**Submitted August 2, 2022**

**2020/2021 Recovery Housing Project Review Sheet**

**Applicant: Franklin County Women and Log No. 21R-003**

#### **Family Shelter (FCWFS) County: Franklin**

#### **Project Name: The Journey**

**Priority: I**

**Funding Source Amount**

**CDBG $214,000 % of Other Funds to CDBG:** 47 %

**Other Funds: $100,643 Admin & Planning (CDBG):** $19,260

(9% of CDBG Funds)

**Funds Requested: $214,000**

**Total Project Funds $314,643** **Funds Recommended: $214,000**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Franklin County Women and Family Shelter (FCWFS) requests $214.000 in RHP funding for a two-pronged project: renovation/retrofit of recovery housing facilities and rental assistance to expand the pilot Recovery Housing Program. This project includes work in two of the buildings that FCWFS owns (300 Murray Street and 303 E. Third Street, in Frankfort). If awarded an RHP Grant would allow FCWFS to expand the number of beds in their Recovery Housing Program and offer rental assistance to assist LMI residents to enroll in the RHP. The requested $94,809 in renovation funds will be used to complete the scope of work:

Add an emergency egress staircase from the second floor of the building located at 300 Murray St. in Frankfort, KY. This two­ story gutted building was gifted to FCWFS in the summer of 2020. Requested renovation funds will be used to convert a unit at 303 E. Third Street into an accessible two-bedroom apartment to meet ADA standards. Part of the complete renovation plan is to convert two units at the 303 E Third St. building to recovery housing beds. One unit is currently office space for staff, which will become a two bedroom, up to four-bed recovery housing unit. FCWFS offices will be moved to the first floor at 300 Murray Street. The other unit will utilize awarded RHP funds to convert it into a one-bedroom ADA compliant/accessible apartment for a single female residing in the Recovery Housing Program.

**PROJECT NEED:**

This project, as well as the need for Recovery Housing throughout the state of Kentucky, was profoundly impacted by COVID-19. Before the pandemic even began, the Bluegrass Area Development District's Board of Directors, made up of elected officials from 17 counties and their respective cities, identified addressing the opioid epidemic, addiction, and frequent overdoses as one of the region's two most important priorities in need of funding and a public service response. The News-Graphic out of Georgetown, Kentucky reported on 7/22/2021 that Kentucky was the nation's second highest state in drug overdose deaths per capita, and that this number spiked throughout 2020. It was reported that 31 overdose deaths per I 00,000 citizens and a total of 1,369 overdose deaths total in Kentucky in 2019 skyrocketed to 47 overdose deaths per I 00,000 people and 2, I 04 deaths overall. According to the BGADD's CARES Act Economic Resiliency Plan, the 17-county BGADD region specifically had experienced more overdoses that led to hospitalization in the first 9 months

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of 2020 than it had in all of 2019. In order for the region to be resilient moving forward, it is evident that additional Recovery Housing Programs, treatment facilities, and sober environments that foster rehabilitation and workforce re-entry are a must.

**NECESSARY AND REASONABLE:**

All residents are eligible for Program Fee Assistance provided they qualify under the criteria and guidelines for residents detailed in the FCWFS RHP Resident Handbook. Priority goes to those whose income is at or below the Federal Poverty Guideline. Those able to pay the program fees on their own or with the assistance of family, friends, colleagues, or other benefactors are encouraged to do so.

In order for the region to be resilient moving forward, it is evident that additional Recovery Housing Programs, treatment facilities, and sober environments that foster rehabilitation and workforce re-entry are necessary. The 2020 COVID Pandemic and emergency executive orders brought many challenges to Franklin County Women and Family Shelter. All shelters put in place safety measures, which included functioning at 50% capacity. Thus, FCWFS's community opened a temporary emergency shelter. FCWFS collaborated with two other shelter agencies, Frankfort/Franklin County Emergency Management and the local FIS High School to open an emergency shelter in the high school gymnasium. From April 2020 to June 2020, the shelter agencies provided all necessities, including extra staffing at the gym facility, transportation and recreational activities for the displaced. Shelter services (1,029 nights) were provided to 81 co-ed clients with numerous backgrounds and in varying demographic categories while adhering to Covid-19 guidelines.

**EFFECTIVENESS:**

FCWFS' RHP request also includes up to two years of awarded rental assistance for no/low/moderate income level residents enrolled in its program this will total $100,000. These funds would assist in launching this much-needed Recovery Housing option for Franklin County. Rental Assistance funds are used by FCWFS as follows:

Assistance is available to all applicants', provided funding is available. The cost for participation in the FCWFS Program is $100 per week. Assistance works in the following manner, and when assistance is finished it is the expectation and responsibility of the participant to furnish the $100 weekly program fee. Exceptions to this expectation are on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the FCWFS staff and the recommendations of peer-led governance within the home.

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

This project is eligible for funding as a Priority I rating as all funds are firmly committed. **The percentage of other funds to CDBG funds is excellent at 47%%.**

**Approved:**

 **August 5, 2022**

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Commissioner **Date**