



**The Unumb Center**  
FOR NEURODEVELOPMENT

**Name of organization**

The Unumb Center for Neurodevelopment

**Are you state non-profit or other entity? If other, explain**

Nonprofit (with 501(c)(3) status)

**If nonprofit re you registered and in good standing with Secretary of State's Office? If no, please explain.**

Yes

**Contact name and title/position**

Lorri Shealy Unumb, Board Chair

**Contact phone number and email**

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**Website**

[www.unumbcenter.org](http://www.unumbcenter.org)

**Summary of intended use of funds**

This funding is requested to support the construction of a campus for adults with autism and other special needs, in order to provide comprehensive and integrated residential, vocational, and recreational facilities in one location. Such a campus will allow vulnerable individuals with special needs, particularly those without independent access to transportation, the ability to live safely and productively in a meaningful community that will serve as a model for others. We have been studying similar communities in other parts of the country for a decade and have been working with our partners on the concept and design for this South Carolina community for five+ years.

The campus includes eight homes that house four adults each, as

well as a vocational building that includes training equipment and work opportunities. A copy of our architect's sketch is attached for your convenience.

**If there is a project cost breakdown and any supporting documents, please send to me.**

Construction cost for the buildings on this campus is \$15 million. Additional costs include property, landscaping, and equipment/furnishings. An 18-acre tract of land in Lexington has been committed to the project, and we anticipate an in-kind donation for landscaping. With the award of requested funds and commencement of construction, we anticipate several million dollars of private funding will be utilized to equip and furnish the eleven buildings (8 houses + vocational, recreational & community buildings). We are working collaboratively with numerous community and civic organizations to support this project.

Further, operational support will be available through existing Medicaid waiver funding for the typical resident in the community, thereby further ensuring the sustainability of the project.

#### **Justification of Request/Public Benefit**

The public has a strong interest in providing adequate care and housing for individuals with special needs. There is broad support for action by the state to support these efforts. Even proponents of the most limited forms of government rightfully agree that an appropriate function of government is to care for those who are, through no fault of their own, unable to care for themselves.

The need is great. The prevalence of autism in particular has skyrocketed in recent years. Thus, even to the extent that adequate housing and vocational opportunities for adults with autism ever existed in South Carolina, they are woefully inadequate now. South Carolina will soon reach a crisis point and the time to act is now.

Today in South Carolina, in order for a person with a developmental disability to access current Medicaid-funded housing of any kind, he or she typically has to demonstrate a

“critical need,” such as the death of a parent or a serious illness. However, even demonstrating critical need does not itself result in access to housing; it just gets one placed on the “critical needs *waiting list*.” The last time we inquired of DDSN, there were more than 75 people on a multi-year critical needs waiting list. The housing at this campus would help reduce that waiting list.