a) (3)
24 CFR Part 58.34 (a) (8).

Finding Made By:



Dennis Elrod, Program Administrator

11-12-21

Date

Finding Approved By:



Dennis Keene, Commissioner
Environmental Certifying Officer

Date

FINDING: [58.40(g)]

- Finding of No Significant Impact**
(The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment)
- Finding of Significant Impact**
(The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment)

Preparer Signature:  **Date:** 11-12-21

Name/Title/Agency: Dennis Elrod, Program Administrator, Atkins-Elrod & Associates

RE Approving Official Signature:  **Date:** _____

Name/Title/Agency: Dennis Keene, Commissioner, Kentucky Dept. for Local Govt.

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal: [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, community mental health centers were already facing critical financial challenges. In FY 21, two facilities totalling 14 treatment beds which are to be merged into The Journey had losses of more than \$400,000, making these facilities and the services they offer financially unsustainable. Closure of these facilities and loss of these treatment beds would be catastrophic. The Journey will provide economy of scale for staffing, services, transportation, utilities, and meals. Staffing costs for the proposed 25 bed facility will be less than per bed staffing costs for the 14 beds being merged into The Journey.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic put at risk hard-won progress in fighting the opioid epidemic. In Boyd County, site of the proposed project, 2020 deaths from opioid and other drug overdoses were 119% of 2019 deaths. Boyd County's first quarter 2021 nonfatal drug overdose events were 130% of those confirmed in the first quarter of 2020.

The Associated Press report, "Pandemic a Role in Kentucky's Record Overdose Deaths" found fatal drug overdoses in Kentucky "surged nearly 50% last year and isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic was a major contributing factor." In 2020, the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet documented 1,964 Kentucky drug overdose deaths. The Office of Drug Control Policy found the COVID-19 pandemic to be a "major contributing factor" in the surge in overdose deaths. Comparatively, drug overdose deaths rose nationwide 29% during the pandemic with Kentucky having the third highest increase. While Boyd County has 1% of Kentucky's population, it had nearly 2% of Kentucky's 2020 overdose deaths.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION
THE JOURNEY
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING/SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER TREATMENT CENTER FOR WOMEN

With reference to the above projects, I, the undersigned officer of the grantee, certify:

That the grantee has published and disseminated in the manner prescribed by 24 CFR 58.43, a notice to the public (a copy of which is attached) in accordance with 24 CFR 58.70;

That the applicant has fully carried out its responsibilities for environmental review, decision-making and action pertaining to the project named above; that the applicant has complied with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; that the applicant has complied with environmental procedures, permit requirements and the statutory obligations of the laws cited in 24 CFR 58.5(a)(2); and that the applicant has taken into account the environmental criteria standards, permit requirements and other obligations applicable to the project under the other related laws and authorities cited under such laws and in 24 CFR 58.5;

That the level of environmental clearance carried out by the applicant in connection with the said project **DID NOT** require the preparation and dissemination of an environmental impact statement;

That the dates upon which all statutory and regulatory time periods for review, comment or other response or action to this clearance began and ended as indicated below; that all such dates which are applicable to this aforesaid clearance are indicated below; and that the expiration of each of the time periods indicated below, applicant is in compliance with the requirement of 24 CFR Part 58:

Item	Publication MO/DAY/YR	Commence MO/DAY/YR	Expire MO/DAY/YR
Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI): Publication Date			
Same: Comment period			
Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI/RROF): Publication Date			
Concurrent Notice (FONSI & NOI/RROF): Publication Date			
NOIRROF Local Comment Period			
HUD Decision Period			
Notice of Intent to Prepare EIS: Publication			
Draft EIS: Comment Period			
Same: 90-day period (NEPA Regs)			
Final EIS: 30-day period (NEPA Regs)			
Other (Specify)			
Other (Specify)			

That I am authorized to, and do, consent to assume the status of responsible federal official under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and each provision of law specified in 24 CFR 58.5 insofar as the provisions of these laws apply to the HUD responsibilities for environmental review, decision-making and action as to environmental issues, preparation and circulation of draft, final and supplemental environmental impact statements, and assumption of lead agency or cooperation agency responsible for preparation of such statements on behalf of Federal agencies including HUD, when these agencies consent to such assumption;

That I am authorized to consent to, and do, accept on behalf of the applicant and personally, the jurisdiction of the Federal courts for the enforcement of all these responsibilities, in my official capacity as certifying officer of the applicant.

Commonwealth of Kentucky-Department for Local Government

Responsible Entity



Dennis Keene, Commissioner
Department for Local Government

Warning – Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and Criminal Procedure shall apply to this certification. Title 18 provides, among other things, that whoever knowingly makes or uses a document or writing containing any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.