**2020 CDBG RHP Project Review Sheet**

Submitted **July 13, 2022**

**Applicant: Pathways, Inc. Log No. 21R-005**

#### **County: Boyd**

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

**Priority: I**

**Funding Source Amount**

**CDBG $925,000 % of Other Funds to CDBG:** 43 %

**Other Funds:**

**Pathways, Inc. $400,482 Admin & Planning (CDBG):** $63,500

(8% of CDBG Funds)

**Funds Requested: $1,000,000**

**Total Project Funds $1,325,482** **Funds Recommended: $925,000**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Pathways, Inc. proposes to purchase a vacant commercial structure at 6417 US Route 60, Ashland, Kentucky to develop and operate a 25 bed transitional housing facility to serve women, including pregnant and early parenting women, seeking to recover from substance use disorder (SUD). This facility, to be known as The Journey, will relocate 14 beds from two existing treatment facilities in danger of closure and create 11 new beds, an increase of 79% in the number of beds serving this client group.

**PROJECT NEED:**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, community mental health centers were already facing critical financial challenges. In FY 21, the two facilities to be merged into The Journey had losses of more than $400,000, making these facilities and the services they offer financially unsustainable. Pathways, Inc. does not have the resources needed to fully-fund The Journey. However, 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 new 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.

**NECESSARY AND REASONABLE:**

An Associated Press report, *Pandemic* a *Role in Kentucky's Record Overdose Deaths,* 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 Kentuckians drug overdose deaths. The Office of Drug Control Policy pointed to the COVID-19 pandemic as 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. Boyd County has **1% of Kentucky's population**; **it had nearly 2% of Kentucky's 2020 overdose deaths**.

**The Journey**

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Pathways initially requested $1,000,000 with a 200,482 match in funds. When asked to reduce the project to $925,000 they agreed and **committed $400,482 to the project - a match of 43%.**

**EFFECTIVENESS:**

The Journey is an abstinence-based recovery environment providing comprehensive wraparound services (housing, case management, counseling, trauma therapy, SUD education, career planning/job placement, medical care, GED preparation and other educational training). Evidence-based parenting education and services for children will also be available as early parenting residents may have one child up to age 2 living with them. The Journey may also provide recovery treatment services to those in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) programs. Through its Individual Placement Service, Pathways will assist residents identify and secure employment opportunities. Residents will learn responsibility and accountability to the larger community by sharing household jobs and attending community meetings.

**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 good at 43%. This project will create and operate a 25 bed transitional housing facility to serve women, including pregnant and early parenting women, seeking to recover from substance use disorder (SUD).